

The Battalion Sports

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Just around the corner

Battalion file photo

Aggie wide receiver Jimmy Teal (23) tries to evade linebacker Cedric Ellis (42) in a scrimmage last spring. Teal and the Aggies will begin looking

toward next fall soon, as Head Coach Jackie Sherrill will gather his troops Tuesday to begin spring practice.

Rain, bad course make TPC tough

United Press International
PONTE VEDRA, Fla. — Playing 36 holes of tournament golf the same day would be a grind anywhere, but at the controversial Tournament Players Club it's a marathon.

That's the "chore" facing the golfers in the \$700,000 Tournament Players Championship after the opening round was postponed from Thursday to today because of rain and it was decided to play the final two rounds on Sunday.

"It's a challenge," said reigning U.S. Open and British Open champion Tom Watson, one of the favorites to win the largest first place check ever given out on the PGA Tour — \$126,000. "It's a chore to play on this course. It's like playing a football game in a blizzard. Sure, everybody has to play, but you'd rather have ideal conditions."

Three-time champ Jack Nicklaus, the only golfer to win the 10-year-old TPC more than once, feels the two-year-old course needs a "major overhaul." "They've made a lot of changes since last year (when he failed to make the cut)," said Nicklaus. "But they've been minor in nature, just bandaids. The changes lessen the penalties for bad shots, but they don't help the good shots."

"They haven't given us room to play," Nicklaus complained. "There's nowhere to miss, to play it safe. You feel like you're in a straitjacket."

The course, located near the Atlantic Ocean in northeast Florida, was already soggy in spots from earlier rain before a storm swept in early Thursday. The rain ended several hours after daybreak but left the course,

with pools of water in many of the bunkers, virtually unplayable.

With more rain forecast for early afternoon, Clyde Mangum, deputy commissioner of the PGA Tour, announced at 8:38 a.m. EST — barely an hour after the first threesomes had been scheduled to start — that the first round was postponed for 24 hours.

Fair weather was forecast for today and for Saturday's second round but a threat of rain hangs over Sunday's 36-hole wrapup. Officials were unwilling to say Thursday what they would do if they were unable to complete the tournament Sunday.

In order to speed up Sunday's play, the cut at the end of the second round will be the low 60 scorers and ties rather than the original low 70.

Blackman, Aguirre lead Mavs past SD

United Press International
SAN DIEGO — For Dallas' Jay Vincent, winning is the proverbial being in the right place at the right time.

"They have great young talent like us," he said after the Dallas Mavericks defeated the San Diego Clippers 118-113 Thursday night. "They're playing without Bill Walton. In a game like this, it comes down to who gets the right breaks. We got the right breaks at the right time."

Kelvin Ransey's jump shot with 1:13 left to play broke a 111-111 tie, opening the way for the Dallas victory. It was the second straight win for the

Mavericks, 36-35, and completed a six-game season sweep over the Clippers, 23-47.

Neither side led by more than 6 points in a game that had 30 ties and 15 lead changes. Reserve Rolando Blackman led Dallas with 23 points while Mark Aguirre added 20, including 12 in the fourth quarter.

Dallas shot a blistering 68 percent from the field on 44 of 65 shots.

All five San Diego starters scored in double figures, but got little production from their bench as the Dallas reserves outscored San Diego's 56-10.

San Diego was led by Terry

Cummings, who scored 26 points, while Michael Brooks added 25.

"By getting all this playing time, I feel more confident," said Brooks. "At the beginning of the year, I was really immature. Now I'm playing a mature game. With the confidence I have now, playing basketball is fun."

In other games, Walter Davis scored 25 points and Maurice Lucas 21, allowing Phoenix to romp past the Kansas City Kings, 112-95. Kansas City reserve center Steve Johnson had 27 points. Washington knocked off Chicago, 102-96.

Rockets fall to Blazers

United Press International
PORTLAND, Ore. — The Houston Rockets made Cleveland and Indiana look like also-rans in the race for drafting rights to Ralph Sampson by dropping a 104-97 decision to Portland Trail Blazers Thursday night.

The Rockets have lost 11 of their last 12 games and hold a 25-57 record, worst in the NBA. This season will be a success for Houston only if they finish second in the Western Division and shipped in a coin flip with Indiana or Cleveland.

The winner of the coin toss will have the No. 1 pick in the collegiate draft, most likely the Virginia center.

Portland had a 48-43 half-time lead, then blitzed the Rockets 39-26 in the third quarter to build an 18-point lead, 87-69, going into the fourth quarter.

The Rockets did close to within five points three times in the final period but their troubles weren't over.

Houston coach Del Harris called a timeout but when the horn blew to resume play, Harris called

another and told referee Bob Rakek that his team didn't understand its instructions the first time.

When play finally got underway, Portland forward Mychal Thompson stole a Tom Henderson pass, Blazer guard Lafayette Lever swiped the ball from Terry Teagle and the Blazers built an 8-point lead with 32 seconds to play and sealed the win.

The victory capped a perfect season for Portland against the Rockets. Five times the teams met and five times Houston lost. Calvin Natt and Jim Paxson led

the way with 25 and 21 points respectively.

The one bright spot for Houston was 5-foot-10 guard Calvin Murphy. The 12-year veteran had only eight points but his total gave him 17,777 for his career and moved him up to the No. 18 position among the NBA's all-time leading scorers.

Portland coach Jack Ramsay looked ahead. "We are 10 games over .500," he said. "We have 12 games left and most against teams we are contending against for playoff position."

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