

# Weekend Aggie results

By JON HEIDTKE  
Battalion Staff

## POLO

The Texas A&M University's men's polo team tied the Austin Polo Club Sunday afternoon, 5-5, at the A&M polo fields.

The starting lineup for the Aggies was: John Henslering, Doug Bryan, Roe Babers, Mike McLay, R.J. Roberts and Jorge Milberg.

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## WOMEN'S TRACK

Texas A&M women's cross country season came to somewhat of an abrupt end Saturday in the SWAIW regional meet in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

As expected, the University of Texas captured the team championship, but the Aggies, who were expected to challenge for the second spot, finished a disappointing sixth. Coach Bill Nix said the basic reason for the Aggies' low finish was due to an injury suffered by the team's fifth runner, Annie Muniz. Muniz ruptured her Achilles tendon and failed to finish the race.

As far as the rest of the team was concerned, Nix was pleased with their performances.

Sandra Brown led the Aggies with a 16th place finish, and just missed

qualifying for the national meet, which takes the top 15 individual finishers.

Other Aggie finishers were Marilee Matheny, 17th; Lisa McCorstin, 18th; Barbara Collinsworth, 22nd; Adelaide Bratten, 31st and Beverly Porter, 41st.

Finishing ahead of A&M was second place Oklahoma followed by Arkansas, LSU and Lamar.

Nix said the season was "constructive" since the Aggies fielded a very young team. "We will have everyone back next year," Nix said, "and should have a better team."

But as for the rest of the region, Nix says it will also be tougher. "The high school women are all improving each year and there are also more foreign runners competing."

## BICYCLE TEAM

Bill Chauri of the Texas A&M Bicycle Club took first place Sunday in the TBS Fall Criterium held in Houston.

The race, held at Bear Creek Park, had four main classes. Chauri took the 18-mile Senior 4 race.

Other Aggie finishers: Olympic Class, 43 miles long —

Gene Kraft, 6th place; Willem Visser, 9th.

Senior 3 race, 30 miles — Scott Yarbro, 5th; Tim Purcell, 6th.

Women's category, 18 miles — Laura Sandberg, 3rd; Karin Fernbach, 4th.

Ten Aggies competed in the race, which was run on a 1.1-kilometer circular track.

# Oilers to keep tradition

United Press International  
HOUSTON — If the Houston Oilers are hot, this must be November. As regular as the autumnal change, something more than cool weather comes over them each year at this time. Head Coach Bum Phillips is at a loss to explain why, but his record speaks for itself.

November 1977 — 3-1.  
November 1978 — 4-0.  
November 1979 — 4-0.  
November 1980 — 1-0.

If the trend continues, the Oilers will still lead AFC Central Division by the time you flip your calendar because they have four more games this month, including one Monday night against the New England Patriots.

Phillips doesn't know how to explain the late-season drives which have carried the Oilers to two consecutive wild-card playoff berths.

"I don't have a good answer for that. I just hope that we coach better and play better each quarter of a game. The season is the same way, too," Phillips said Monday at his weekly news conference.

"Back earlier this season when you'll (reporters) were second guessing us — which is your privilege — when we weren't doing things right, we weren't putting everything into it," he said.

"I don't think you can keep a team improving if you put everything into it early in the season."

He said two coaching mistakes are working athletes too hard early in the

season and oversteering the importance of early games.

"You might win more ballgames that way, but it's gonna hurt you in the long run. We're still playing with people. We're not playing with machines. Those people get tired just like everybody else gets tired. They get bored like everybody else gets bored," he said.

His pre-game speech changed, however, last Sunday. He told his players before playing the Denver Broncos "beating a good team on their field was very, very important."

The Oilers got a big lift from the return of wide receiver Kenny Burrough, who missed the first eight games with a twisted knee. Burrough caught three passes for 79 yards Sunday.

Phillips, who expressed displeasure over the referee's handling of an inadvertent whistle which cost the Oilers a touchdown, termed Houston's 20-16 triumph as "probably the best football game we've played this year. It was a game we had to win. It was against a team that had to win."

Phillips said he would take no action against back judge J.W. Sanders or referee Gene Barth because their decision to strip Carl Roaches of a 74-yard punt return was the correct action even though "they just really messed up."

NFL rules state a referee's whistle, whether intentional or not, stops play.

Sanders apologized to Phillips af-

ter the Sunday incident.

Referees huddled as Phillips congratulated punt returner Roaches and the Oilers' extra point lined up to kick.

"Nobody came over and anything after their huddle. The referee should have walked over and said, 'Now coach, I know hard to believe but we gotta back because the ref inadvertently blew his whistle.' But they back down the field with the nobody is telling anybody anything," he said.

Phillips said he was standing than 15 feet from Sanders and he hear a whistle. He added the game film showed Sanders bumping from behind and appearing to pick up a fumble when Sanders by a whistle.

The inadvertent whistle was second in the past two weeks in Oilers games. Against the Cincinnati Bengals, defensive tackle Jensen was running in the open field picking up a fumble when Sanders by a whistle.

The latest referee's mistake, Phillips said, proved again an old of his: referees never beat you.

"They didn't yesterday, but they tried. That game was a pretty example and what I've said cost you a touchdown, but you capable of playing. And you get it you down. And hell, you ahead and win anyhow."

# SWC race "jumbled" after upsets

They sat in a row in the press box at Texas Stadium last Saturday, trying to keep up with the upsets.

First there was Alabama, then Baylor. Texas was being beaten for the second straight week and the shiny unbeaten record of North Carolina was being battered by the Oklahoma Sooners.

And the representatives from various bowl games around the country — eight of them — were all but overwhelmed by the news.

"I don't know about you," said one to another in only a half-joking manner, "but we may have a 7-4 team playing a 6-5 team."

Down the row a little bit was a representative from the Cotton Bowl, whose dreams of a national

championship showdown between Alabama and Texas had been destroyed by the happenings of the past two weekends.

"I don't know what it all means," he said. "Things are pretty jumbled."

"Jumbled" also describes the state of the Southwest Conference these days with private schools — long the doormat of the league — holding three of the top four spots in the standings.

But despite the wave of upsets the Baylor Bears are still in the prime position for at least a share of the SWC crown and a trip to the Cotton Bowl Jan. 1 against who knows who.

Baylor could even wrap up a share of the title next Saturday if the Bears can defeat Arkansas and the Texas Longhorns should break out of their slump and whip the Houston Cougars.

To do so, however, the Bears must bounce back from their first loss of

the year, a 30-22 upset at the hands of San Jose State.

"The big thing about this game is how it will affect us mentally," said Baylor coach Grant Teaff, whose team had climbed to No. 11 nationally with a 7-0 record. "We do not have the luxury to slowly regroup. We've got a tough game with Arkansas next week (in Waco). Now all we have to do is concentrate on beating them because the rankings and other outside national attention is over now."

Houston is alone in second place at 4-1 (to the Bears' 5-0), but that one loss has been to Baylor. Houston, two-time defending SWC champion and winners of four in a row after crunching TCU last Saturday, 37-5, will face Texas in Austin and the Longhorns will have some recouping of their own to do.

The Longhorns 24-20 loss to Texas Tech in Lubbock was their second setback in a row and although they will still probably wind up with a

postseason appearance they have dropped drastically in the eyes of the bowl people around the land.

But the surprises do not end with Baylor and Texas.

Tied for third place in the conference race at 3-2 are the SMU Mustangs and Rice Owls.

SMU improved its season mark to 6-2 with a 27-0 blasting of Texas A&M, a win keyed by the play of special team members John Simmons and Byron Hunt; and Rice staged a wild fourth-quarter rally to defeat Arkansas, 17-16. The Owls won their third game in a row thanks to a 31-yard field goal by Kenneth Sam with 21 seconds remaining.

"We might even get some of the bowl people interested," said Rice coach Ray Albom, whose team had not won three straight since 1972. "Wouldn't that be something?"

The bowl people, meanwhile, were more than interested in SMU.

"There were so many colored blazers in our dressing room that I thought I had walked into the wrong one," said SMU coach Ron Meyer, whose Mustangs are assured a win-

ning season for the first time in

five-year tenure with the Owls.

"I'm not used to that."

The SMU victory, backing Meyer over Texas a week earlier, was in a gleeful mood.

"I think this is a big step in making us a legitimate top 20 team," he said.

Former Texas coach Dan Royal, who was commenting on the regional telecast of the A&M game, put it this way:

"You can only keep a cool water just so long."

Rice and SMU will meet Saturday in Houston. A win for will make them a certain participant. A victory for Rice, while, would up the Owls to 5-0, could, indeed, make them a participant for postseason play.

Next Saturday's other conference game has Texas Tech traveling

without TCU. In five of the years the Horned Frogs have at least nine games and they will that figure again Saturday if they to the Red Raiders.



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