

Sports

Injuries plague flag football

By EDDIE ELMS
Battalion Reporter
When Aggie fans saw Lionell Cannon helped to the sidelines two weeks ago after colliding with Bill Cannon, everyone thought it was just part of the game. However, helping an injured player off of the field during an intramural game is not supposed to be part of the game.

Injuries occur in intramural football in spite of the efforts by referees and the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department. "There are always going to be injuries. We would get them if we played on six inch foam rubber," Dr. C.B. Goswick, director of the A.P. Beutel Health Center

Flag Football is our highest injury sport," Tom Dittman, intramural supervisor for the Emergency Care Team said. "You expect an injury nearly every game."

David Kerr, assistant director of intramural sports, said: "Most of the injuries we have that require attention are the collision type injuries."

The most common injuries reported, Dittman said, "are basically a lot of abrasions, some cuts, a few broken bones and a lot of sprained ankles."

Directors of intramural sports say some of the injuries could be avoided.

"I think intramurals should be cut off at a certain time. They should close the thing instead of playing at midnight," Goswick said. However, "my recommendations are probably unpopular."

"The 10(p.m.) to 12(midnight) slot definitely is where we have most of the injuries," Kerr said, because players and referees are tired. Also, "people that have been partying a little bit," before the game, could have some effect. Kerr said 14 of the 35 injuries reported this year, have been after 10 p.m.

Some people blame the condition of the field for some of the injuries. The poor drainage of the Penberthy Intramural Complex and constant wear have caused low places on the playing field. These places are still slick after most of the field is dry.

"I would imagine that any time

you have a situation like that, you would have an increased effect on injuries," Dennis Corrington, director of Intramural-Recreational Sports, said. "Any time you have wet spots and poor footing, you will have more ankle sprains," and collisions.

Players can also help make flag football a safer sport.

"They don't admit to themselves that they can get hurt," Goswick said. They think it isn't rough or violent but it is.

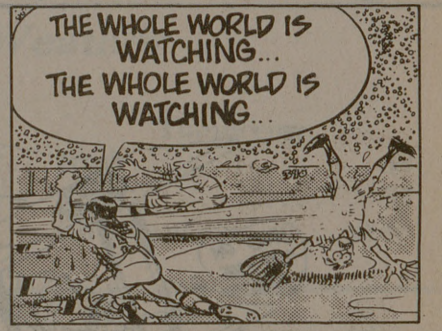
He said that he would also like to see the players equipped so that they will be aware that the game is rough and there is a potential for injury.

The number of injuries, Dittman said, "depends on how well the players abide by the rules." If they follow the rules then contact will be cut to a minimum.

James Welford, associate director of IM sports, said the officials responsible for enforcing the rules are some of the best intramural referees in the country.

"The officials that we have out there now don't let it get rough. They help prevent injuries in that way," he said.

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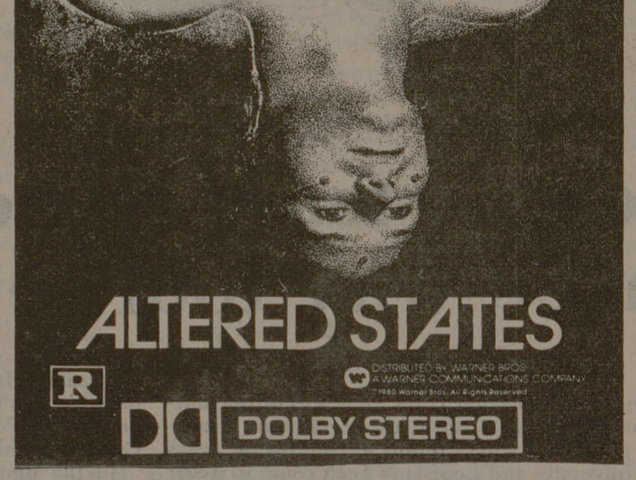
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DOLBY STEREO

Cross country team heads for UT meet

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff
After a week off two weeks ago, a great deal of work preparing for the state meet next, the Texas A&M women's cross country team has been looking for a way to relax. The team might have found it at this week's University of Texas Invitational Cross Country meet.

"It will be a fun meet," Aggie coach Bill Nix said. "It is a good race that will help us prepare for the state meet next week."

The meet is actually a cross country relay race. The first and second legs run one mile apiece, the third runs a mile and a half, the fourth runs a half mile and the final leg runs two miles.

While the winning team gets the team trophy, there will also be awards for the fastest individual in each half mile and two mile. Adelaide Bratten will run the first leg for the Aggies. Lisa

McCorstin will take the second, Barbara Collinsworth the third, Suzanne Sheffield the fourth and Marilee Matheny will run the anchor leg of the race for the Aggies.

"The girls are really excited about this meet," said Nix. "They needed a diversion and a chance to have some fun."

He said the team has been training for the state meet and needed such a diversion to have some fun. It helps the women relax a little and they will be better able to prepare for the state meet that will be run on the same track in Georgetown.

"We are planning on staying and getting some good work in after the race," the coach said. "Another 5,000 meter cross country race just wouldn't help us right now."

He said the meet has been run as a relay race for four years but the Aggies skipped last year's meet. The meet was a new concept to him when he came to Texas, Nix said.

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