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Courtea

Wilson hopes players will stick with Aggies

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Battalion Staff

With 21 recruit signatures tucked under his belt, Texas A&M University Head Football Coach Tom Wilson hits the road again today in hopes of signing national letters of intent with those same players he signed Wednesday.

In addition to signing a conference letter of intent, each recruit is required to sign a national letter as well, which nationally binds him to that school. This year, as in the past, the national signing day is one week following the conference signing date.

The letters of intent the 1981 Aggie recruiting crop signed this week are binding to the Southwest Conference only. Once a player signs with one school on that day he cannot change to another school in the same conference

without a penalty. He can, however, sign with another school outside the conference if he wishes.

Barring some unforeseen event, Wilson thinks he will sign all of the recruits he inked this week to national letters.

"I feel that the ones we signed we'll keep and possibly add a couple

'I feel that the ones we signed we'll keep and possibly add a couple of more. I think that everybody we signed is sound and secure.'

ple of more," Wilson said, making no mention of new names. "I think that everybody we signed is sound and secure."

Although Texas A&M lost a couple of highly coveted players — Pat Franklin of Bay City and Jerry Zachery of Midland — he still feels that the 1981 crop is of sound quality.

"Overall, we feel that it is a good crop. We signed some speed in the secondary that we very badly needed; some excellent linemen, very good linebackers. We think the whole crowd is good. They will fill some holes that we have on our football team. Overall, I thought that we signed a very good crop of people."

The Aggies lost running back Franklin to Houston and Zachery to Texas Tech after a fierce recruiting battle.

Texas A&M also signed blue chip linemen Ray Childress of Richardson Pearce and Greg Porter of Humble.

"Ray Childress was the No. 1 rated lineman in the state of Texas. We think he's a great athlete. He's 6-6 and 252 pounds and runs a 4.9 forty. We recruited him as a defensive tackle — that's a big need of our football team right now. Hopefully he'll be able to come right in and give us some help this next year."

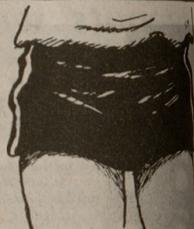
"Greg Porter played both offensive tackle and defensive end. He prefers defense and when he comes in we'll start him out as a defensive end. He's a real fine athlete, he's got real good speed. He's very quick, very intelligent, very aggressive — just a top-notch football player."

The Aggies also added a quarterback to their ranks, Marvin Wesley, of nearby Navasota.

"He was rated by the coaches in their poll as the top-rated quarterback in the state. He's an excellent runner, he runs the option real well, and we think a very good passer. In our opinion he was one we needed very badly because we needed to bring in a young quarterback. I'm very excited about Marvin."

Asked how soon the freshmen could contribute to the program, Wilson said: "I don't know. I think that we'll have a much more experienced football team this year because we've played the young players the past two years. I don't know if somebody is going to step in and become a starter. I think we need some of them to come in and give us some backup help early. But to forecast that one of them is going to be a starter — there's no way we can do that. The transition between high school and college is very large."

Jock Shorts



Men's tennis

The nationally ranked Texas Aggies, 3-0, will be traveling a tough road this weekend.

The Ags face Stephan F. Austin University Friday and Southwest Louisiana Saturday. Both matches begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Ome Smith Tennis Complex.

Last weekend the Aggies ran over North Texas State and East Texas State by identical scores, 8-1.

Volleyball

The men's and women's volleyball teams will be involved in the sixth annual Texas A&M Valentine's Day Invitational Tournament Saturday.

The men will play on the third floor of the east Kyle addition, and the women will be on the fourth floor.

The men's and women's finals of the 47-team tournament will be played at 8 p.m. G. Rollie White Coliseum. Admission price will be \$1.50 at the door. Advance tickets may be bought at a table set up in the MSC main floor for \$1 today.

All other matches, which will be held in all gyms but DeWane Hall, are free.

Men's basketball

The Texas A&M men's basketball team takes a three-game winning streak to Houston Saturday to play the Rice Owls at 7:30 p.m. on Autry Court.

The Aggies are currently seventh in the league with a 4-7 record, but have won all three contests so far in the second half of the season after a disastrous 1-7 start. The Owls are in fourth place at 6-5.

Women's basketball

The Aggie Ladies play the Texas Tech Red Raiders Saturday in Lubbock in what Head Coach Cheri Rapp calls "the most important game of the season."

The importance stems from the fact that the game is the opening round of the state tournament. If the Aggies are to keep any post-season hopes alive, they must beat the Red Raiders, a team which has already beaten them three times this season.

Women's golf

Aggie women golfers Susan Yantis, Monica Welsh, Shirley Felt, Kim Bauer and Jackie Betram will be in Conroe Sunday through Tuesday for the Houston Baptist Invitational.

In that 54-hole tournament, teams can enter five players with the low four rounds each day counting in a team total.

The five Aggie women qualified this week for that tournament after an inter-squad qualifying 54-hole tournament on the Texas A&M and Brairecrest Country Club courses.

Rifle team

The Aggie rifle team will be in Fort Worth Saturday for a small-bore competition against TCU.

Fencing

August Skopik, Larry Sharp and Denise Ehrlich will represent the University this weekend in Cleveland, Ohio at the U.S. Junior Olympics.

The Aggie fencers have qualified for that honor by their performances this past fall and thus far this spring.

Men's lacrosse

The Texas A&M men's lacrosse team, undefeated thus far after fall of scrimmages and one regular season contest against Texas, will take on two more SWC schools this weekend.

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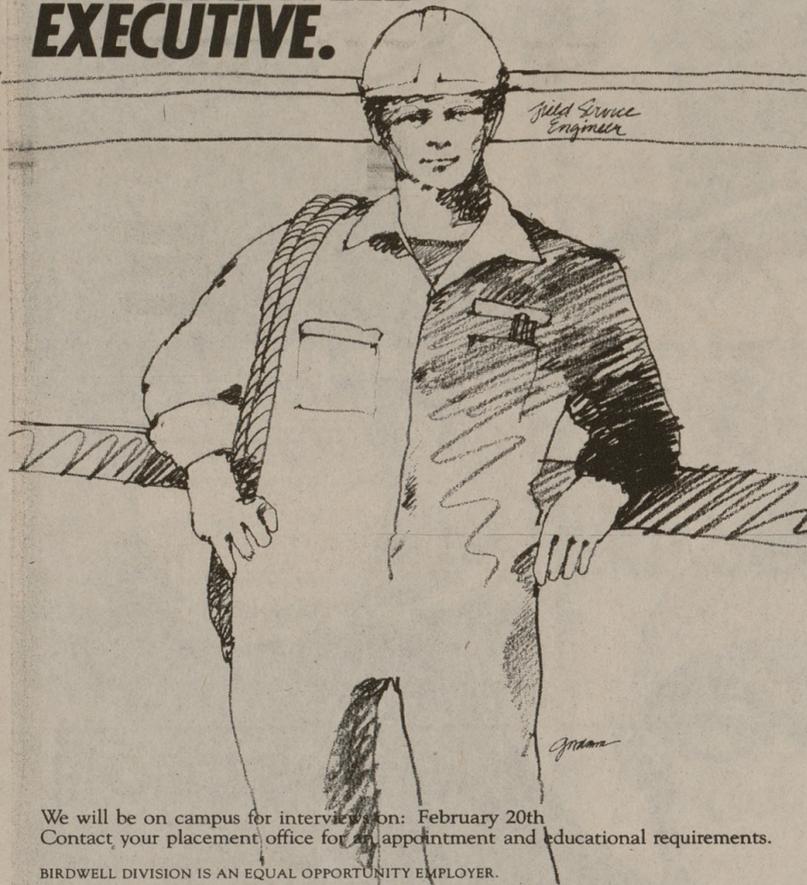
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New coach brings diversity to Aggies

By CAROLYN BARNES
Battalion Staff

As the new assistant coach for Texas A&M University women's softball team, Sue Becher brings diversified experience in athletics.

Becher, 25, is a graduate of Goshen College in Indiana, where she was on five varsity teams. She played basketball and volleyball for four years, tennis for three years and track and field hockey for one year each. Her college did not have a softball team.

Becher said she has played softball in the summer since she was 14. Her summer softball team has

been Indiana State Champions three out of the last four years and in 1980 Becher was named to the All-Star regional team.

Becher received a degree in physical education and health and had originally planned to teach in high school.

She was working as a part-time volleyball coach in northern Indiana this past November when Head Coach Bill Galloway, who had coached her summer softball team, contacted her to see if she would be interested in coming to Texas A&M.

Becher is from New Paris, Ind., which is a small town, far from big cities. She has officially been at A&M since the beginning of the spring semester and she said that she "was impressed with the openness of people at Texas A&M."



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UIL rule is 'irrational'

United Press International
AUSTIN — The University Interscholastic League rule prohibiting transfer students from playing varsity football or basketball for one year is "irrational,"

and penalizes every student athlete who moves to a new school, an attorney told the Texas Supreme Court this week.

Clyde Farrell said although the purpose of the UIL rule may be to deter recruitment of high school athletes, it sweeps too broadly and penalizes every student who moves.

"This rule is irrational because it penalizes everybody," Farrell argued before the court Wednesday.

Farrell represented former basketball player Jack Sullivan who was forced to miss a year of varsity eligibility because his parents moved from Vermont to Austin in March 1977.

Sullivan and his parents filed a class action suit contending the rule violates the constitutional rights of students whose parents move to new cities during the child's high school years.

Lower courts had granted a summary judgment in favor of the UIL, ruling the organization had the right to impose the rule to control recruiting of athletes.

Farrell argued that the UIL rule is unconstitutional, because it impinges on an individual's rights of family privacy and travel and denies due process and equal protection.

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