

Local



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band steps through a four-way perpendicular cross-through drill in preparation for this Saturday's halftime performance. Although the band has yet to

execute the difficult maneuver to perfection in practice, the drill's designer, drum major David LePori, anticipates a peak performance for the band's season finale in Kyle Field.

Variations of the impossible

Aggie Band perfects a gross-through with a twist

By MARCY BOYCE

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band is taking on a new challenge during the halftime show of the Texas A&M-Texas Christian University football game with a drill like it has never performed before.

The highlight of the eight-minute drill will be a four-way perpendicular cross-through, drum major David LePori said. In this part of the drill the band will split into four sections at the four corners of the field, about 90 yards apart. All sections will then march toward mid-field, cross through each other and march out in four different directions.

Actually the four-way perpendicular cross-through the band has fervently practiced all week is nothing new to its members. The drill has been performed several times before, but a new variation of the drill with a few new "twists" at the end gives it a little added spice this time, LePori said.

LePori declined to divulge exactly what those new twists will be, however, preferring to leave them a mystery to the student body until Saturday's performance.

As of Wednesday, the band hadn't correctly completed the drill, but LePori, its designer, didn't seem worried.

"There are lots of times when the drill isn't

perfect until we do it Saturday morning (the final practice). But that's the way we want it. We want to peak at performance — not before."

A drill's success is measured by one standard only, LePori said. Perfection. Measuring by that standard, at this time the band still has some practicing to do, he said.

Monday and Tuesday afternoons are usually reserved for the band to practice without music and to work out any kinks in the drill.

Not every drill can be fully drawn up beforehand on paper, so the band sometimes has to work out parts of it on the field, LePori said.

"If it (the drill) will work on paper it will definitely work on the field, but some things won't work on paper and will still work on the field," he said.

One example of this occurred a few years ago when the Aggie Band attempted a variation of the same cross-through drill planned for Saturday.

After the drill was conceived it was checked by a University computer. The computer said the drill, which called for two people to be at the same place at the same time, could not be done. The band did it anyway.

To design the drill for the Texas A&M-Southern Methodist University halftime show

at the beginning of November, Drum Major David Rogers said he used a type of graph paper in the shape of a football field with two-step interval grids. Rogers said he then plotted the drill step-by-step for each of the 303 members, keeping in mind that the drill must be completed within eight minutes.

Incorporated into every drill, no matter how elaborate, are the basics—the six 30-inch steps to every five yards, counter marches and flanking and facing movements, LePori and Rogers said.

On the first day of practice someone is designated to count the exact number of steps in the drill. From that number band director Col. Joe T. Haney determines how long the drill will take and puts it to music.

The four-way perpendicular cross-through drill this week will be performed while playing "The March of the Centurians," a song written for a military movie, followed by "A Blue and Grey Medley" from the Civil War era arranged by Haney.

LePori said the drill is "coming along" and appeared confident the band will come off the field Saturday with their heads held high following their final performance of the year on Kyle Field.

Engineering building to receive new name

By NATHAN R. HINES

The newly renovated mechanical engineering shops behind the Harrington Education Complex at Texas A&M University will officially receive a new name at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

The building will be named for J.R. Thompson, 74, president of Warren Electric in Houston.

"We are proud that the shops will be named for Thompson," said Dr. Don Rice, coordinator of industrial distribution at Texas A&M University.

"Mr. Thompson has been very instrumental in helping the industrial distribution program at Texas A&M. He supports this program and this university both morally and financially, even though he isn't an Aggie," Rice said.

Thompson became involved with Texas A&M in 1956. He was a mem-

ber of the Houston Industrial Distribution Association when it was working to have an I.D. program started at Texas A&M. Since then, he has served on the I.D. program's advisory committee for 12 years.

"Mr. Thompson spends at least two hours per day trying to help our program," Rice said. "He recruits students and financial support for our program."

"He is a strong supporter of the free enterprise system, and loves young people. This is why he is trying to help as many students as possible. He has a rags to riches story, and he believes any one in America can do the same. His main objective in working with this department is to develop a program where other people can have their opportunity."

The dedication ceremonies will be in Harrington Annex.

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Fallfest is sorority's Wurstfest

The second annual Fallfest, sponsored by the Delta Zeta sorority, will be Saturday, Nov. 22 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Starlight Ballroom in Snook.

Fallfest is the sorority's version of Wurstfest, a spokesperson for the group said.

There will be 200 kegs of beer and all you can drink for the admission price of \$3.50 for women and \$4.50 for men.

Music will be provided by the country and rock group Mesquite. Delta Zeta will be selling T-shirts and buttons at the event.

Proceeds from the Fallfest will be donated to the multiple handicapped center in College Station.

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