II through Gymnastics

Aggie squad vaults into conference lead

by Bill Robinson

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Battalion Staff
An undefeated record is on nt the new the line Saturday evening as the n the Mi Texas A&M University Men's mised in Gymnastics Team hosts a triansylvantastics ream hosts a trian-p \$30 mgular meet with the University to turnap of Texas and the University of ouncing management of Texas at Arlington.

Saturday's meet will showcase Saturday's meet will showled a coll congle the new Texas A&M gymnastics and no infacility in 307 East Kyle and bespapers at 7:00 p.m. Admission to event will be 50 cents per

The men, who defeated UTA arlier this season with a team otal of 189 points (a new Texas A&M record), also took top am honors at the UT Gymfest held last December in Austin. Competing as a club sport

guy drow within the Intramural Departa job." He ment, the gymnastics team was e station we formed three years ago as a to he ident founding member of the eight-who at the team Texas Gymnastics Conferme was gence, not a part of the NCAA.
Only one team in Texas, 11th

ranked Houston Baptist University, is a member of the NCAA.
drove har Defending Junior College ear a MAthletic Association national him to a champion Odessa Junior College is the only junior college said, "Hesteam from Texas in the JCAA thin' out and has won nine champione went to ships in the past 13 years.

out an' na The Aggies do compete against NCAA teams, however. In March the team will particite in the Texas Open, hosted by HBU and featuring teams from Odessa JC, Texas, UT-A ind Texas Tech

Texas A&M has placed third in each of the last two years at ional the TGC Championships dersday, Jan spite the lack of a coach or a big 982 with budget for scholarships and

late in historravel. irst comme Team members pay most of board washe expenses involved in com-New Hapetition including travel, equip-12 subscripment and uniforms. They must ne U.S. Calso provide their own medical blished supplies. I by Congr

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No medical equipment or trainers are provided by the University, which can cause problems, team co-captain Mark Hartwell said. "Gymnastics is a dangerous sport and trainers are really needed for the meets."

In addition, the Aggies are in need of a coach, who would be able to coordinate team activities, set the competition roster and free Hartwell to devote more time to practicing his own

The team, which has 14 competing members, sponsors the

Each team enters seven competitors in each event, with the top five scores being counted. Scores range from zero to 10, with competitors losing points from the initial 10 for mistakes.

Texas A&M Gymnastics Club, encompassing over 100 members. The club is open to all Texas A&M students for a \$5 per semester fee.

Members are entitled to full seven-day use of the new gymnastics facilities in 307 East Kyle, including practices on week-nights from 6 to 9.

Everyone with gymnastics experience is invited to join, as well as those who would like to learn, said Hartwell, a third year veterinary student from Austin.

The team provides a service to the University by competing in meets statewide, Hartwell added. "We would really like to have some fans at the meet this weekend. A crowd watching you really improves the performMany good performances can be expected Saturday night, Hartwell said. The Aggies were able to recruit several outstanding gymnasts last year, including freshman co-captain Jim Gill, an

All-Arounder from Enid, Okla. Five other freshmen will compete with the Aggies this season. They are Jeurgen Achterman and Todd Miclette, both from Humble; Marty Hardell from Irving; John Kemp from Austin; and Esteban Langoria from McAllen.

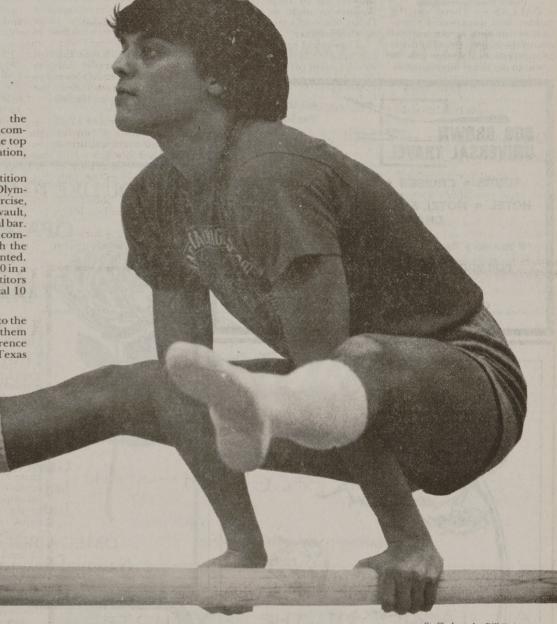
Two former team members, Lowell Brooks, a sophomore from Garland, and David Semon, a senior All-Arounder, are returning to the team. Club member Shawn Messonier, a from Houston, also joined the team this spring.

Texas A&M team could compete on the same level as the top gymnastics teams in the nation, Hartwell said.

Saturday night's competition will involve six events in Olym-pic rotation: floor exercise, pommel horse, still rings, vault, parallel bars, and horizontal bar.

Each team enters seven competitors in each event, with the top five scores being counted. Scores range from zero to 10 in a deductive way, with competitors losing points from the initial 10 for mistakes.

A team win is important to the Aggies because it will put them in first place in the conference going into their meet with Texas Tech on March 6.



Staff photo by Bill Robinson

Todd Miclette, a freshman from Humble, works out on the parallel bars during a Texas A&M Gymnastics team practice held Wednesday night. Miclette and his teammates will host the

University of Texas and the University of Texas at Arlington Saturday in a home meet in 307 East

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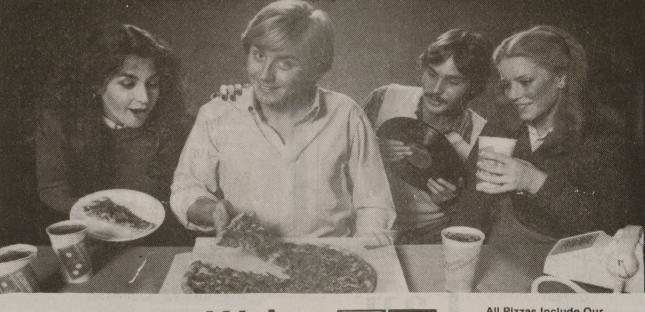
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