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Hockey: a new Ag tradition

By JOHN MAKELY
Reporter

Good news for Texas hockey fans. You probably didn't know it, but the Texas A&M Hockey Club — that's ice hockey — hopes to be the team chosen from Texas to go to Huntsville, Ala. to compete in the American Intramural Hockey Championships.

In their first year, wearing uniforms that didn't quite match, the hockey team won. This year the team has new uniforms and a new attitude.

The Aggies had winning records of 5-3-1 their first season and 6-4 last year.

For the past two seasons the hockey team was run by the players, but this left the club somewhat disorganized.

New coach Mike Silvaggio promises a more organized 1984 hockey team with strict practices and more consistent player attendance.

The Ags will start their third season in late October or early November. This will enable the team to have two or three practices on ice before the first game, forward Gordie Anderson said.

The team plays ball hockey (hockey without the ice) in DeWare Field House twice a week.

They would also like to practice once a week on ice, "but it depends on money, because its (the ice time) very expensive down here," goalie Blair Oliver said. "Ice rink rentals can run \$150 an hour."

"A lot depends on funding from A&M," defenseman Tom Anderson said. Team members contributed about \$2000 for running the team last year.

Confirmed games for the Aggies this year includes games against a team from the University of Texas, one from Southern Methodist University and Tulane University.

Possible matches include an as-of-yet unformed team from the University of Houston and men's clubs from Houston and Austin. Dates and locations are to be announced later.

The possible emergence of the



A Texas A&M Hockey team player breaks down the ice as an SMU player makes a sprawling attempt to take the puck away from him during action last season in Waco.

Photo by PETER...

South West Collegiate Hockey Association is one way the Ags hope will solidify the schedule and promote the sport to other schools currently without teams.

Steve Mathiason, assistant commissioner of the South West Collegiate Hockey Association and former member of the A&M team said, with the reopening of the Sharpstown rink in Houston players at the University of Houston and Rice University are considering forming their own teams.

Mathiason recently resigned from the 1984 hockey team.

Of the new league Mathiason states, "It's been informal the past few years, we were going to formalize this season." The future of the league appears to be up in the air.

Coach Silvaggio said the 1984 hockey squad is self-sufficient.

"They all started the idea," Silvaggio said. "The team has developed well. The team's biggest concern is a lack of ice rinks in the area. The closest games have been in Austin,

Houston and Waco...that's not kind of hard," he said.

Last season the team's home was the Spenco ice rink in Waco that rink has since closed. Sharpstown skating rink in Houston will be the team's new rink.

Followers of this Aggie should delight at the prospect of planning the entire weekend's Aggie hockey — there's something to do after a game in Houston.

Freshmen may start against Auburn

Longhorn tailbacks unsettled

United Press International

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Head Coach Fred Akers said Monday lingering injuries may force the Longhorns to use a pair of freshman tailbacks in their season opener against Auburn Saturday.

"Our tailback position is awfully unsettled," Akers said. "Right now the only healthy ones at tailback are (freshmen) Kevin Nelson and Charles Hunter."

Akers said his more experienced running backs, Michael Brown and junior college transfer Norman Nunn, both have leg injuries that will keep them from being at full speed Saturday.

"I'd rather have a healthy one out there," Akers said. "If it comes down to health, I'll put a freshman out there."

"They're not finished products yet and they will limit what you can do."

Akers also announced over the weekend that senior Todd Dodge would be the Horns' starting quarterback, with his son Danny Akers and Bret Stafford serving as backups.

"I think the difference is that in these early ballgames I want somebody out there with experience," he said. "He (Dodge) is the one with the most experience and that's what we need. But that doesn't mean the oth-

ers won't play in the game."

Akers said he expected Auburn to field a team roughly equal in size and talent to the one Texas defeated last year 20-7 in its season opener.

"They're going to be healthy, and I imagine angry. They'll be looking for revenge for a couple of things. One, because we defeated them in their own stadium a year ago, and in their own words, they were embarrassed in the Miami game."

The Tigers will have an edge over Texas, Akers said, because they rid themselves of first-game jitters against Miami and now are well rested after a week off.

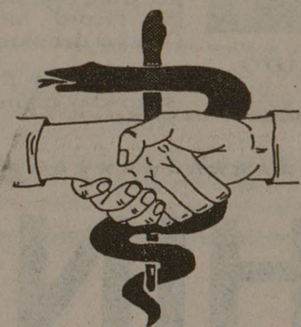


Texas' Fred Akers says he play "healthy" running backs.

Biomedical Science Association

MEETING

ROOM 201 VMS
7:00 pm



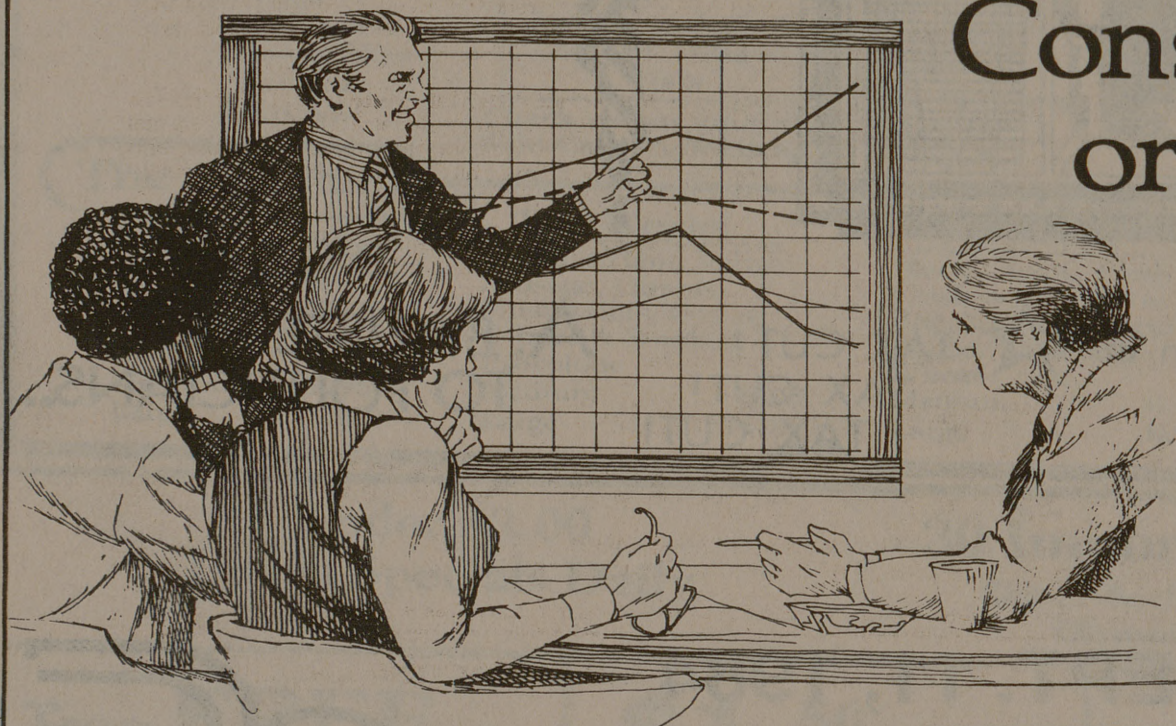
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