

sports

Golf team

Finding the key

By RICK STOLLE
Sports Reporter

What does it take to play golf? A 300 yard drive to the cup? Nerves of steel to make those 35 foot putts like the ones on television?

Weekend players sometimes say the key is a lot of luck. The more experienced may say it takes a good eye and a smooth stroke.

Texas A&M golf instructor Les Saunders said it takes a long time. Time to learn the skills to play.

The Texas A&M golf team has differing ideas on what it takes. All American Steven Bowman said it takes patience. The senior from Tyler, Texas said it takes the patience to work hard and desire to be the best.

Freshman Dan Briggs said, "You use your entire body to play the game, you have to have coordination."

Another All-American, Richard Cromwell, said it takes confidence. "So much of the game is mental," he said, "You have to be thinking all the time and have confidence in what you are doing."

Jay Kent, a junior, said, "Patience is the key but you have to want it bad enough."

Texas A&M golf coach Bob Ellis said it takes one thing, dedication. As in anything anybody wants to excel in, it takes a great deal of desire and dedication.

Ellis said the golf team practices more than any other team on campus. "We start about 1:30 in the afternoon and finish at dark," he said. The team practices six days a week and sometimes even the day off, if the weather is good, is spent on the course.

"The only problem is if someone doesn't want it bad enough a certain day due to bad weather or something," he said. Ellis' favorite expression is "you've got to want it bad enough." It carries over to his golfers.

The team practices in miserable weather as well as in good. "The past two days have been miserable in the rain and all, but if you want it, you have to work hard," said Briggs.

"Desire to be the best is an important part of the game," Ellis said. Part of that desire, he said, is setting

goals to achieve. The team and individual goals are set, said Ellis, the team just has to work hard to get them.

One of the goals is to win the Southwest Conference, which Ellis believes is attainable. The top four teams can win it, he said. Either A&M, TCU, the University of Houston or the University of Texas can take the SWC if everything falls in place, said Ellis. "We have one of the strongest conferences in the nation, if not the strongest," he said. He went on to say that the SWC will do well in the NCAA tournament.

A&M is entered in some of the most prestigious and difficult tournaments in the nation. Ellis cited the Pan Am, Lamar, Pinehurst and NCAA tournaments as toughest. "At the Pan Am tournament, only two of the top 20 teams will not be there," he said.

Ellis said it takes a lot to practice for an upcoming tournament. He has them hit 150 range (practice) balls a day and play 18 holes. "That's minimum," said Briggs. "You usually hit more than that if you want to win."

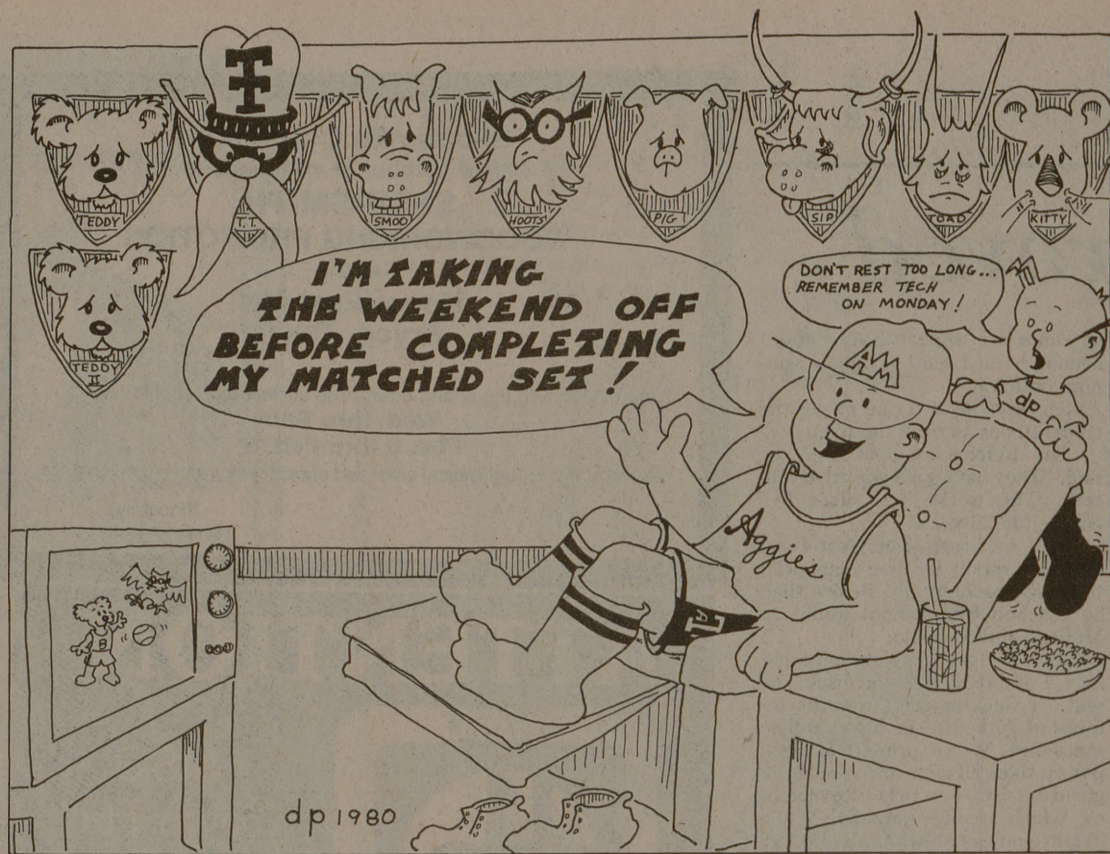
After qualifying for a tournament, Ellis said the team analyzes the rounds to see what can be improved upon before the tournament begins.

Ellis said the team should do well in the tournaments they compete in this year. "This is the most talented team I have coached since coming to Texas A&M," he said. David Ogrin leads the team with a 72.4 average for the fall. Ogrin and Steve Bowman tied for second in the individuals division of the Bluebonnet Invitational and won the team championship.

"They played well on the tough course," said Ellis, their showing was worth six months of practice. "It is tremendous confidence builder and should carry over into the spring tournaments," he said.

Jay Kent also said the team will win. There is more experience on the team now and leadership as well, he said. "Besides, we want it bad enough."

The team consists of a group quality players, said Ellis. They do what it takes to win. They are hard workers and fine people. It is a team to win with, he said.



Questions bother lawyer in basketball investigation

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A lawyer said he was questioned about gambling Thursday by a federal grand jury investigating a sports scandal at the University of New Mexico, and that the interrogation took a direction "I didn't like."

Sam Francis, an Albuquerque attorney, confirmed he was questioned about "the general area of gambling" during his appearance before the panel.

"I didn't want to take the Fifth and the assistant U.S. attorney gave me until 4:15 p.m. to get a lawyer" said Francis.

It was not immediately clear why Francis had been summoned before the panel.

Previous indications were that the grand jury was limiting itself to an investigation of alleged bribery and mail fraud in the incident.

Another topic of inquiry by the grand jury Thursday concerned a transcript from Mercer County Community College.

"We went over the Mercer College transcript," said Fred Christ, director of financial aide for UNM.

The Mercer transcript showed Lebo transfer basketball player

Craig Gilbert had received credits from the school. Gilbert however said he had never attended Mercer and it was later disclosed that Goldstein had an official Mercer seal.

Sports Schedule

TODAY Feb. 1

Women's Tennis team hosts Tyler Junior College, 1:30 p.m.
Women's Track team at Missouri Invitational, Columbia, Mo.

collegiate, Houston
Men's Tennis team hosts Lubbock, 1:30 p.m.
Men's Swimming team at Penn State College, Pa.

SATURDAY Feb. 2

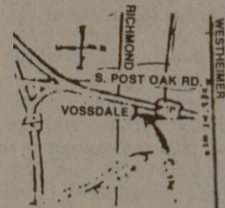
Women's Gymnastics at Southwest Texas Inv., San Marcos, 10:00 a.m.
Women's Tennis team vs. Texas, Austin, 1:30 p.m.
Men's Golf team at Atascosita Inter-

MONDAY Feb. 4

Men's basketball at Texas Lubbock, 8:00 p.m., KBTX
Women's basketball at Texas Lubbock, 4:30 p.m.
Men's Golf team finishes at Intercollegiate, Houston

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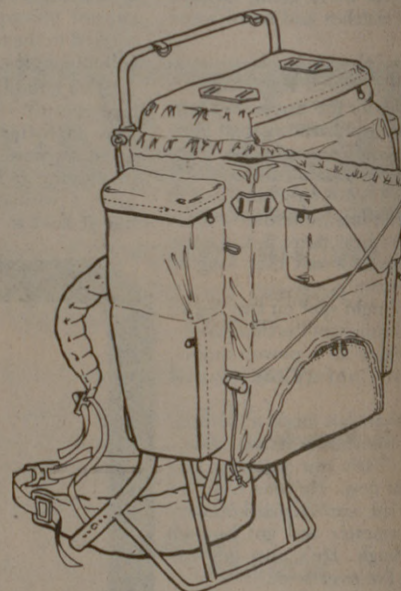
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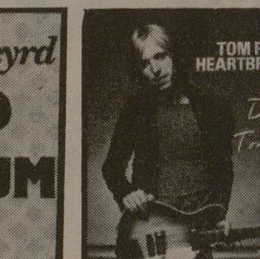
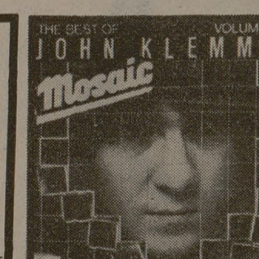
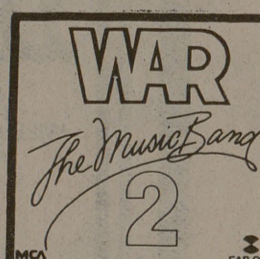
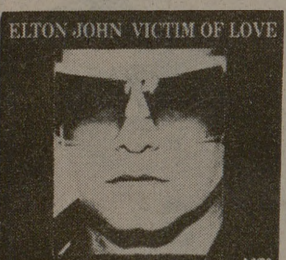
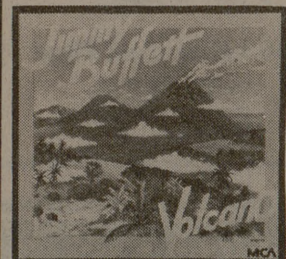
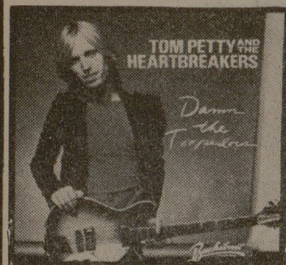
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