

Sports

A&M Pistol Team thrives in competitive situations

By KIM CONNER
Battalion Reporter

Six people stand in a line concentrating, watching. Fifty feet away six targets turn quickly to face them. A few seconds of silence. Shots start ringing in the room. Non-stop for 10 seconds. The targets turn away. The people relax slightly. Soon it will start again.

The Texas A&M Pistol Team is interested in competition, said Coach Curtis Burns, assistant director of executive development programs. It is not a recreational club, he said. The team is composed of 18 people divided into three squads: Corps, civilian and women.

Burns turns back to the team. "You will load a clip of five rounds," he tells them. Six people load their .22-caliber pistols.

"Everybody ready?" he asks. The shooting resumes. The team is practicing rapid-fire: five shots, called a string, fired in 10 seconds, two seconds per shot. Two strings, 10 shots, are fired at each target. Four strings make the score for the rapid-fire part of a competition.

Slow-fire, five shots in 2.5 minutes, and time-fire, five shots in 20 seconds, are done in the same

manner. Sixty total shots in a competition, each shot is worth a maximum of 10 points.

A good total score is about 540, an average score of 90 per target, team member Edward Koester said earlier.

Competitions, Burns said, have more tensions and distractions and many players succumb to the pressure. Competition experience is the only way to remedy the nerves, Burns said. "The more you compete, the more confidence you have," he said.

Pistol shooting, Burns said, is a battle against oneself, not another person. "You start looking at everybody else's score, you can become discouraged. You do the best concentrating on your game and doing the best you can, not trying to beat someone."

It is about 80 percent mental and 20 percent physical, he said.

Targets are being checked, scores figured. Margie Arbon, a senior asks Coach Burns about her problem with shooting twins, two shots through the same hole. They confer.

Arbon is a member of the women's team. Other members are Valerie Gatanis, Sharon Tramoto, Caroline Cate, Meredith Dodgen and Margot Goff. Corps

team members are Bill Little, Buck Sullivan, Roger Davis, Garrett McKenzie, Rob Tramble and Ed Palacios. Civilian members are Ben Jones, Edward Koester, Chip Miles, John Trankovich, Carlos Munoz, Peter Schaller and Dan Williams.

All own their own guns, a \$200-400 investment. Tryouts for the team were held during the first two weeks of school. Six different team members practice Monday,

Tuesday and Thursday nights at the range in the basement of the Military Science Building.

The team is sponsoring a match on November 7. Schools invited are Southwestern Oklahoma State University, University of Texas at

Arlington, Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, Air Force Academy and Tarleton State University. The matches, Burns said, are warmups for the sectional and the national competitions sponsored by the National Rifle Association each year. Winners from the nationals can go into international competition, including the Olympics, which in 1984 are having separate events for the women.



Staff photo by Brian...

Ready! Aim! Fire!

Meredith Dodgen prepares to fire her .22 caliber pistol at target 50 feet away as Bill Wiseman, an instructor, closes eyes in anticipation. Dodgen is one of 18 members of the Texas A&M Pistol Team, which practices Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights in the basement of the Military Science Building.

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Softball team faces tough test

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M University softball team this weekend takes its 26-2 record out of Texas for the first time this season, traveling to Stillwater, Okla. for the Oklahoma State Invitational tournament.

The tourney is the last of the fall season for the Aggies, who travel to Conroe next weekend to play in the state championship tournament. With the success they've enjoyed since opening the season a month ago, the Aggies shouldn't

have too much trouble winning the double-elimination state tournament.

But Coach Bob Brock and the Aggies are concentrating only on Oklahoma, where they'll face more competition than they have at any time this fall. Among the teams participating in the tourney will be the University of Kansas, University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University.

Brock said the Aggies will find out if their .300 team batting average and 0.22 ERA aren't only a result of playing against relatively weak competition. Texas A&M has spent the first five weeks of the season playing teams like Stephen F. Austin University, Baylor University, Angelo State University and Pan American University, some of which don't have strong softball teams. However, the Aggies have also played well against good competition, defeating the University of Texas at Arlington and Sam Houston State University during the four tournaments played so far.

Of the four tourneys, the Aggies have won three. The team has won the Texas A&M Invitational, SFA Invitational and the SHSU Invitational, while placing second in the UTA Invitational. The Aggies' two losses have been to UTA in the first game of the Texas A&M tourney, and to Oklahoma State in the first game of the UTA Invitational.

In the SHSU Invitational, Aggie pitchers allowed no runs and only nine hits in six games. Aggie starters Lori Stoll, Shan McDonald and Lisa Martinez have struck out 241 batters in 190

innings, with freshman Martinez leading the way with a 9-0 record and 96 strikeouts in 64 innings. McDonald, a junior, has a 10-1 record with 68 strikeouts, while Stoll has a 7-1 record with 77 strikeouts.

The team continues to effectively combine the knowledge and experience of its veterans with strong play from the freshmen. Freshman outfielders Iva Jackson and Josie Carter still lead the team in average, with Carter's 34 RBI the most impressive offensive statistic.

Next weekend's state tournament in Conroe will end Aggies' fall season, giving them over four months to prepare for the spring. The team's spring action is scheduled for May 1, when the Aggies travel to Austin to play in another UTA Invitational tournament.

The regular spring season may 1, when the Aggies play SHSU. Following the regular season will be the regional and national tournaments, both in

Volleyball team has easy time in victory

The Texas A&M University women's volleyball team Thursday showed that it deserves its recently acquired national ranking by defeating the University of Central Florida in three straight games.

The Aggies won 15-9, 15-6 and 15-9, running their season record 14-8, and assuring them of staying among the nation's top teams. UTA is ranked 20th after playing well in the past two teams' University of California-Berkeley tournament.

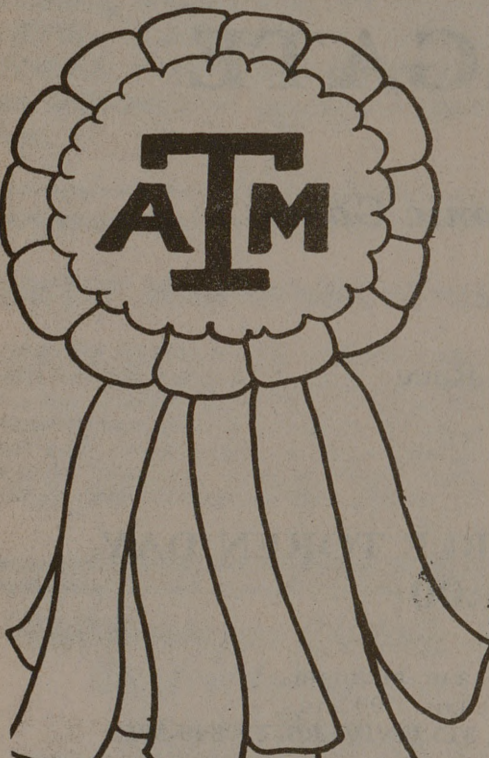
Coach Terry Condon said the Aggies played aggressive defense, attacking the ball well Thursday night. "We played much better tonight," Condon said. "Our defense is better, but we slowed down to their pace. We went through a team like this in a tournament two weeks ago. That worries me."

"We blocked much better tonight. Chemine Dorries is doing really well for a freshman. She's really going for it."

Condon cited the play of Wendy Wilson and Jennifer Giesse as pivotal to the Aggies' success against UCF. The coach said the team played "very smart, heads-up ball."

The Aggies participate in Austin in the Longhorn Classic today and Saturday.

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