

Aggies ready for UTA tourney

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB

Battalion Staff
Bob Brock must be pleased. The coach of the Texas A&M women's softball team has won seven of eight games with his new team, and he knows there are many more wins ahead.

But success is something he's used to after spending two winning seasons coaching the Baylor Bears, and it looks like he hasn't lost his touch. The Aggies have quickly adapted to Brock's coaching style, coming through with clutch hitting and the usual fine pitching.

Sue Lilley, Brock's assistant coach, has helped a great deal with the coaching transition. Lilley played softball four years at Indiana University under former

Texas A&M coach Bill Galloway, who was an assistant coach at IU. The team has been involved in six shutouts during the first week of the season, five of them won by the Aggies. Veteran pitcher Shan McDonald has picked up three of those shutouts, while freshman Lisa Martinez has won the other two.

The Aggies, who won the Texas A&M Invitational tourney the past weekend, travel Friday to the University of Texas at Arlington to participate in another invitational tournament. Lori Stoll, Texas A&M's other starting pitcher, has returned from her American Softball Association playing tour of Japan and will travel with the squad to Arlington.

First baseman Shannon Mur-

ray, who has been out with a broken finger during the Aggies' first eight games, will probably miss a few more games.

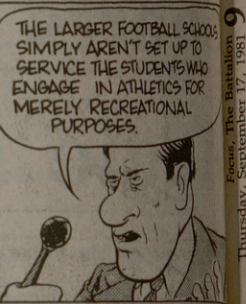
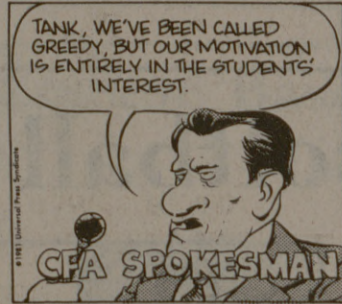
After this weekend's tourney, Texas A&M travels to Nacogdoches Sept. 25-26 for the Stephen F. Austin Invitational,

and to Killeen Oct. 2-3 for the Sam Houston Invitational.

The Aggies' final tournament of the fall season, the Oklahoma State Invitational, will be played Oct. 9-10 in Stillwater, Okla., and the state championship will be held Oct. 16-17 in Conroe.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Miller & Bill Hill



Coogs' Yeoman feels NFL could use veer offense

United Press International

HOUSTON — Longtime University of Houston football coach Bill Yeoman believes NFL offenses would get a shot in the arm from the option offense, and this weekend's two games involving teams from Houston and Miami could prove his point.

Not surprisingly, Yeoman's Houston Cougars will run the veer option offense almost exclusively Saturday in Miami against the Miami Hurricanes.

But in a departure from recent form, the NFL Miami Dolphins will probably send quarterback David Woodley on a limited number of option roll outs when they play the Houston Oilers in the Astrodome Sunday.

Their opponents, the Hurricanes and Houston Oilers, will use standard pro-type offenses. So far this season it's been hard to determine which offensive attack is more successful since none of the four teams has lost a game.

The opposite offensive styles run deeper than game plans, says Yeoman, who is the father of the veer and whose teams rank 7th nationally in rushing yards over the last 10 years. He'll alternate sending two sprinter-type quarterbacks, Audrey McMillian and Lionel Wilson, at the Hurricanes defense.

"It's amazing to me that no recent pro team has ever used an option attack," Yeoman said Tuesday. "There are seven or eight excellent option quarterbacks coming out of college every year, maybe more. And nobody uses them."

He dislikes the pros' arguments that a pro quarterback is too valuable to risk injury from constant running, and that a pro team would have to be five-deep in quarterbacks to use an option attack. "Since 1965 we've only had a handful of quarterbacks hurt running the option, and most of those were freak falls. A quarterback is more likely to get hurt getting hit in a passing pocket than running," Yeoman said.

He says the greater competitiveness in college football causes college coaches to go to the option, and he believes greater job insecurity in the NFL keeps them from experimenting with the option.

The Dolphins' Woodley would seem to provide limited proof that a pro quarterback can run around end and survive in the NFL. He ran the option five times against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Dolphins' last game and was successful with it. On Miami's second possession, he pitched to halfback Tony Nathan off the option play, and Nathan got nine yards. Later in a third-and-six situation, he picked up 20.

Oilers Head Coach Ed Biles Monday did not seem concerned about preparing for the added dimension of Woodley's running.

"It's a play you have to look at. It puts a defender in a one-on-one situation, but as long as you can tackle, you're okay. It doesn't present any big defensive problem," Biles said.

The Oilers predictably leave the running to Earl Campbell and the passing to Stabler, and there is little chance the roles will be reversed even for one play. But the Oilers' offensive efforts in narrow victories over the Los Angeles Rams and Cleveland Browns have been subpar. The Oilers have yet to score a touchdown running.

Witness says Spur fan's claims untrue

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — A San Antonio Spurs basketball fan, who is seeking \$850,000 in damages, appeared to be intoxicated and "faking his injuries" following a confrontation with Boston Celtics players, a former paramedic who treated the man has testified.

"He was whooping and hollering and creating quite a disturbance," Hector Cardenas, a former Emergency Medical Services paramedic, told jurors during Wednesday's second day of testimony in truck driver Johnny Merla's civil suit against Boston forward Larry Bird, former center Dave Cowens and the Celtics.

Cardenas examined the 27-year-old Merla outside HemisFair Arena following a Jan. 5, 1980 Spurs victory over Boston.

"My assessment was the patient didn't have anything wrong with him and was faking his injuries," Cardenas said. "It was hard to believe he was injured." He said Merla appeared "inebriated."

Testimony was scheduled to resume today. Merla is a former member of a group of Spurs fans known as the "Baseline Bums" and claims he was injured in a confrontation with the players as they were boarding a team bus.

Other defense witnesses called by Bob Summers, attorney for the players, included policeman Tom Secraw and city bus driver J.J. Valdez.

Both testified Bird and Cowens were provoked by a large gathering of San Antonio fans.

"It was near a riot, like a mob," Secraw said.

"Some of the people in the crowd were chanting, 'We want Cowens, We want Cowens!' One man doubled his fist and advanced forward and spit at Cowens," Secraw added.

Merla testified he suffered neck, lower back pains and severe headaches in being hit by one of the players, causing him to miss work for 2½ months.

He said he held his hands to his neck and teased the Celtics about "choking" and losing a game they could have won.

Merla said Cowens approached the group of fans and "attempted to put us down by asking us what we did for a living." He said a spitting match ensued between him, Bird and Cowens before Bird struck him to the ground with enough force "it nearly knocked me out" and "I could not get up."

Valdez, who was driving the Boston bus, testified that a fan, apparently Merla, entered the Celtics' bus and challenged players to come outside.

Secraw, who said the bus required a police escort to leave the arena parking lot, testified some of the fans were "loud, drunk and boisterous."

Summers said "Baseline Bum" officers would testify today that the organization, which is not affiliated with Spurs management, did not codone the filing of the suit against the Celtics players.

Other witnesses Wednesday included Dr. James Potyka, Baptist Memorial Hospital emergency room physician, who testified by video tape that he had found "no objective findings" of injury to Merla.

Merla's wife Stella broke down in tears on the stand, saying the couple had been "humiliated" by the incident.

Summers said he had offered Merla a \$1,500 out-of-court settlement "as a matter of economics and to get rid of him."

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