

Sports



Staff photo by Brian Tate

The Penberthy Intramural Complex has often had problems with drainage after heavy rains. Wet playing fields, which often take several days to dry, have forced the cancellation of

numerous intramural events in the past. However, new plans for a more effective underground drainage system are presently under consideration.

Plans developing for better intramural fields

By EDDIE ELMS
Battalion Reporter

The large amount of rain the past two months has done more than keep the grass watered at the Penberthy Intramural Complex.

Because of the rain, ideas are beginning "to float" around about the repairs that are needed on the fields.

Thoughts of repairs surfaced in September when the rains came, ending the dry summer.

"It is something that probably sneaked up on us. It probably shouldn't have but it did," Dennis Corrington, director of Intramural-Recreational Sports said.

Gene Ray, director of the Grounds Maintenance department, said the problems resulted from poor drainage and soil compaction. The middle of the football fields and areas where the base paths are for softball remain wet for up to three days after a rain.

James Welford, associate director of intramural sports, said the field's inability to dry has caused cancellation of many of the league games so that the playoffs could begin. League play normally gives every team three games. However, some teams began this year's playoffs after only two league games.

"We have to start the playoffs now because if we don't, we'll run into dead week," Welford said.

With 635 teams involved in flag football, Penberthy is used five days a week from 5 p.m. to midnight.

The 700 feet by 700 feet complex is divided into four equal quadrants. All four are designed to drain toward the southeast corner of the complex.

"There needs to be a main underground drainage system,"

Ray said. "Each quadrant needs to be raised. The bare spots need to be roughed up so you get a good compatibility between the clay soil and the sandy soil that will be added."

Ray said the best way to repair the field is to rebuild each quadrant similar to the new football practice field.

It has a loose soil structure composed of heavy sand and organic matter. This mixture allows the roots to grow freely and also allow water to drain through to the underground drainage system.

If a project of this type is done on Penberthy, a collecting system would be built between the four quadrants to take excess water away.

"That would be the one way to salvage Penberthy," Ray said.

The University of Texas Intramural Department is involved in renovating their intramural fields. The new fields will have 4 inches of sand on top of a good drainage system.

"If we get a morning rain, it is highly likely we can play on it that night," Tom Dison, UT associate intramural director said.

If a similar program is done to Penberthy, it would be done a quadrant at a time. The intramural department has not received any figures on what the cost of renovation would be.

"Doing it a quarter at a time might not take that much," Ray said. "It would not be a cheap project however."

Another possibility for improving playing conditions is to build a new intramural field.

"There has been talk about a new complex," Ray said. "I think there is one in the master plan that would be located across the road."

The new field, if built, will be west of Penberthy and will also be a 700 feet square field.

Corrington said the cost of a new complex would be from \$800,000 to \$1 million, including lights and everything. The actual cost will be determined about a year before the work is started.

He said the money to pay for the field will have to come from the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Until action can be taken to build a new intramural field or renovate Penberthy, the intramural department and participants of IM sports will have to be patient.

"We're going to still keep working at it," Ray said, "but you are going to see the bare areas."

Water polo team leaves for meet

The Texas A&M Water Polo team, undefeated thus far, left Tuesday for Providence, R.I. and the AAU Indoor Water Polo tournament.

The tournament, to be held at Brown University, features some of the best teams in polo, including the New York Aquatic Club, Queens, Fordham University and Slippery Rock.

Last week the team competed in the San Antonio Aquatic Club's tourney, taking first place.

Appearing in the AAU championships is nothing new to the Aggies. In 1979, the team finished fifth.

The team took 14 players.

Rifle team places second in first match of year

The Texas A&M Rifle Team returned from its first match of the year with a second place finish.

The Aggies, led by first team members Todd Woodard, John Heye, Glen Park and Kurt Nauck compiled a total score of 4,243 out of a possible 4,800.

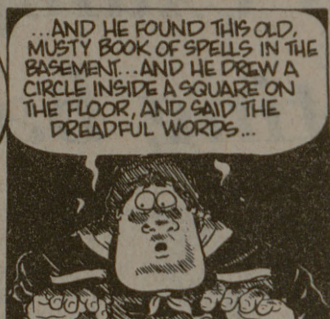
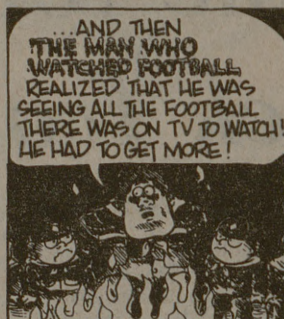
Woodard paced the Ags with a score of 1,072. Heye was second with 1,070. Park and Nauck had 1,068 and 1,033, respectively.

The Texas Longhorns won the match with a total score of 4,312. Both, Texas and Texas A&M, fielded two teams. The Texas number two team finished third with a score of 4,049. The Texas A&M team shot 3,974, good enough for fifth place.

Individual standings were not tabulated.

The Aggies return to action this weekend in Fort Worth for the TCU Triple Crown. TCU, Texas and A&M, the top three teams in the region, will compete.

TANK McNAMARA



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hill

Volleyball team beats SWU in five

By GAYE DENLEY

Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M women's volleyball team boosted its season record to 30-13 Tuesday night, defeating Southwestern University three games to two in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The 18th-ranked Aggies came back from a 2-1 deficit to win the last two games in the two-hour, best-of-five match. Southwestern took the first game 15-6 and the third game 15-8, dropping game two to the Aggies by a 15-5 margin.

The Aggies took over from there, however, holding off Southwestern 16-14 in game four and cruising to a 15-7 victory in the deciding game.

Texas A&M next hosts Texas Tech University in G. Rollie White at 7:30 Thursday night before traveling to Austin this weekend for the SWC Tournament.

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