

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



A&M team handball gears up

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor
Team handball: a sport in which numerous players take their lives in their hands by smashing a small, black ball against the four walls of a local YMCA handball court. Right? Wrong.
Team handball is a relatively unknown, obscure sport, true, but it is by no means unpopular. The Texas A&M University team can attest to that.

The sport involves two teams of seven players, including a goalie. The ball used is roughly two-thirds the size of a volleyball, and scoring is accomplished by throwing the ball into a seven-by-10-foot soccer-type goal. As in hockey, body-checking is allowed.
The game is played on a 25-by-40-meter indoor court which is usually converted from basketball use.
Generally speaking, basketball and baseball players make the best team handball players because they have attributes and skills such as a strong arm, quickness, jumping ability and endurance.
Team handball has been an Olympic sport since 1934, and Texas A&M University has fielded a team the past four years. The sport is to Europe as basketball is to the United States, and is second in popularity only to soccer.
The sport was brought to America in the early 1800s from Germany. It was initially played outdoors and was called field handball until it was moved indoors a few years later.
The Aggies had a fine year in 1979-80, traveling to Mexico City last fall and placing third in the annual international Aztec Cup Competition. At that event, Texas A&M took on the Mexican National Team, several other Mexican squads, a Canadian team, and a squad from Los Angeles.
Later in the year, the Ags went to New York where they won the consolation bracket of the West Point

Tournament. Finally, the Aggies competed in the national championships at Colorado Springs.
This semester, Texas A&M hopes to take off for Mexico once again to compete in the Aztec Cup Competition next month, and they're working hard to raise the funds to do it.
The team will have a booth in the MSC all this week, and will be selling beer mugs to help finance the trip to Mexico City Nov. 1-8.
The group will also be holding several car washes and construction cleanups.
On Nov. 10, the group will sponsor a domino tournament at Cell Block Five.
"We lost about four or five players this year off of last year's squad," said team Vice President Ronnie Wise.

"But we have nine players who have played together four years."
Four of those players — Wise, Mark Woods, Dennis Riordin and Bob Randall — made the Junior National Team (21 and under) in 1979, and toured Hungary that summer. There was no Junior team in 1980 because of the U.S. Olympics Boycott.
"This year, I don't know how well we'll do," said Wise. "We want to get some more people. The problem is we have to keep changing practice times."
"We have a strong nucleus for a good team, though."
The Aggies also have plans to hold a tournament-clinic Dec. 5-7 at the University. The team has invited Javier Garcia Cuesta, a technical adviser for the U.S. Team Handball, to appear at the event. He, who hails from Spain, was joined by the Mexican Olympic Team also.
Club President Mark Woods is confident about the Aggies' chances at the Aztec Cup Competition month.
"We should do pretty well," said Wise. "In fact, we should do because we have the same club, one can play. We're looking for talent."
Wise added team handball is difficult to learn, and anyone playing at a practice can be taught, as he goes.
Anyone interested in playing handball at Texas A&M should call 846-6238 or 693-4155.

Meyer, SMU wary of Aggies

United Press International
DALLAS — Southern Methodist coach Ron Meyer said Monday his team's upset victory over Texas last Saturday was a landmark in the Mustangs' program, but he said the impact of the win would be diminished if SMU lost next Saturday to down-trodden Texas A&M.
The Mustangs and Aggies game will be televised regionally with a 2:50 p.m. start at Texas Stadium.
"We have finally forged our way up to respectability," Meyer said Monday. "Now we have to go on. I felt that we were a good enough team to beat Texas. We felt like we could go into Austin and win the game."
SMU, now 5-2, had lost its two previous games by a total of six points

before stunning the second-ranked Longhorns, 20-6. And he said that, yes, he had fleeting thoughts about what might have been had not SMU lost to Baylor by four points and to Houston by two.
"You can't be human and not think about those two games," he said, "especially when any one of countless plays could have turned those two games around."
"But I had a long talk with (former Texas coach) Darrell Royal the other night. We were at a dinner together and he gave me some good advice. He said, 'you can't do anything about what's past, partner, so just go on. And that's what we are going to try to do.'"
Meyer said that a bowl bid was a legitimate goal for his players and he

was not afraid to talk about it with four games left in the season.
"I'm not one to ignore a no-hitter while it's in progress and not talk about it," said Meyer. "I think a team needs goals and I think a bowl bid would be a good goal for our team to shoot for."
Meyer said that freshman Lance McLhenny, who started his first game against Texas, would continue as starter until further notice. McLhenny had replaced junior Mike Ford last week after Ford had turned in two lackluster performances against Baylor and Houston.
"If we had to change quarterbacks in a game I would probably go with (sophomore) Mike Fisher," said Meyer.

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