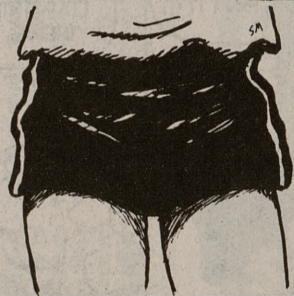


Sports

**Jock
Shorts**



Track

Both the Texas A&M men's and women's track teams will be in action at Kyle Field Saturday, but the double-dual meet between the Aggies and UT-Arlington now has an earlier start than originally announced. Field events will begin at 11:30 a.m., the 10,000-meter run starts at 11:45 a.m. and the 400-meter relay gets under way at 12:30 p.m. The meet should conclude at approximately 2:30 p.m. No points will be kept in the women's division because UT-A will be bringing a very small squad, competing only in discus, shot put and 400-meter dash. However, Coach Bill Nix will have A&M women running in a number of events, sometimes along with the two men's teams.

Basketball

Both the men's and women's basketball teams will be playing this Saturday in G. Rollie White.

The most crucial contest begins at 2:10 p.m., when the Houston Cougars, 10-5, will take on the Aggie men, 7-8. The Cougars have clinched second place in the final SWC standings, but the Aggies need a win for a chance at as high as fourth place, or to clinch a home court berth in the first round of the SWC tournament Monday night. Immediately following the men's game (approximately 4:30 p.m.), the Aggie Ladies, 7-20, will play the UH women in their last game of the 1981 schedule. The Aggie Ladies will also meet the University of Nebraska Friday night at 7:30.

Men's golf

Head Coach Bob Ellis and a six-man Texas A&M golf team left Wednesday for Laredo to defend its team championship in the two-day Border Olympics Golf Tournament which opens Friday. The 54-hole event at the par-72 Casa Blanca Country Club will consist of 27 holes played each day.

The Aggies set a school record of 21 under par in winning the team title last season. Each of the nine teams in the tournament can enter six players and count the low four scores at the end of the 54 holes. A&M's six players will be: Brad Jones, Richard Cromwell, Danny Briggs, Jay Townsend, Gary Krueger and Mike Miller.

Baseball

Weather permitting, the Aggie baseball team will open its 1981 season Friday at 1 p.m. with a doubleheader against Northeast Louisiana at Olsen Field.

Texas A&M Head Coach Tom Chandler hasn't settled on a definite lineup as yet, but has decided on a probable starting lineup for Friday's twinbill with NLU.

Senior Rodney Hodde will open at first base; either sophomore Clint Heard or transfer David Kennard will start at second base; freshman Billy Cannon at shortstop; either senior Tim Boyes or junior college transfer Grant Priest at third; and sophomore Joey Szekeley will do the catching.

In the outfield, Chandler will likely go with senior Joe Paul Bramhall in left, junior college transfer Terry Lawrence in center and freshman Kevin Smith in right.

Either Boyes or Priest will be the designated hitter, whichever one isn't playing third.

Sophomore Robert Slavens will begin the 1981 season on the mound for Texas A&M, followed by Rick Luecken in the second game. On Saturday, sophomore right-hander David Flores will start the first game and junior lefty Steve Davis will take the mound for game two.

The Aggies suffered two setbacks this week as sophomore Bobby Beach was declared scholastically ineligible and senior infielder Bob Staech, a transfer from Colorado, injured a knee in an intrasquad game last Tuesday. Beach was one of the Aggies' top lefthanded hitters and Staech, who will be out of action indefinitely, had looked exceptionally good playing second, shortstop and third.

Men's Tennis

The Aggies, 6-1, who defeated Austin Peay 7-2 Tuesday, will host Southwest Texas State Friday and will begin the SWC season against the Baylor Bears Saturday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center. Both matches begin at 1:30 p.m.

Women's tennis

The Ag women's team travels to Houston Friday and Lamar Saturday for dual matches. The match with the Cougars is set for 1:30 p.m. and Saturday's action against the Cardinals in Beaumont is set for 10 a.m.

The women defeated Stephen F. Austin 8-1 last Saturday, dropping only one doubles match.

Victory over Houston a must

By **RITCHIE PRIDDY**
Battalion Staff

The road-weary Texas Aggies are in the midst of gearing up for this Saturday's crucial contest with the University of Houston, the final regular season game for both schools.

The game is a must win for A&M as they are vying for one of the remaining two home spots in the first round of the Southwest Conference Post-Season Tournament to be played next Monday.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's Aggies, though, seem to be in the favored role for at least one of the home site games in next week's tournament.

The Aggies upped their second half record to 6-1 with Tuesday's 59-57 victory over TCU in Fort Worth — almost a complete turnaround from the 1-7 first half finish.

"We're looking to reverse our first half record. If we do, it will be the first time a team has done that in conference history to my knowledge," the tired coach said.

With Tuesday's win the Aggies finished a grueling road schedule (three games in four days). The Ags won big over Texas (108-79) Saturday, lost a closer-than-everyone-thought game to fourth-ranked LSU (67-57) Sunday and won over TCU (59-57) Tuesday night.

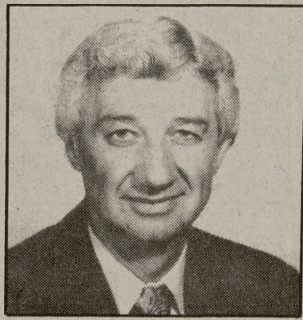
Texas A&M is currently tied for fifth place with the Rice Owls with a 7-8 overall conference record.

Conference champion Arkansas and runner-up Houston have clinched byes into round three (Friday's game) of the tournament. The third place finisher receives a bye into round two (Thursday). Baylor is currently in third place.

The fourth, fifth and sixth place teams have the home court advantage in round one of the tourney as they will host the seventh, eighth and ninth place finishers.

The only team which has, for all practical purposes, secured a home site is fourth place Texas Tech (8-7).

Four other teams, however, are fighting for the other two spots. Along with A&M, there is Rice, TCU (6-9) and Texas (6-9).



Shelby Metcalf

Metcalf is pleased with his team's turnaround, saying the players are conducting themselves like a class outfit, on and off the court.

Senior co-captains Rynn Wright and Vernon Smith can take much of the credit for that. While both had their troubles in the recent losing streak the Ags were in, both have now found themselves playing to form, and both seem to be enjoying the game more than ever before.

Metcalf was quick to credit the

two forwards: "Nothing's changed. Whichever way Rynn and Vernon go, the team goes. Only thing is now they are getting more help."

Both Smith and Wright could be making the final home appearance Saturday afternoon of their collegiate careers.

"I sure don't want it to be their last (home) game," Metcalf said looking ahead to Monday's game.

Metcalf said that although the team is tired after the long weekend there is no mental let-down: "At this late stage of the season they (players) are bound to be a little tired and sore, but I don't see any trouble."

"Everybody is healthy, (Milton) Woodley turned an ankle but he's alright."

Woodley is an interesting story, as the scrappy 6-1 guard came off the bench in the Baylor game, had six steals, and won himself a starting spot. He hasn't let up since.

"Milton has really helped our ballclub out. When he took over (in the Baylor game) he established himself well. He's been real important," Metcalf said.

Woodley and Reggie Roberts have played a very important part in the team's recent successes.

Roberts, the freshman sensation — what can be said about him that hasn't already been said? The 6-2 guard can do just about anything — as he has shown everybody many times.

Reserve guard Bruce Sooter has added some depth to the Aggies with his aggressive defensive play.

"Bruce doesn't score a lot of

points, that's not his role. He's a good defensive player and a team player — he knows his role," Metcalf said.

Game time for Saturday's regionally televised contest is 2:10 p.m.

Saturday is the final regular season day for all conference schools before the tournament, and the outcome of all of the games will be very decisive.

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