

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Women run at LSU meet

By KAY MALLETT
Sports writer

Sandra Cooper will be leading the rest of the women's track team to Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 28 for the two-day Louisiana State University Invitational.

Cooper, who competed in the Eastman Invitational in Tennessee last weekend, has a jump on the rest of the team in more than one way.

In Tennessee, she qualified for the NCAA championships with a time of 55.09 seconds in the 440-yard dash.

That time put her into the Texas A&M record book by breaking the previous school record by more than two seconds.

But more importantly, the meet last weekend gave Cooper practice that the rest of the team won't be able to get because the indoor track season will be ending after only two practice meets and Southwest Conference championships.

Coach Bill Nix said there will be eleven teams competing at LSU, including two from the SWC, the University of Texas and Rice University.

Next week, the team will be on the road again for the Oklahoma Track Classic Feb. 11. The team then travels on to Fort Worth Feb. 17 for the SWC Championships. They'll be held

in the Tarrant County Convention Center.

Another Aggie, Suzanne Sheffield, will be looking for a NCAA bid during the next few weeks.

Sheffield competes in the 880-yard and mile runs and last year she placed third in the NCAA's.

With Sheffield and Cooper as team leaders, coach Nix said he is hoping the team will place in the top four at the championships.

"Our real (goal) this year is to get third," Nix said. "but we would be happy if we got fourth. We just want to place in the top four because last year we got fifth."



Track coach Bill Nix

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Agents suspect Skins' GM says

United Press International
TAMPA, Fla. — Bobby Beathard is going through his second inter-league pro football war, on another side of the issues, and is finding the battle tactics even dirtier this time around.

Beathard, general manager of the Washington Redskins, once worked for Los Angeles Raiders owner Al Davis. Davis was commissioner of the old American Football League. Beathard scouted college pro players "so we could beat the NFL and beat them in some college kids."

Now, with the United Football League challenge and in some cases beating the National Football League, signing some top college players, Beathard is disturbed by some player agents' methods being used, particularly by some player agents.

"A lot of agents are making a lot of money off of some college kids and the kids don't know about it," Beathard said last week before the Super Bowl.

"There's a lot of money (agents) to deliver a player to certain team or league if the players don't know about agents may make more for the players they represent."

"Some very good players already have signed with USFL. In many cases, they could get every bit as much money in the NFL, but (agent) might not get as much."

In a published report, Beathard accused "some agents supplying drugs to college players in order to get the clients."

"There's more going on with agents slipping money to who is still playing college ball," Beathard told the Globe. "That's been going on years. But now there are cocaine to secure kids and to keep them as clients."

Beathard said he saw agents hanging around to recruit the players that were coaches and scouts at the post-season college star game practices.

"There are a lot of good, hard-working people representing some of the players there are a lot more who are not," he said.

Beathard said the NFL have dropped players off their draft priority list "every year for various personal problems. But he said drugs have become more in recent years."

"We don't test our players for drugs and we don't test the players we might draft," he said. "I'm not sure if some of the scouts combines do drug testing. We want to find out as much as possible about a youngster as possible."

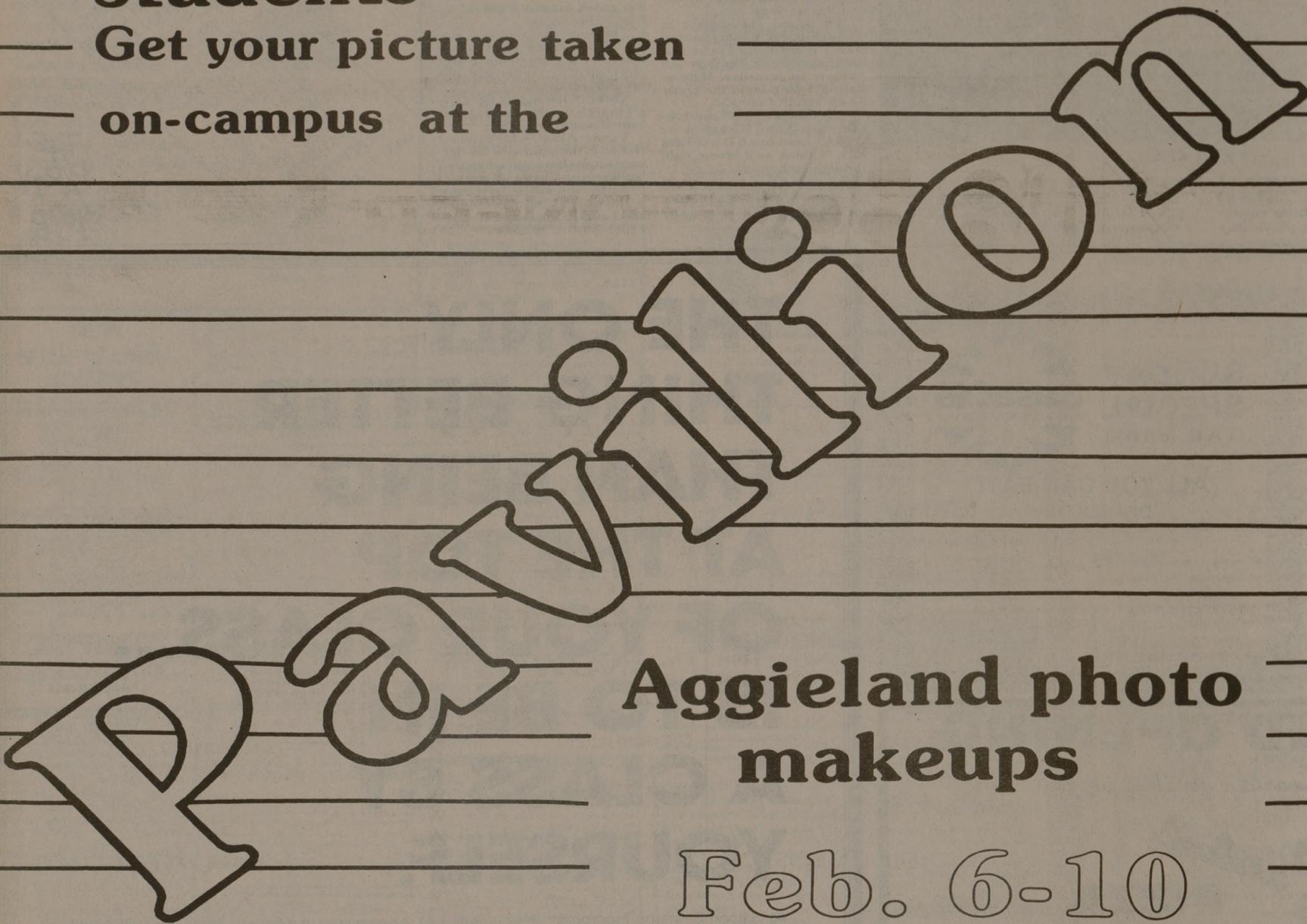
"If we hear rumors that a college player might be involved in drugs, we try to talk to as many people as possible who are close to the player and know him."

"I do know I've had more college coaches this year than before ask me about drugs. I know their players and what they look for. But we're naive about those things, too. We're naive as we go."

Beathard said the NFL's inter-league battle for talent is much larger and more complex than what he saw 25 years ago. He attributed it to the amounts of money involved in the popularity of professional football.

"I expected we would lose some top (college) players to USFL last year and I expected we would lose more this year," he said. "There is a tremendous amount of money involved that alone attracts more players trying to get some of the money."

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