

Navasota High enjoying drive to Class 3A finals

United Press International
The Navasota Rattlers, enjoying their longest march ever in the state high school football playoffs, meet a team in the Class 3A semifinals this week that has traditionally extended its season into the championship brackets.

Refugio coach Bobby Kelly is hoping experience will help overcome the loss of two key players when his team meets Navasota this Saturday in Memorial Stadium in Austin.

"I think the playoff experience has helped us all along," he said. Last year Refugio was

beaten by 3A semifinalist Port Isabel.

"It's been my experience in the playoffs that it doesn't make any difference who you play," he said. "The kids play differently, a lot more physical."

That harder physical play cost Kelly his nose guard, Vincent Lewis, and possibly his cornerback and backup halfback, Mike Barber. Lewis broke a leg against Sweeny last week and Barber bruised a knee.

"It is really going to hurt us if (Barber) can't play. He provided depth for us at halfback," he said.

Navasota coach David Bourquin has always felt his football program was a good one, although just a bit small to battle the Class 4A powers such as Huntsville and Tomball he was matched with before this season.

"Two years ago, Huntsville beat us 19-14 and we had the ball on the one at the end of the game. Then Huntsville went on to be state champion," he said.

With a move down to Class 3A, Navasota has moved up through to the playoffs to the semifinals for the first time in the school's history.

"This is history in the making," Bourquin said. Of his chances against Refugio, he added, "If we just stay in the ball game every play, I think we can keep up with them."

In the Astrodome Friday, a school in only its first season of competition is making a bid for the state finals. But coach Alex

Durley, who previously coached the now closed Beaumont Hebert High School to repeated trips to the Class 4A playoffs, had something of a winning tradition going when he started the season at Beaumont West Brook.

That tradition was quickly tarnished by an 0-2 start. Did Durley think at that time his team would eventually be one game away from the state championship?

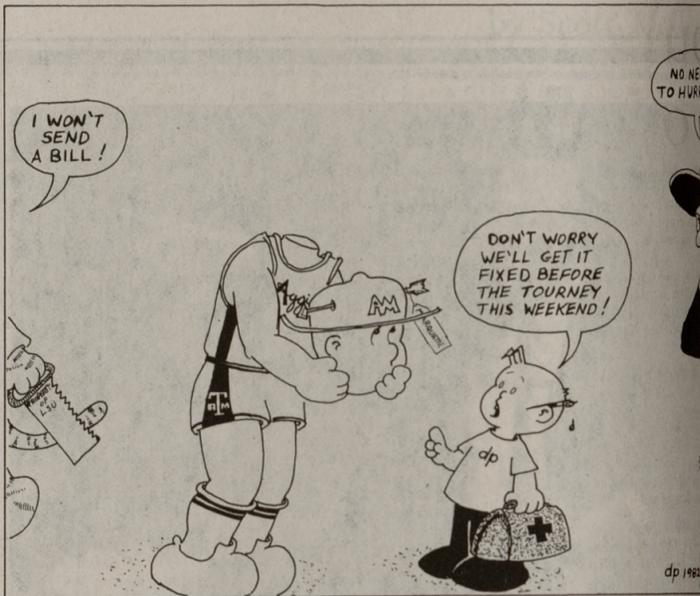
"I was only worried about the next week. No, I didn't think we'd make the playoffs," he said. "We made some adjustments early in the season and got used to our new surroundings. The kids wanted to do it and they worked hard."

Placed in the Class 5A district that is home of Port Arthur Jefferson, Durley slipped into the post season by virtue of the new UIL rule permitting second place teams into the playoffs. He is matched this week against Converse Judson, a 14-0 team with seven shutouts this season.

In the other Class 5A game, Dallas Carter, also a district runner-up, plays Hurst Bell in Texas Stadium Friday.

In Class 4A: Cleburne plays Corsicana Saturday in Texas Stadium and Willowridge and New Braunfels play Friday night in the Astrodome.

In Class 3A: Littlefield and McGregor play in San Angelo Saturday in addition to the Navasota-Refugio game.



Condon, volleyball squad members receive honors

Coach Terry Condon and three members of the Aggie women's volleyball team received recognition in post-season honors announced Wednesday afternoon by the Southwest Conference.

Condon, who led Texas A&M to a 32-13 record and second place in the league this season, tied Mick Haley of Texas and Dave Olbright of Houston for Coach of the Year in the SWC. The Aggies lost to Arizona in last weekend's opening round of the NCAA playoffs.

Junior Joey Vrazel, in her first year with the Aggies, made first-team all-conference, as did freshman teammate Sherri Brinkman. Vrazel is a setter-hitter for Texas A&M and Brinkman is a middle blocker.

Vrazel and Brinkman were major factors in leading the Aggies to eight straight victories in their first eight conference matches. Texas A&M wound up losing its final two matches of the regular season to Houston

and Texas, the SWC champion. Individually in the SWC, UT's Sharon Neugebauer completed the regular season leading the league in two of the four statistical categories. Through the 10-match SWC schedule, Neugebauer managed a conference best .406 hitting percentage and a 5.2 blocking average.

A sophomore middle blocker, Neugebauer also finished with the fourth-best kill average in the conference at 10.1 per match.

Houston claimed the other two individual categories, with Deborah Jackson topping the kill average list with 12.3 per match and Cindy Arevalo leading the SWC with a 2.8 service ace average.

The Longhorns, ranked No. 16 in the nation, defeated Southwest Missouri State over the weekend 15-10, 8-15, 15-7, 15-13 to advance to South Regional play against fourth-seeded Stanford Friday at 8 p.m. in Hofheinz Pavilion on the Uni-

versity of Houston campus.

Here are the complete season standings:

- FIRST TEAM:**
Vrazel, Texas A&M
Brinkman, Texas A&M
Christa White, Texas A&M
Nina Akai, Rice
Lisa Denker, Texas A&M
Jo Beth Palmer, Texas A&M
- SECOND TEAM:**
Wetzel, Texas A&M
Sharon Neugebauer, Texas A&M
Deborah Jackson, Houston
Fran Teeter, Texas A&M
Alecia Abraham, Rice
Shelly Small, Baylor
Irene Soalano, Texas A&M
Glanda Halameck, Houston

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Sharon Neugebauer, Texas A&M

FINAL STANDINGS:

- (1) Texas 9-1, (30-14)
- (2) Texas A&M 8-2, (24-23)
- (3) Houston 6-4, (24-23)
- (4) Texas Tech 4-6, (24-23)
- (5) Rice 3-7, (31-20)
- (6) Baylor 0-10, (3-40)

Aggie Ladies to play KU at BHS

The Aggie Ladies basketball team will face Kansas State tonight at 7:45 at the High School Gym.

Texas A&M, which has a record on the season, defeated the Lamar Cardinals Tuesday night in Beaumont. Kansas State upset No. 24 Old Dominion earlier in the season.

The Aggie Ladies have defeated Lamar, Southwest Texas State, and the University of Texas at Austin and have lost to Texas State, Tulane and Stephen F. Austin. Jenni Edgar, a sophomore guard from Dallas, has been Texas A&M's top scorer in four of the eight games. Kelli Harned and Janet Ham have been the leading scorers in nearly every game.



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