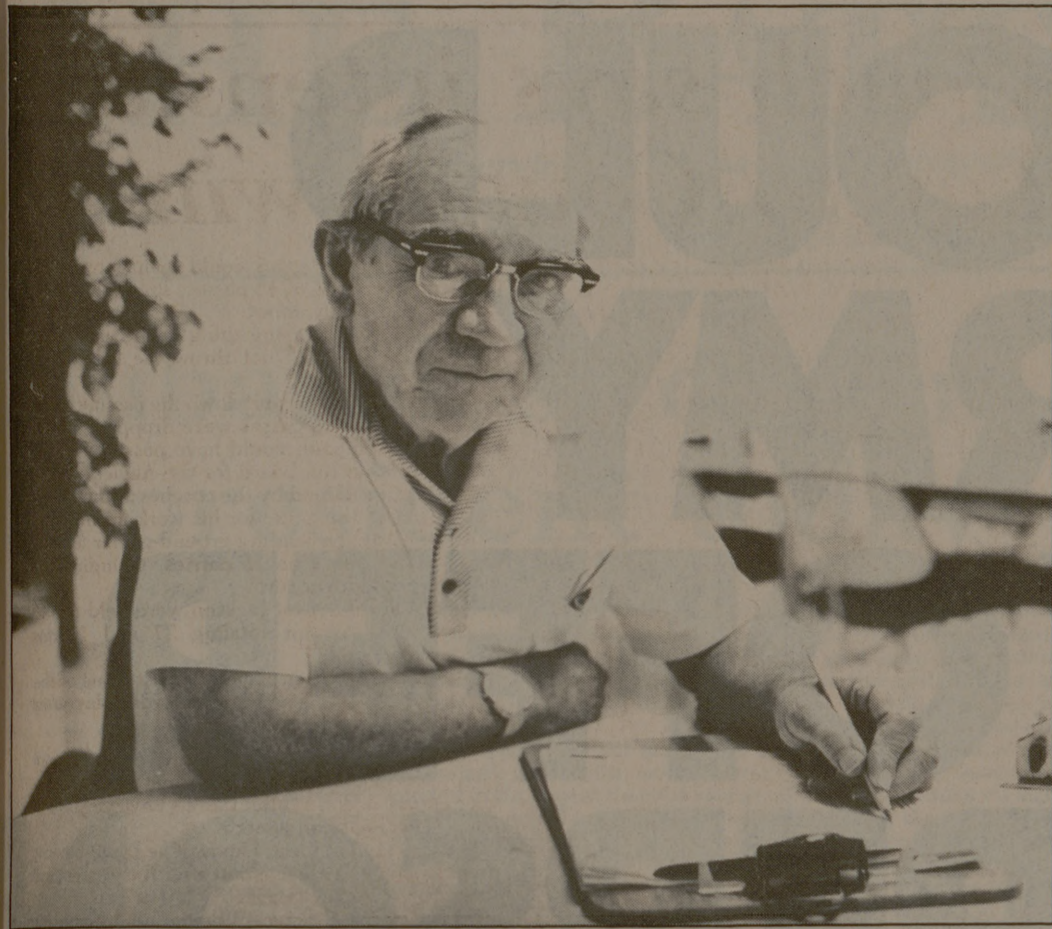


Sports



Staff photo by Dave Einsel

Johnnie Taylor, '32, has been to almost every Aggie football game since 1928.

Johnnie Taylor, '32—Ags' number one fan

By GAYE DENLEY
Battalion Staff

Tradition has it that once an Aggie's class has graduated, he is of no further use to the Twelfth Man in supporting the Aggie football team. But for many Aggies, support of the football team does not end with commencement. Former students migrate from all corners of Texas on game days, packing the west side of Kyle Field and arming Texas A&M University with a weapon almost as explosive as the Twelfth Man. Few Aggies, however, can match the attendance record or the off-the-field efforts of Henry Linc (Johnnie) Taylor, a retired Class of '32 chemical engineer who now monitors Cain Dining Hall. "I dare say that from 1928 up to now, I probably haven't missed over 12 games," Taylor said in an interview. "I've missed a few for one reason or another. After all, I had to work for a living. Taylor left his hometown of Palestine in 1928 to enter Texas A&M, and he said he's found it hard to leave ever since. "That's so far back I don't know why I chose A&M before I did some other school, except I've just always been an Aggie," Taylor said. "I reckon it was born in me or something." After he graduated in 1932, Taylor went to work for Central Power and Light, a public utilities company with offices all over South Texas. Most of his 42 years with Central were spent in Corpus Christi, where he lived with his wife, Marguerite. Taylor retired in 1974 from the only job he's ever had, and moved back to College Station "permanently" after his wife died. "After I retired and after my wife passed away, and I was foot-loose and fancy-free. I was coming up here so often that I said, 'To hell with that—I'm spending too much money. I'll just move up there,'" Taylor said. Bored with retirement, Taylor did some volunteer

work for the Association of Former Students and the Aggie Club.

"You just can't sit and watch that boob tube all day long," he said.

He learned of a job opening in Cain Hall from a golf coach two or three years ago, and since then he has been dining hall monitor.

"I check kids in and keep the freeloaders out," he said. "I'm interested in young people, and that suits me to a 'T.' That they're athletes makes it even better."

As might be expected, most of the athletes have big appetites, Taylor said. "We don't have any of them back there that eat like canaries."

In the years he's followed Aggie football from an insider's point of view, Taylor said he's seen "too many" coaching changes along with the regular turnover of athletes. Of the players, one of his favorites was Bubba Bean, an all-SWC running back for the Aggies who went on to play for the Atlanta Falcons. "He was one of the first few blacks that was there," he said. "I was particularly impressed with that young man."

As a Cain Hall official, Taylor is one of the few Aggies who has seen a Texas A&M football game from the sidelines as well as from both sides of Kyle Field. Still, he prefers to watch from the stands, he said.

"You can't see the game (from the sidelines)," he said. "A little fellow like me trying to look around all these big guys is not easy."

Texas A&M has changed "tremendously" in terms of expansion of the campus and general growth since the time he was a student, Taylor said. He is confident, however, that the "Aggie spirit," strong in 1932, will never fade away.

"I think there is a possibility of us losing some of it, but we'll never lose all of it," Taylor said. "It's just too ingrained in old Aggies to lose it all."

Texas A&M Sailing Team takes second in Armadillo Regatta

The Texas A&M Sailing Team finished second over the weekend in the Armadillo Invitational Regatta, sponsored by Rice University at the Seabrook Sailing Club in Houston.

Mark Haas and David Norman sailed for the Aggies in the regatta. Schertz and Shelton competed in the A division while Haas and Norman sailed in the B division.

Rice, Texas, Texas A&M and Lamar competed in the annual event, with Lamar the eventual winner.

On Oct. 3 the team hosted the TAMU Fall Invitational Regatta at Lake Somerville. Rice won the event by one point over the Aggies.

Pete Schertz, Doug Shelton,



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Soccer team ties Raiders in Lubbock

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M University soccer team received good news and bad news during the past week.

The squad was elevated last Monday to the varsity level by the Texas A&M Athletic Council, but in its first game as a varsity, the outcome wasn't what Coach Telmo Franco had hoped for.

The Aggies traveled Saturday to Lubbock, only to finish in a 1-1 tie with the Red Raiders. The disappointing result of the match leaves the team with a 3-3-2 overall record, and a 2-0-2 Southwest Conference Soccer League record.

Franco said the loss was disappointing because Aggie fullback David Kreps accidentally knocked in the goal enabling the Red Raiders to escape with a tie.

"It was unfortunate because he had been playing a tremendous game," Franco said. "I'm very proud of the way the (players) faced the situation we were in."

Ramon Marin scored on a pass from teammate Todd Leavitt for the Aggies' only goal of the match.

The Aggies played without two of their starters in the match. Forward Neto Walsh, slightly injured last week in a car accident, didn't make the trip to Lubbock, while fullback David Harmon found out that he is no longer eligible to play on the team. Harmon, a fifth-year student of the University, was the victim of new eligibility requirements which now must be met by the soccer team.

The Aggies host varsity team Sam Houston State University Wednesday at 4 p.m. on the drill field.

TANK McNAMARA



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

A&M softball team's ERA falls more in tourney win

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M University women's softball team knew that the teams in the Oklahoma State University Invitational would be tougher than any of their foes during the first few weeks of the season.

But the Aggies were ready for the past weekend's challenge, as they responded by winning five more games to raise their fall record to 32-2. The Aggies played one game at Oklahoma City University before entering the tournament, then proceeded to shut out each of their four opponents for the second tournament in a row.

The Aggie pitching staff of Lori Stoll, Shan McDonald and Lisa Martinez now has an ERA of 0.18, giving up only six earned runs in 228 innings. The trio has struck out 279 batters in those innings, while giving up 17 walks and 52 hits.

At Oklahoma City University, Texas A&M defeated the hosts 7-0, with Martinez pitching a one-

hitter and striking out 11. Martinez and Josie Carter had three hits apiece, while Carter also had four RBI.

After traveling to Stillwater, Okla., the Aggies opened the tourney with a 10-0 win over Wichita State University. McDonald won the game, which was called after five innings, and Patti Holthaus, Carrie Austgen and Karen Guerrero each had two hits.

The Aggies defeated West Texas State University 1-0, as McDonald won with a two-hitter and five strikeouts. Freshman catcher Gay McNutt led Texas A&M with two hits in three at-bats.

Martinez and the Aggies beat Southwest Missouri State University 1-0 in the next game, with the freshman pitching a two-hitter

and striking out six.

In the tournament final, the Aggies beat tourney host Oklahoma State by a score of 2-0, as Stoll pitched a three-hitter and struck out seven. The Aggie junior worked out of a bases-loaded spot in bottom of the third inning to preserve the lead her teammates had taken in the top half.

Stoll raised her record to 9-1, while McDonald is 12-1 and Martinez is 11-0. The Aggies' team batting average now stands at .287, while the team fielding percentage is .967. Texas A&M has outscored its opponents 184-11 in the 32 games the Aggies have played so far.

The team travels Friday to Conroe to play in the Texas State Championships, which will include invited teams from all over the state.



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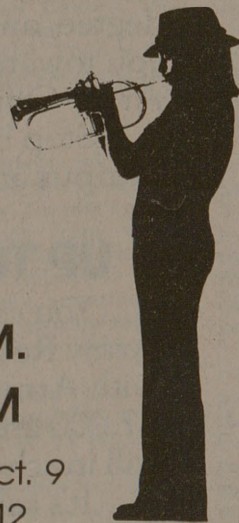


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