## Taking shape

## 12th Man team 'impressive' in alumni game

by Scott Griffin

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ch David Kents do well. Wents

're capable of er. What wew

Battalion Staff
After some initial bumps and bruises,
the 12th Man Kickoff Team has bughened up and is looking forward to the fall season, says 12th Man Coach

With the end of spring training proaching, Beal says the special squad ooking good, and used the varsity-

lumni game to support his claims.

"In the game," Beal said, "the team overed both kickoffs and punts, and may one return man made it past the

Still, not everything went smoothly. "We did have some problems," Beal d, "I thought some of them weren't ey slowed down, too many people were

ched up in the middle. But Beal did point out that the squad as hyped for the game, and that it deped their performance: "They were eally excited about the game — their res were bugging out at the opening

Beal said the tackling and hitting drills hat the players have been going through ho helped on Saturday.

The surprising thing to me," Beal aid, "is that most of the players knew to tackle ahead of time. Their footall knowledge really impressed me. Aferthe first week, most of the players had he tackling form down." A typical 12th Man practice starts 30

utes before the regular team pracimmutes before the regular team practice. At this time, the squad goes through tackling drills and kickoff coverage drills. After that, the unit joins the rest of the football team for the regular practice. As far as motivating the players, Beal ays he's had no problems: "We've tried to go through some drills at half-speed,

but these guys are so pumped up that they go full speed anyway." Beal said it's special to work with these guys because "they're not recruited athletes. While they may be less talented, they work harder than the scholarship athletes because they know they've got to to play football. I expected them to work harder." Another advantage of working with the squad, Beal says, is that "You only have to tell them how to do some-

thing one time."
"After that," Beal says, "they'll do it right every time.'

One of the more interesting aspects of the squad is the pain they endured in the

opening practices.

"At first," squad member Tom Bevans said, "it wasn't exactly fun. For the first two weeks all I wanted was Bayer and Deep Heat." And Tom Bumgardner, another member of the special squad said: "It was a little hard on the body at first, in fact, I could hardly make it.

But these guys have made it, and they have survived their first game without any injuries.

Another good sign for the unit is the reaction from both the regular team and the fans. Bevans and Bungardner both said they've received no negative feed-

"So far," says Bevans, "there's been no negative reaction."

Bumgardner agreed: "Everyone's been complimentary. I guess they're for it. Of course, they probably wouldn't tell me if they weren't. They're not going to have anything to worry about, though, 'cause there's a lot of good athletes on the

While both Bevans and Bumgardner seemed confident, they weren't always so sure of themselves.

"My roommate is the one who talked me into this thing," Bevans said. "At first, I wasn't sure it would work, but now I

Bumgardner has even more reason to be confident. "At first," Bumgardner admitted, "I didn't think I'd even make the team." Yet in addition to making the kickoff squad, Bumgardner has been working as a cornerback with the regular

What motivates one to endure such punishment? Bevans said it was his love for the sport:

"I've always loved football." he says, "and this gave me a chance to play and to

do something for A&M."

Bumgardner said: "Me and Dennis
Burns (another 12th man) just decided to go after it as a last fling at trying to play college football."

So far, both have gotten their wish. But what was it like to play against the alumni, many of whom were excellent athletes, after laying out a few years? Were they nervous? "Hell, yeah," Bevans said, "what do you expect? I mean, those guys weren't just a bunch of high school

Bevans said his friends think he's not exactly normal: "They all say I'm crazy—they can't believe I came out for the

While Bevans and his buddies may be confident, Beal still expresses some doubt in their ability. "We want them to be ready for anything, but in an on-side kick situation, we might substitute two or three players to handle the ball, but those will probably be the only changes made.

In the fall, Beal says he will work specifically with the kicking team about three hours a week. After these practices, the players will work out with the rest of the team and will try out at various positions.

"We as a staff are just thrilled with our kids," said New York Coach Hubie Brown. "They

The other two mini-series re-

sume tonight. Boston, leading 1-

0, is at Atlanta and Seattle, trailing 1-0, is at Portland.

Not only have the Celtics beaten the Hawks six times in

seven tries this season, including

three straight in Atlanta's Omni

where Game 2 will be played,

but the Hawks have their best

Power forward Dan Round-

answered the bell.'

player injured.

throws 11 seconds later, but field, who had 24 points and 20

### Blues' sale nears NHL vote

United Press International
MONTREAL — Ralston
Purina of St. Louis hopes to set up "an early meeting" with the National Hockey League board of governors to approve its sale of the St. Louis Blues to a group

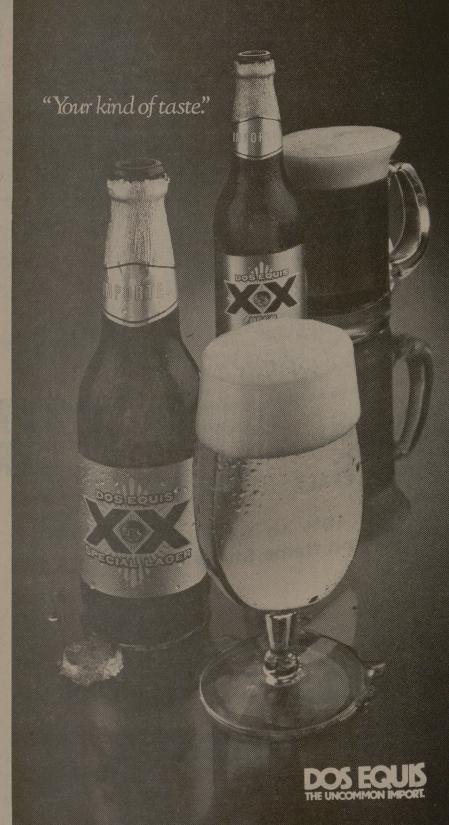
that will move the franchise to

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

An NHL spokesman said the league had been notified docu
Some NHL owners have ments required by the governors to vote on the transfer were on the way to league head-quarters from Ralston Purina. NHL President John Ziegler

vowed to vote against the transfer, notably Toronto's Harold Ballard, who predicted "80 to 85 percent" of governors would re-





# into the two men's team is is neen's team is is need, Brian Jo Alkio are end Hanzlik blocks out Phoenix's record of as record of as Sun in Denver's 113-99 win

United Press International
Bill Hanzlik's playoff role is
ple: make sure the Sun

tournamentw on the year, w ah and Liliam as the top d Aggies with a Hanzlik was great out there aght," Denver Coach Doug esaid Thursday night after Nuggets evened their NBA stern Conference playoff is at one game each with a 13-99 victory over the Phoenix dfern of Hou singles seeds e SMU is fa fend its me

the pick to wi "He was super on defense. omen's title. e played against guards and wards and he was helping out nament will h 6 singles and

doubles. One The deciding game in the reded in the set-of-three series will be play-or each india Sunday night in Phoenix,

Kiki Vandeweghe scored 26 oints acquired lar season to continue and Dan Issel added 25 to the Nuggets while Hanzpped in with 10 points and shooting from the field. was happy with the game aplished what we had to do

and now we can go down to points and Bernard King added stretch to ice the victory Phoenix and win it." 18, allowing the Knicks to hold "We as a staff are just

Denver jumped to a 14-4 lead and was never headed. The Nuggets spurted to a comfortable lead by the middle of the 82-76 with more than nine misecond quarter and were never

serious blow when Maurice
Lucas had to leave the game with
37 seconds left in the second
quarter with torn ligaments in
his left foot. Xrays for a possible
fracture were negative, but the
Suns' forward is considered
doubtful for the Sunday finale.

Besides Dayis points

Webster and two baskets by Sly
Williams upped New York's lead
to 88-76. Albert King, who led
New Jersey with 25 points,
nailed a driving shot and a jumper to bring New Jersey within
99-94 with 54 seconds remaining.

Webster missed

than 12 points.

In an Eastern Conference mini-series, the Knicks eliminated the New Jersey Not. ated the New Jersey Nets with a 105-99 victory at New York. The Knicks open a best-of-seven conference semifinal Sunday at Phi-

Truck Robinson scored 22

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18, allowing the Knicks to hold

nutes remaining in the game, but two foul shots by Marvin

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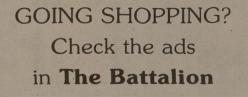
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