

Briggs says Aggies should peak when it really counts

by Bill Robinson
Battalion Staff

Although the Texas A&M golf team has not won a tournament this season, the Aggies still have a chance to win the conference title, all-America Danny Briggs says.

"This year we've started at the right rate," he said. "We started preparing for the South-west Conference and NCAA tournaments in January.

"You have to build up over a period of time. We're going to peak at the right time."

Briggs said the team should reach its peak by the NCAA Tournament, which will be held May 26-29 in Pinehurst, N.C.

"Man for man I think we're as good as anybody in the nation," he said. "If we play good we can win it."

"All year long the team has had two or three guys doing well but never could get that fourth."

One reason the Aggies have



Danny Briggs

ven't won is that their play in the short game — pitching and putting — has not been consistent, he said.

"We haven't putt'd well because we don't have enough confidence in our putting," he said.

To make up for it, he said, the

team has been spending as much as six hours of practice, from noon to dark every day, working on the short game.

Three of the team's top five are now averaging an even par 72 for 18 holes and a fourth has a one-over-par 73 average, apparently as a result of the long hours the Aggies spend on the golf course.

"If we could shoot our averages in tournaments we could win," he said.

This weekend the Aggies will be looking for their first SWC golf title since 1969 in the conference tournament at the Quail Valley Country Club in Missouri City, near Houston.

The University of Houston, which has won all but one of its tournaments this season, is the favorite in the competition but Briggs said the Aggies could win it.

"Houston's great, but I don't feel they're better than we are,"

he said. "It's a three-team race for the SWC title between us, Houston and the University of Texas."

Six Aggie golfers will compete in the tournament with the top four scores being counted.

Golfers competing for the Aggies in the tournament are Briggs, Gary Krueger, Paul Oglesby, Jackie Lee, Sandy Pierce and Kel Devlin.

Briggs said the most consistent player on the team is Gary Krueger.

"Gary has been playing absolutely great," he said. "He was all-SWC last year and will be all-America this year."

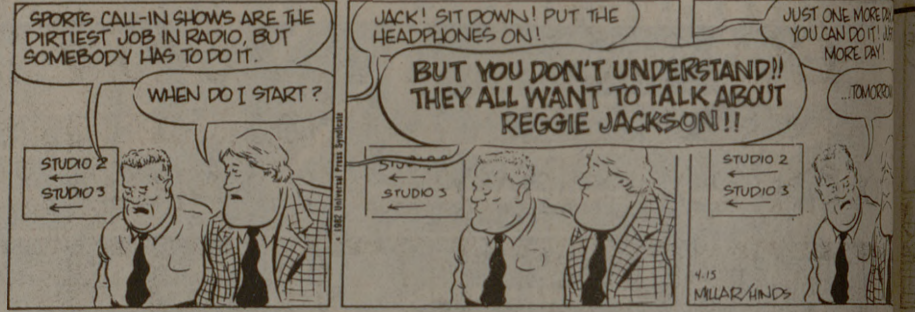
Coach Bob Ellis also received Briggs' praise.

"When Coach got here we had never been to nationals," he said. "Since then, we've been to NCAA's four times and finished in the top 10."

The Aggies were No. 10 last year.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill H



Denver wins 141-122

Rocket comeback fails

United Press International
DENVER — The Denver Nuggets may have been leading at the half 73-56, but coach Doug Moe was still concerned about the ability of the opposition to seize the initiative late in a game.

"I was so worried at halftime because Houston's been coming back on teams all year," Moe said after his team's 141-122 victory over the Rockets Wednesday.

"We wanted to keep the tempo

going in the second half. I thought if we let them slow the game down, they could come back."

David Thompson, benched after just six minutes the previous night, scored 26 points to set the pace for the winners.

"David was sensational tonight," Moe observed. "He's had some great games, but he's also struggled this year."

The victory was only Denver's second in its last seven games,

but it pulled the Nuggets with Houston at 45-35 in Western Division play-off.

Denver survived a comeback that narrowed Nuggets' margin to 83-77:07 left in the third quarter. Kiki Vandeweghe then straight baskets and Denver led away for the win.

Thompson hit 10 of 11 goal attempts in just 22 minutes to lead Denver. Moses led the Rockets with 27

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