

Sports

Cadet's actions bad for A&M

Texas A&M probably made more front page coverage Sunday than any other day in years, thanks to a "little" incident just before the half. The "little" incident I'm referring to, as everyone knows by now, is the sword-wielding cadet providing the SMU cheerleaders with some examples of his guerrilla training following a Mustang score.

Officer of the day Greg Hood gallantly defended Kyle Field from the intrusion of unwanted outsiders. Yea team! What he didn't realize, though, was the repercussions his act has had and will have.

Granted, the SMU cheerleaders knew they shouldn't have been on the field, having been sent a letter stating that. There really can't be a lot of excuses for that.

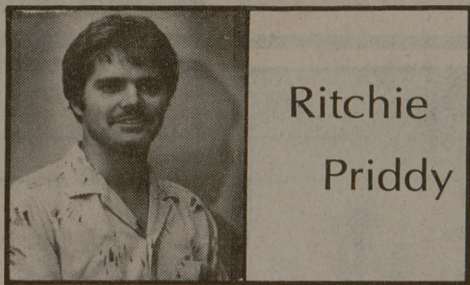
Perhaps they were caught up in the excitement of the game. Probably they were used to running on the field so much that it was second nature.

Whatever it was it doesn't really matter. Emotions and traditions run deep around here, perhaps too deep. Hood charged the SMU cheerleaders in an attempt to "remove" them from the field as they were spelling out S-M-U after a score. No outsiders, other than the football teams and bands, are supposed to be on the field during the game.

While he had every right to ask them to get off the field there's no excuse for the drawn sword. He could have easily hurt someone or worse. He not only made a fool of himself but, worse, he did it in front of 62,000 people. Millions more saw it on tv and/or in the newspapers.

The bad thing about the whole incident is the attention it received across the state and nation. Texas A&M, as everyone knows, is rather conservative in nature. Many people still believe the Aggies are bald, dumb and weird. This incident sure helps our image.

I can't speak for anyone else but I don't want people to think of me that way. I also don't like the idea of people seeing A&M as nothing more than a training ground for the military. It's much more than that.



Ritchie Priddy

Dr. Frank Vandiver, Texas A&M president, wasn't too pleased with the incident and understandably so. After all, he'll most likely have to issue an apology to SMU.

"I'm just glad the SMU president wasn't sitting next to me," Vandiver said of the incident. The SMU president didn't make the trip.

Vandiver said he could understand Hood asking them to leave but, he said, when a person draws a weapon it's pretty serious.

Indeed it is. The SMU cheerleaders are looking at the possibility of filing criminal charges against Hood. If I were in there shoes I would too.

Matter of fact I'd push the issue. One of the cheerleaders said he looked up and saw boots and a sword coming at him and thought Hood was going crazy.

"We can almost understand him running on the field (to get the cheerleaders off) but not with a saber," SMU cheerleader Bill Vogel said.

"If someone's going to carry a saber he ought to know when to use it," he added. "It's a matter of maturity."

The cheerleaders were not only upset with that incident but also with some freshmen taking off with one of their megaphones near the end of the game.

One remarked: "It was not good enough for them to kick us, I guess they wanted some-

thing material too."

That makes us look pretty bad. Sort of reminds me of high school.

One of SMU's sportswriters said the cheerleaders were given a police escort after the game. I'd demand one too.

I don't think the police or whoever is in charge of the sideline should let anybody with weapons near the field. That includes the sword-carrying OD's.

There always exists the possibility of tempers flaring and overreaction to certain actions by the opposing fans or bands. That's understandable. So, why have people who are subject to human emotions and reactions in the position to "do" something about those actions? It doesn't make sense.

What really disturbs me about the whole thing is the fact that many people seemed to enjoy it. What's worse, many people support Hood's actions.

In the Aggie lockerroom after the game two former Ags were stating their support for Hood. That everyone should know better than to step on Kyle Field. That makes me sick.

Another thing I can't figure out why Hood wasn't thrown out of the stadium. An incident such as Saturday's anywhere else would warrant far more attention from the police than was given. Is there anybody around here above the law?

I'm glad he didn't see me step on the field. I'd have a hard time convincing my parents I didn't die in vain. But, I don't bleed a true maroon so they would probably understand.

The majority of the players didn't support Hood's actions. Sacred or not he was holding up the game.

Billy Cannon gets my vote for player of the game. His quick thinking could have possibly saved someone's life. Cannon grabbed Hood and took him to the sideline.

"I'd be mad too," Cannon said in defense of Hood. "When I pulled him away there were several guys on him. But, the sword was really stupid."

TANK McNAMARA



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hind

Women's cross country team qualifies for regional

By RICK STOLLE

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M women's cross country team won a spot at the AIAW Regional meet to be held in Georgetown Saturday.

The Ags won second in the state meet this weekend at the University of Texas took first with 26 points. The Aggies had 54 and Lamar University had 69, good for third place.

"We ran pretty well," said Aggie coach Bill Nix. "The team is coming together somewhat and it sure is at the right time. We need it right now with the pressure meets beginning."

Next Saturday, the Ags will be fighting for one of the top three spots at the Regional meet. The top three teams will win the right to continue and compete for the AIAW National Championship at Pocatello, Ida.

"What really helped us this week," said Nix, "were the conditions in Georgetown. We had practiced in the rain and mud last week and so were prepared for it Saturday."

The coach said the team was also helped by the fact that the last two meets for the Aggies have been on the same track. He said the team has gotten used to it and can run very well on the Georgetown track.

Marilee Matheny took fourth place followed by Barbara Collinsworth at sixth, Suzanne Sheffield at 11, Adelaide Bratten at 13 and Lisa McCortin finishing for the Aggies at 20.

"It was Suzanne's best finish of the year and Marilee is running

more consistently than anybody else on the team," he said. "Lisa can run better than that because last year at this meet, she finished 12th."

He said the team will be going into the Regionals about as healthy as the team has been the entire season.

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SMU relies on horses to whip Ags in first-place tie-breaker

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB

Battalion Staff
The SMU locker room was empty. The Mustang players had left for the buses, and with them went the victory shouts and the congratulatory handshakes.

But four words written on the locker-room blackboard explained the events of the football game which had just been played between the Mustangs and the Texas Aggies:

"WE ARE TOP DOG."

Anyone walking past the door of the Mustangs' locker room after Saturday's game would have immediately known its outcome. SMU junior defensive end Roy Douglas made sure everyone knew by shouting, "Ain't nothing like 7-1, baby!"

The Mustangs defeated the Aggies 27-7, raising their overall record to 7-1 while moving their Southwest Conference record to 4-1. SMU, ineligible for post-season competition but eligible to compete for the conference title, took over sole possession of first place in the SWC, knocking the Aggies into a three-way tie for third place. The Texas Longhorns, at 3-1 in the SWC, stayed within one-half game of the Mustangs by defeating Texas Tech 26-9.

Tailback Eric Dickerson rushed for 123 yards in leading a Mustang offensive attack that totaled 362 yards. Junior tailback Craig James and sophomore quarterback Lance McIlhenny also led SMU's surge, picking up 84 and 38 yards on the ground.

SMU head coach Ron Meyer said the Mustangs didn't have much trouble preparing for the first-place battle after losing 9-7 to the Longhorns the week before.

"We were down Sunday and Monday (following the loss), physically and mentally hurt," Meyer said. "Old men feel it a little longer, but that's why the kids play the game. We know we have a good football team, and if we go out and execute, we're going to do well."

"We'll take what's given us, and not be impatient. Impatience can be a coach's worst enemy," Meyer added. "I know one thing — it is a win, it is now, and it's the biggest win we've ever had."

Dickerson, agreeing with his coach, said: "They (the Aggies) still have a great defense. I think we just outplayed them. A lot of people say if SMU loses once, that's it, but I didn't think so. I didn't have any trouble getting ready for this game."

The Mustangs capitalized on Aggie mistakes and turnovers to take a 12-0 halftime lead. McIlhenny, normally not much of a passer, surprised everyone by completing 6 of 13 passes for 108 yards in the first half. He attempted only three passes in the second half, as SMU relied mostly on the rushing of Dickerson and James to score 15 more points.

Meyer said the turning point for his team came in the third quarter, when the Mustangs were able to move the ball against the wind to score with 6:45 left in the period, making the score 19-0.

Meyer said his team expected a tough game from the Aggies, and that's what they received.

"We think that A&M has a very fine football team," Meyer said. "You come to Kyle Field to play — you'd better be ready to play, because you're in for a hard day's work."

McIlhenny said SMU knew the

task involved in playing the Aggies at home, but the Mustangs were ready to play.

"No one wants to come to Kyle Field to play football, but I felt that our team knew it had to win to get back on top after losing that one to Texas," McIlhenny said.

Tempers flared near the end of the game, resulting in the ejection of Aggie linebacker Mike Little. McIlhenny said after the game that Little had hit him after pitching the ball to Dickerson late in the fourth quarter.

"There's so much intensity on

the football field, and I've got so much competitiveness in me," McIlhenny said. "Little things like that just tick me off. He had been doing that through the whole game, and apparently, he got ejected from the game because he hit me. I told him more or less that that wasn't the way to play football."

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Lacrosse team wins tournament

The Texas A&M Lacrosse Club won the Baylor Invitational Tournament this weekend, defeating Baylor and Sam Houston State University.

The Aggies beat Baylor 6-1, as Rick Bearden had four goals and one assist. Also adding one goal and four assists was Al Adler, while Rod Starnes scored one goal.

In the championship match with SHSU, the Aggies won 11-8 on the strength of three goals apiece from Adler, Keith Wagstaff and David Hodde. Tony Scazzero scored two goals and Bearden had four assists. The Aggies played outstanding defense in both matches.

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