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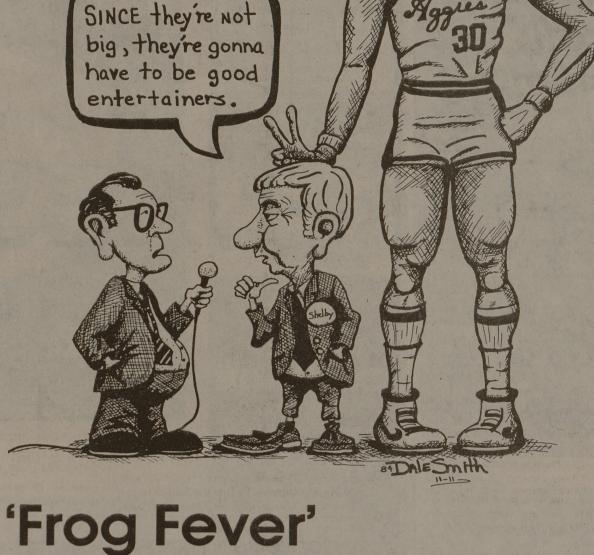
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Tuesday, November 13, 1984/The Battalion/Page 11

Wacker gets cult-like support

**United Press International** FORT WORTH - One of those games that can honestly be said to have captured the public's imagina-tion will take place Saturday at Amon Carter Stadium. While there will apparently be as many people in the old grandstands as there have ever been before, the focus will be on a single individual.

"No matter what you do in life," TCU coach Jim Wacker said the other day in a philosophical mo-ment, "you always like to feel appreciated.

Wacker is currently being appre-ciated beyond his wildest dreams. In a matter of just a few weeks the Horned Frogs have made an almost unworldly transformation. Instead of being bad, TCU is good. Instead of being ignored, TCU has given ev-eryone a bad case of "Frog Fever."

Instead of being in the running for last place in the Southwest Conference, they are in first place.

And if the Frogs defeat the Texas Longhorns next Saturday before ABC's television cameras and only the second sellout crowd in the history of the stadium, they will have taken a giant step toward represent-ing the SWC in the Cotton Bowl.

All of this is being attributed to a lone person. One who took the job of head coach at TCU a year ago and who, in his effervescent way, has de-Now he will take his Frogs into the arena against the traditional bully of the SWC. Saturday's showdown with Texas is the most important game TCU has been associated with in over a quarter of a century. How has Wacker and his cheerleading manner motivated a group of athletes use to hard times? Does he have a special magic? A few weeks ago Wacker took the time to talk about motivation. The bottom line is Wacker said he feels young people are just as motivated now as they've always been and there are all sorts of different ways to motivate. It just so happens that this year Wacker's methods have found a larger audience than usual. There is no question," Wacker for a youngster growing up today seen both kinds being successful.

"People say they feel sorry for my insurance agent when they see me jumping around on the sidelines, but, man alive, can you imagine me trying to hold it in. I guarantee it would be over. - TCU's Jim Wacker.

outside the athletic field - more distractions, temptations, I guess you would say, than when we were grow-

ing up. "To start with, the key to motivation in our program is to get a strong character kid to motivate. If a kid has been into the drug scene and all of that kind of garbage, I don't want to have to try to motivate him be cause he is not going to fit. I've had to get rid of some here because of it. "I want good citizens. I don't coach outlaws. Some people coach them well and that's fine. I have all the respect in the world for them. But I don't handle them very well.

"As for motivation, most of it comes from having a genuine enthusiasm for what you are doing. My coaches have to have that enthuabout getting out there and working every day, then it is going to rub off on the players and it will be easier to get pumped up and have fun playing. It's an understatement to say Wacker has enthusiasm for the game. On the sidelines he does an excellent imitation of a volcano. But in this day and age, does it take that kind of personality to properly motivate? Thinking about it for a mo-ment, Wacker decided it did not. "One of Vince Lombardi's things was that he was a screamer and a veller and obviously a great motivator. Coach (Bear) Bryant coached that way to some extent. Then you have the Tom Landrys and the Bud Grants on the other said, "that there are more diversions side of the coin. I think you have

"I think the one thing nobody ever questions about Landry or Grant is their genuine enthusiasm. Now it shows differently. I'm not saying it has to be a rah, rah, screaming enthusiasm. But it has to be a deep seated love for the game. It permeates everything. "Coaching is teaching. The more

the kids see your enthusiasm, the more they have. But you have got to be true to yourself. If I tried to be like Landry I would go stinking nuts. I would die of a heart attack.

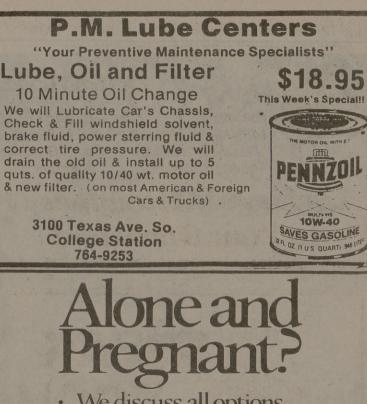
"People say they feel sorry for my insurance agent when they see me jumping around on the sidelines, but, man alive, can you imagine me trying to hold it in. I gurantee you it would be over."

The TCU phenomenon has mushroomed so rapidly, it is diffi-cult to determine when it started. It wasn't an avalanche when it began, but it is now.

'I'll tell you when it started," Wacker said. "It started against Arkansas.

It was against the Hogs, TCU's fourth game, that the Frogs rallied for 15 points late in the contest including a two-point conversion in the final seconds to down Arkansas by 1

"I saw a totally different team that day," Wacker said. "The early success we had (against Utah State and Kansas think we could have pulled it off at Arkansas without those games. "You talk about the great teams like Texas and ask why they win. Well once you win as much as Texas does, you expect to win. That is the kind of thing we are starting to see some now at TCU. "They have got to do it individu-ally. We talk about that a lot. We have got to have a kid make the super catch or under pressure make the big throw or pick off three passes instead of almost intercepting them. "Last year (Wacker's first year at TCU in which the Frogs went 1-8-2) we had the same shot at the intercep-tion and we would drop the stupid ball. We weren't believing yet. It's that crazy intangible. You can't explain it, but you know it when you



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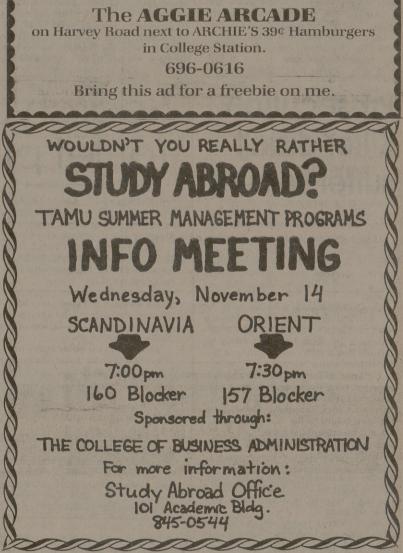
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# Men's volleyball team wants spiker spotlight

#### **By MARCY BASILE** Sports Writer

With all the hoopla over the winning women's volleyball team, Texas A&M's other volleyball team is left standing on the sidelines.

The Texas A&M Men's Volleyball Team is an extramural sport club started six years ago. Logan Ammons, the team's treasurer, said the clubs' members were, and still are, out to promote volleyball at A&M.

"Since the Olympics we've had so many people interested in volley-Ammons said. "I've had so many people come up and tell me volleyball was their favorite sport in the Ólympics.

'I really didn't know if they were saying that because they knew I played volleyball or if they really meant it. I'm beginning to believe they meant it more and more though

A&M's men's team is a member of the United States Volleyball Association (USVBA). USVBA volleyball is played by independent and collegiate teams.

'We enjoy playing USVBA ball and representing A&M," Ammons said. "We are trying to develop vol-leyball at A&M more as a school sport, so we play other colleges." To increase match attendance, the

men's team is taking advantage of the public's increasing awareness of volleyball.

"The main way we are trying to support it (volleyball) is by playing other college teams after the A&M women's team plays," Amtnons said.

The club is attempting to draw more college teams to A&M for matches.

"Just this year, we have been try-ing to contact other Texas schools that have teams," Ammons said. "A few weeks ago we had some teams come down for a small tournament here. We want to play more collegiate volleyball. We think more peo-

ple would be inclined to come watch us play another college team or teams from Texas.

"In our past tournaments, we've contacted the teams. It's kind of hard to find out which schools have teams because some are under athletics, some are in the P.E. department and some are collegiate sports.

The men's volleyball team is actually three teams — one for experi-enced players and the other two for players who just like playing volley-

"The first team is made up of the best players," Ammons said. "The other two teams also compete, but they mainly just provide other players with a chance to play and compete with some good teams."

"What we try to do is get everyone playing together, but it really doesn't help the experienced players to play continuously. We do try to give everyone a chance to play.

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