

## g rugby players aren't crazy — but it doesn't hurt

## **By TONY CORNETT** Sports Writer

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The Texas A&M Men's Rugby tion. Last year they knocked on the on Sat. & Sr door

This year they are going to kick it 55 Anytimedidown. In rugby you have to think

The Aggies had bones broken and odies bruised and skinned on their y to winning the State Collegiate nampionship and the State Club nampionship. They ended up plac-g third in the Western National

10 to 15 teams in the nation," says club president, Stuart Knowlan.

At Wednesday's practice Knowlan Club wants to get physical in their and some of the other veterans were bid for rugby supremacy in the na- introducing the new players to acintroducing the new players to ac-tual game conditions by bouncing them around the playing area or "pitch" as it's called.

'We've got a whole bunch of rookies," said Knowlan, "so we're going to start off with as many of the older players as we can at first, and then start working some of the rookies in and teach them (to play). We've been going for the last week and a half showing little bits and pieces and trying to get them some of the basic That puts us anywhere in the top skills, but you can't really under-

stand everything until you get out there and actually do it."

And exactly what is "doing it"? Rugby is a game played on a field similar to a football field. It's played with a ball very similar to a football. But its not football.

Rugby is a hybrid of soccer, and the tackle football game that you used to play, without pads, in your front yard. It combines the running and fast pace of soccer for 80 solid minutes. But rugby allows the two teams of fifteen to tackle, push and

and crash into each other. "The basic idea is to keep the ball moving and flowing," said Knowlan, "There's a lot more going on than in

## football.

Moving and flowing is accom-plished by pitching the ball underhand to a teammate while running headlong down the field toward the opponent's goal or kicking the ball in that same direction. And, like football, the bottom line is to cross the equivalent of the other team's goal line, place the ball down and score.

The game progresses through many runs up and down the field and occasional pauses for what are known as "scrums" and "line outs Both of these maneuvres get the ball back into play when it either goes out-of-bounds or is hopelessly buried under a pile of players.

The scrum is rugby's most inter- he took a swing at me and popped esting spectacle.

Opposing teams, amid much grunting and groaning, lean over and lock arms with their teammates and push against the other team while the ball is thrown into their midst

With the game requiring such physical contact, injuries ranging from cuts, bruises and pulled muscles, do occur. Sometimes the injuries are more serious Mark Stevens had his jaw broken.

"Yeah," said Stevens, "I was play-ing up in Austin. We were playing\_ t.u. and some guy didn't like me, so

me.

As a spectator, there is usually noproblem becoming familiar with the vay the game is played.

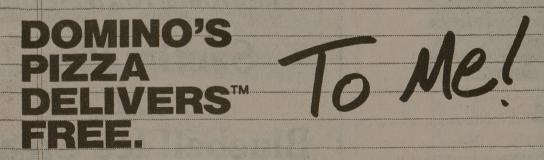
"There's always people who come out for the second or third time or those who drive by and see it (the game). What they usually end up having to do is talk to somebody on the sidelines. If nothing else it's interesting.

The rugby team will be scrimmag-ing this Saturday at 1:30 p.m. on their practice field.





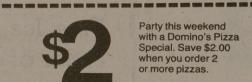




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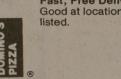
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