

Sports

Golf teams show promise in '81

By GAYE DENLEY
Battalion Staff
Balance and consistency will be Texas A&M's key weapons as the men's and women's golf teams, both top ten finishers last year, tee off the 1981-1982 season.

Although both squads lost an All-American in Kim Bauer and Richard Cromwell, depth and experience should make the losses easier to stomach.

"I lost my number one player, but we have seven people returning," Kitty Holley, the women's coach, said. "I would say these girls returning are pretty consistent. That's what you have to have to win tournaments."

Holley said she is excited about her team's depth — for the first time, a few players had to be cut this year — and equally encouraged by the potential of her younger players.

Patricia Gonzalez, a freshman

from Colombia, may turn out to be the best player she's ever coached, Holley said.

"I went a long way from home to recruit this year," she said.

Gonzalez was taking an English class in Houston this summer when some former students learned of her golfing talents and notified Holley, who signed the South American soon afterwards.

Gonzalez is one of five players who qualified for the women's first tournament, the Susie Maxwell Berning Classic at the University of Oklahoma next week.

Susan Yantis, a sophomore from San Antonio, was the number one Aggie qualifier for the Oklahoma classic, Holley said. All-State senior Monica Welsh and juniors Shirley Furlong and Jackie Bertram were the other three qualifiers.

All but Gonzalez return from last year's squad, which posted the

fifth highest scoring average in the nation en route to an eighth-place finish in the national tournament in June. In Holley's seven years at the Aggie helm, the team has qualified for the national championship five times.

Furlong, All-State as a freshman, is returning from a back injury that sidelined her the entire 1980-1981 season. Her recovery complete, Holley expects to see a return to her old form.

The men's team is equally blessed with experience. Six returning members of the 1980-1981 team that finished tenth in the nation will represent the Aggies in the Fall SWC Tournament Monday and Tuesday in West Columbia, Texas.

Brad Jones, a senior from Tyler, juniors Danny Briggs, Bart Cobb, and Gary Krueger, and sophomores Ronny Byrd and Jacky Lee will lead the Aggies' attack at the Columbia Lakes course.

The Aggies' fourth-place finish in the conference last year is deceiving in light of the competition in and around the Southwest Conference. The Texas region, in and

out of the conference, attracts many of the most talented golfers in the country because the area's mild climate allows year-round competition and training, Holley said.

As a general rule, only the California and Florida regions have competition comparable to that of the Texas area, she said.

The women's next tournament, following the Oklahoma trip next Mon.-Wed., is the Dick McGuire Invitational Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Albuquerque, N.M. Their fall schedule also includes trips to Houston, Gainesville, Fla., and Monterey, Mexico in November and December.

After the conference tournament, the men's team will be preparing for the Sam Houston Intercollegiate Tournament in Waterwood Sept. 21-22, with subsequent trips to Baton Rouge and Shreveport, La., and McAllen for the Pan American Fall Tournament.

The last tournament of the fall season for both teams is the Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston Dec. 5-7.



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Volleyball team hosts Berkeley tonight at 7:30 in home opener

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor
The Texas A&M University women's volleyball team, coming off an impressive second place finish in the University of Texas-Arlington tournament in Arlington last weekend, hosts the California-Berkeley Golden Bears tonight in C. Rollie White Coliseum at 7:30.

The Aggies, under the direction of second year coach Terry Condon, return height and experience from last year's 24-37 team which

finished as the state's fourth best team.

"We're a fairly young team. Last year we learned a lot and now most of the players know what it takes to win. We expect to do well this season," Condon said.

Condon returns five letterwomen from last year, including two seniors, one junior and two sophomores. Kristen Bloom and Wendy Wilson, both senior three-letterwomen, provide the bulk of the experience.

Bloom is a 5-foot-6 setter while

Wilson is a 5-foot-9 hitter and middle blocker.

Sue Wetzel, a 5-foot-10 middle blocker, Cathy Frazier, a 5-foot-6 sophomore setter, Lisa Johnson, 5-foot-10 sophomore setter, and Lisa Johnson, 5-foot-10 sophomore setter, also return to the Aggies.

Newcomers to the squad include four freshmen and one sophomore. Leshia Beakley, sophomore, Maureen Dunn, sophomore, mine Doty, all freshmen, and sophomore transfer Lisa Geise will not only provide limited but some height as well.

Geise, a middle blocker, is the tallest player on the team at 6-foot-1. Doty is a 6-foot-10 setter, Johnson is a 5-foot-10 middle blocker, Dunn is a 5-foot-8 setter and Beakley is a 5-foot-8 setter and spiker.

"They're growing these days," Condon said, "we're fairly short for a college team."

Condon said that the average height for a college volleyball player is about 5-foot-10. Berkeley has three girls over 5-foot-10.

"They're a real big team. They play last May in Dallas at the United States Volleyball Association tournament and they're a real good team. I think that they're pretty evenly matched."

"We have a team with the personality, desire and ability to win," Condon said. "Our team is 100 percent better this year than last year. We're a lot better than everyone has the same goal. We're still fairly young but we expect to do well."

The Aggies return to action Sept. 16 when they will visit Beach State and San Diego (Sept. 17-19) in California. The home game will be Sept. 23 when they host Lamar.

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1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.

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