

# Ag polo club swings into summer season

By ED CASSAVOY  
Sports Writer

For most students and faculty of the Texas A&M community, summer is a time of rest, relaxation and laziness. But for the players and horses of the Texas A&M Polo Club, summer is just another season of the year.

The A&M squad was out in force Tuesday night to play the San Antonio Polo Club. They defeated San Antonio, 6-4.

But that is just one small part of what the team is all about, says polo team organizer Mike McCleary.

McCleary, who also plays on the A&M team, says they have a learning-type club that gives players a chance to become better riders as well as better polo players.

"A lot of our players," McCleary says, "learn to ride first, then play polo second."

McCleary, a building contractor from Wellborn, has a 1,600 acre ranch and brings horses from there to be used by team members.

"Playing games like these," McCleary says, "keep seven to eight horses (of mine) exercised."

McCleary's polo connection with A&M goes back to the early '70s when he was a student here. McCleary was player-coach of the polo team from 1970-74.

Clad in riding gear from the waist down, the husky McCleary explained some of the intricacies of the game.

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— Mike McCleary, A&M Polo Club Organizer

early says. "A good horse will take three months, a bad one can take up to a year."

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McCleary says the A&M team plays nine months a year, playing teams from all over the state.

As for whether the hot humid days on the A&M Polo Fields greatly affect the horses, McCleary says that it is just a matter of training.

"The heat won't bother a horse in good condition," he says, "it's just like a football player or a basketball player."

"The older the horse gets, the longer it takes to get it into shape. These horses might run six miles in one period (7½ minutes)."

A polo game is divided into six 7½ minute periods, with a three minute

period between each to change horses and riders. There is also a 10 minute rest period between the third and the fourth periods.

He says he usually has about 20 to 25 players on the A&M team year round.

McCleary says it takes a lot of work by all the players to make the system work. Teammates often share horses, even with other teams, because not everyone has a horse, which is why that's not a prerequisite for joining the team.

McCleary says most players own their own equipment, which they can buy at cost from McCleary. He buys top line English polo equipment from Long Island, N.Y.

He says he is satisfied with the A&M Polo Fields (located in the area along New Main Drive) and tries to keep them in good shape. McCleary says that other University clubs use the fields, but sometimes are careless.

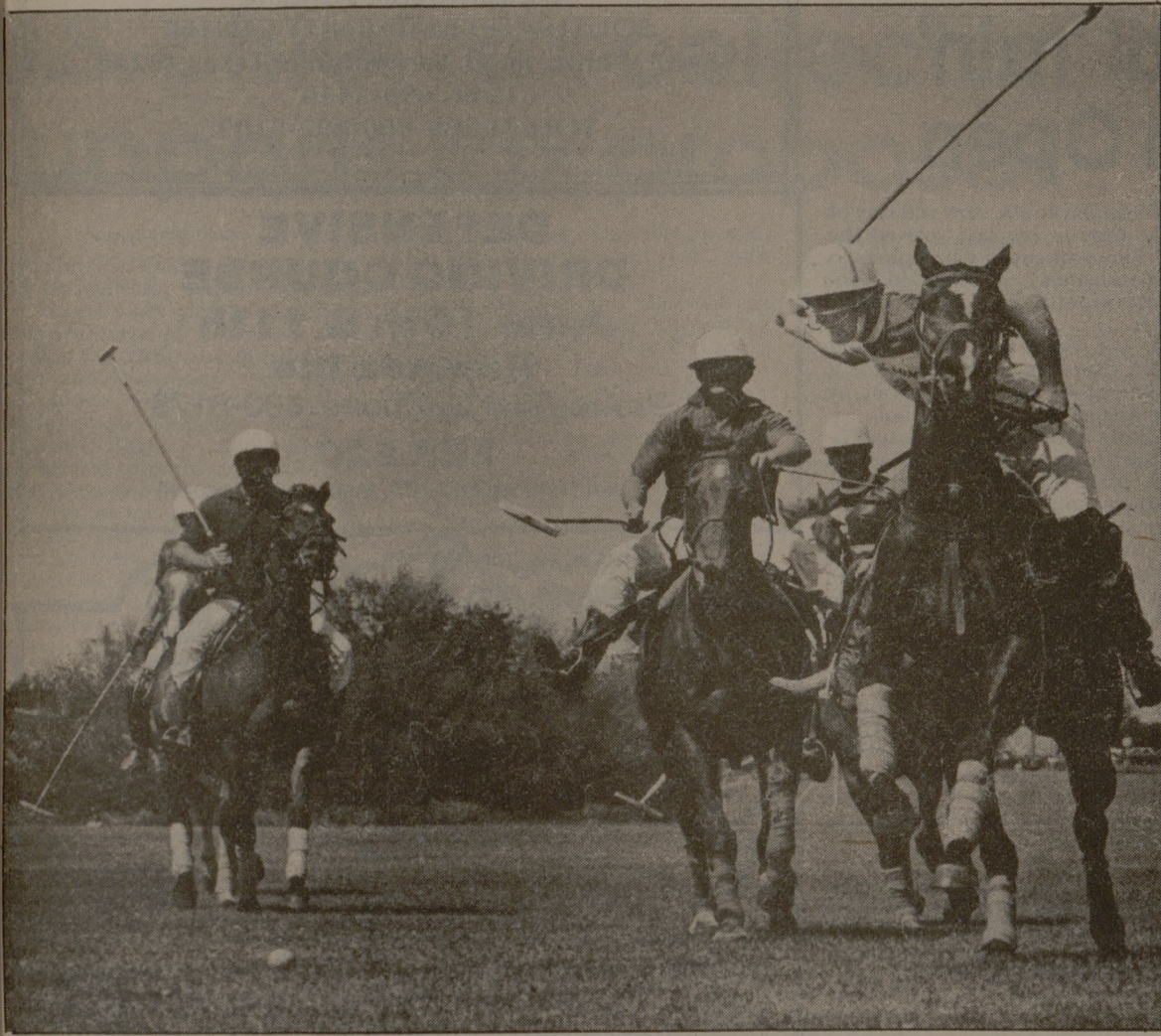
"Some of the teams play with two inches of rain on the field," McCleary says, "and tear it up."

"If you have a rough field (for polo), they (visiting teams) won't play. Some of their fields look like (golf) putting greens."

McCleary says this is the ideal time for people to join the club.

"Right now, we have 18 club horses and only four people using them."

Anyone wishing more information on the A&M Polo Club should call Mike McCleary at 693-0104.



Battalion File Photo

Members of the Texas A&M Polo Team (above) converge on the ball during action

last summer. A&M began its summer schedule by defeating the San Antonio Polo Club.

# Celtics' jumper stings Lakers as buzzer sounds

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Dennis Johnson's 15-foot jumper from the left side of the foul line at the final buzzer gave the Boston Celtics a 107-105 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers Wednesday night and deadlocked their best-of-seven NBA championship series at two games apiece.

The fifth game will be at the Ing-

lewood Forum Friday night with the sixth and seventh meetings scheduled for Boston Garden Sunday and Thursday.

The Lakers had tied the score at 104-104 with 19 seconds to go when Earvin "Magic" Johnson rebounded in a missed hook shot by teammate Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. After a timeout, Dennis Johnson dribbled away much of the remaining time before passing to Larry Bird, who

gave it back to Johnson, who found the net as the final buzzer went off.

The basket climaxed a Boston comeback from a seven-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Bird, in a shooting slump for much of the playoffs, led the rally with 12 of his 26 points in the quarter.

He scored eight straight Boston points to pace a 10-2 spurt that gave the Celtics a 93-92 lead with 7:36 left. The lead changed hands six

more times and was tied on four occasions the rest of the way.

Boston's Danny Ainge hit two long jumpers from near the three-point line in the last 1:43, while Abdul-Jabbar had two hooks and a free throw to keep it close.

McHale led all scorers with 28 points for Boston while Johnson had 27 and Bird 26. Abdul-Jabbar had 21, Magic Johnson 20 and Byron

Scott and James Worthy 16 each for L.A.

L.A. appeared ready to take the control of the game with a blistering 22-7 streak during a seven-minute span of the third period.

The spurt came after Boston scored the first six points of the half for a 64-58 lead and ended with L.A. ahead 80-72 with 3:36 left. But Boston didn't wilt under the pressure as

Kevin McHale, who had 13 points in the quarter, came back with two straight hook shots and Quinn Buckner hit from outside just as the 24-second clock expired, trimming the deficit back to two.

James Worthy's two quick baskets early in the fourth quarter gave Los Angeles a 90-83 lead and again put the Lakers on the verge of putting the game away.



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