

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

May 6, 1982 Page 17

Hockey at A&M?

Aggie team skating toward first season of competition

by John Wagner

Battalion Staff
Dave McDonald was walking through a building on campus long ago when he saw a picture on the wall. Someone was skating for ice hockey players.

McDonald, who had played hockey when he lived in California, answered the call. He's now one of about 15 Texas A&M students who will make up the first Aggie ice hockey team when its season starts in October.

The 20-year-old sophomore from Houston called the number on the flyer, went to a meeting, and was elected team secretary. He and the other members of the team are busy now trying to tie up the loose ends that come with starting a new venture such as this.

"We're mostly trying to raise money," McDonald said. "We don't expect to receive any funds from the University since it will be our first year."

"In the years to come, we hope to receive money from the university, but right now we rely on private donations and are raising to count on," he said.

Because there are no ice rinks at the Bryan-College Station area, the Aggies will travel to Houston for their practices and games. McDonald said they will use the Sharpstown Ice Center as their home rink.

That's one reason money is so important to McDonald and the members of the team. Besides the cost of traveling to Houston, the time at the rink is \$100 for only an hour and a half.

McDonald said the team would like to practice at least once a week, but he added that practicing that much will probably be unlikely because of the weather.

As of now, McDonald said, the team's budget is a minimum of \$2,000 for the 20-game season, which will last from mid-October through March.

The Aggies will be members of the Southwest Collegiate

Hockey Association, a league that features six teams. Besides Texas A&M, the SWCHA includes Tulane, LSU, SMU, Texas and North Texas State.

Each team in the league will play every other team four times during the season, with two of the games being at home and two being away.

McDonald said the Aggies learned of the SWCHA during one of their practices in Houston.

"When we were at Sharpstown practicing, a man came up to Steve Mathiason, our president, and gave him the number of a professor at SMU who was involved with the league. Steve called him, and found out about the league. It was then we committed ourselves," he said.

Mathiason, a freshman from Houston, said the possibilities for the team are endless.

"It (being president of the team) takes up a lot of my time, but I'm real excited about the team. I think it can be a really big thing, something that can grow every year," he said.

Most of the team members from northern states played as youngsters, then moved to Texas with their families, McDonald said. That's how they wound up at Texas A&M, and that's how they are familiar with hockey.

The idea for forming a hockey team came from several

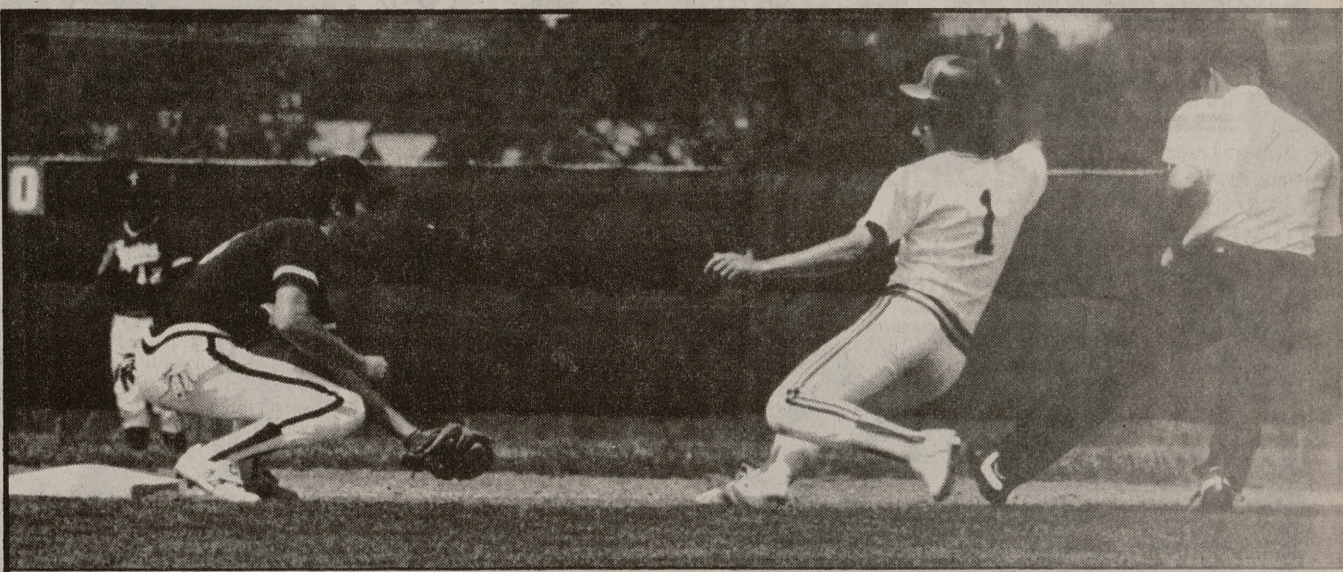
members of the lacrosse team, which also has a large number of players from northern states. Most of them had played hockey also, and after talking about their hockey days, Mathiason said, the idea was born.

After distributing the flyers around campus and holding a couple of meetings, the team grew to its present size. Political science professor Mike Levy, a former lacrosse player at Brown University, agreed to be faculty sponsor for the team, which includes several people who have played collegiate hockey before at schools such as Penn State.

McDonald said the team members are confident they can compete in the SWCHA, especially if they can get sufficient practice time. But until October, all they can do is practice and raise money. The latter, he said, is not going well.

The team had a money-raising project last weekend, with the players cleaning the shuttle buses owned by Transportation Enterprises. But it didn't pay too well.

"We only made \$60," McDonald said.



staff photo by David Fisher

Ready to apply the tag

Aggie second baseman Clint Heard has the ball waiting for unsuspecting Baylor shortstop Steve Ecton on a steal attempt during the teams' series last week. The Bears finished with a 9-12 Southwest Con-

ference record and in sixth place, but Texas A&M will host the SWC tourney by virtue of its 10-10-1 fourth-place record. The Aggies play Texas in a first-round game May 14 at 8 p.m. in Olsen Field.

Houston Open tees off today

United Press International
HOUSTON — PGA money leader Tom Kite is among five top 10 PGA money leaders who will be on hand for the \$350,000 Houston Open that begins today at the 7,071-yard, par 71 Woodlands Country Club course.

Observers say the four-day tournament will be marked by

low scores because of the cushy condition of the greens. They are big and soft, and they lend themselves to direct hits on the pins with long irons.

Absent from the tournament are crowd favorite Arnold Palmer, a regular at the Houston Open, infrequent visitors Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus, and

Tournament of Champions winner Jerry Pate, who withdrew at the last minute.

Pate has been working on a golf course in Florida and has not had a chance to practice for two weeks — and one must play well to win the Michelob tournament.

The average winning score over the seven years at the Woodlands has been 14 under

par. Last year, torrential rain eliminated the final round and made a winner of third-round leader Ron Streck of Tulsa, Okla., who led at 15 under following a round of nine-under 62.

In qualifying Monday, Skeeter Heath of Williamsburg, Va., shot a 63. His round included a 28 on a front nine that begins with the popular 546-yard par 5.

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Dear Student:

Since there have been many varied statements about the quality of teaching at Texas A&M, we, the "STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE", would like to compile data to evaluate this important area. Please assist us by answering the questions below as carefully and thoughtfully as possible. If you have any additional comments not covered by the questions, please put them on a separate sheet of paper and return them with the survey.

Major: _____ Classification: _____ GPR: _____

Please check those difficulties which you feel occur most frequently with Professors and T.A.'s.

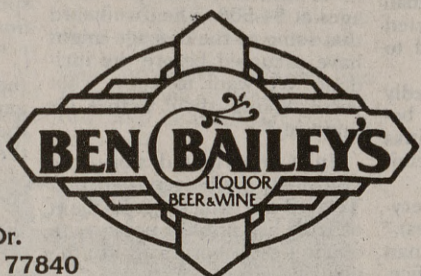
	Professors	T.A.'s
A. Failure to return exams and homework promptly.....	_____	_____
B. Failure to keep office hours or appointments.....	_____	_____
C. Excessive number of "walks".....	_____	_____
D. Does not review exams and homework in class.....	_____	_____
E. Difficulty in communication because of teachers' language barrier.....	_____	_____
F. Instructors do not put forth enough effort in their teaching.....	_____	_____
G. Aren't knowledgeable in the field they teach.....	_____	_____
H. Tests and homework do not fairly represent the objectives of the course.....	_____	_____
I. Never grades assignments.....	_____	_____
J. The teachers are not clear and coherent when presenting material to the class.....	_____	_____

How helpful has your assigned Department Advisor been in assisting your course schedule?(please circle) Very Some Not at all Do not have one.

Please return this questionnaire and additional comments you may have to SFAE headquarters(004B Heidenfels) or in boxes located at the MSC, bus stops, library, SBISA, Commons, the A&A Building or Zachry Engineering Center.

Signature _____

I.D. No. _____

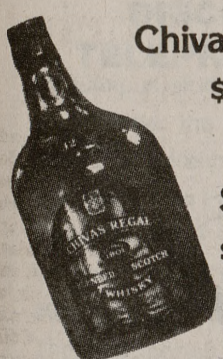


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