

SPORTS

Coaches given early look at A&M 'recruits'

By ED CASSAVOY
Sports Writer

For the coaches and staff in the Texas A&M Athletic Department, summer is a chance to train a different crop of athletes — the future generation of Aggie sports stars.

Throughout the summer, nine different A&M sports departments hold a number of camps designed to improve younger athlete's play, says Alan Cannon, A&M assistant sports information director.

Cannon says each camp usually involves the A&M head coach of the team, for example Shelby Metcalf oversees the men's basketball camps, and the assistants work directly with the student athletes.

Cannon says baseball head coach Mark Johnson and his staff will conduct a total of three one week camps during the summer.

The first baseball camp was for ages 9-12 from June 16-23, and the second was from June 23-28. Johnson has only one camp for ages 13 to high school senior to conduct from June 30-August 5.

The cost is \$190 per camp for a day camper and \$220 for an overnight camper.

"The day campers are dropped off by their parents at breakfast," Cannon says, "and are picked up again after supper."

"We don't get a lot of day campers, but it is left open as an option for local players. Usually the overnight campers play some trivia games, have group discussions and get into more of the theory of the sport. So the day camper probably misses about 3 hours of time with his friends."

Cannon says the \$30 difference in the cost is for the charge for accommodations for the week. Most of the campers are housed in Cain Hall and the women campers stay in Clements Hall.

"We've been real pleased with the results of the baseball camp," Cannon says, "there was such a demand that we needed three camps to accommodate all the campers."

Metcalf and his staff are running two camps for ages 9-17. The first one ends July 19, the other begins July 21 and ends the 26th (see accompanying story). Day campers pay \$200 and overnight campers pay \$250.



Women's basketball head coach Lynn Hickey conducted two one-week camps for women age 10-18. One was from June 9-14, the second camp ran from July 7-12. The cost was the same as the men's camps.

Football players ages 8-13 had their chance to improve their game with the help of head football coach Jackie Sherrill and his staff June 16-22. Day campers paid \$185 and overnight campers paid \$225.

Cannon says that most of the camps concentrate on different aspects of the particular sports through the use of drills and scrimmages to improve skills.

And these are full day camps. Metcalf's basketball campers put in nine hour days.

Head Golf Coach Bob Ellis has already held four camps, two for players age 13-16 and two for adults. The charge for the camps was \$450 for a resident fee.

As professional baseball players enjoy the All-Star break, softball head coach Bob Brock will be holding a total of three camps this summer for all those future female Mickey Mantles.

One camp ended July 4, with the next two running from July 28-Aug. 1 and Aug. 4-8. All the camps are for ages 10 to high school senior. Softball day campers pay \$160 and overnight pay \$200.

Swimmers age 8-17 had a chance to receive specialized instruction from head swimming coach Mel Nash from June 9-15. The cost was \$190 for a day athlete and \$240 for overnight athletes.

Tennis players ages 9-17 aiming for their shot at Wimbledon had a chance to improve their game during the three camps held by coach David Kent earlier in the summer. The camps cost \$275 for day rates and \$325 for overnight rates.

For player's wishing to learn some of the skills that made the A&M women's volleyball team No. 12 in the nation, girls age 13-18 still have two camps they can attend, July 28-Aug. 1, and Aug. 4-8. Overnight campers pay \$145 and day campers pay \$100.

A&M offers an All-Sports Camp for those athletes that haven't decided on their favorite sport.

"The All-Sports Camp is in its third year," Allan Cannon, assistant SID, says, "and it is for ages 8-14."

"Campers have to decide on a major, or sport they want to major in, and a minor sport. This gives the coaches and the campers a chance to all get involved."

The All-Sports Camp was attended by 120 campers from June 16 to June 29.

Baseball has an 80 person limit each camp, and every camp filled its quota except the last in which 64 attended.

Football had 56 players attend, the golf camps filled its 40 player limit for both camps and the tennis camp entertained 120 players.

"Most of these camps have been going on for years," Cannon says, "and the response gets better every year."

Basketball campers find fun on and off the court

By ED CASSAVOY
Sports Writer

Drills, scrimmages and more drills are what most athletes can look forward to in varying degrees of enthusiasm. But for two basketball veterans, training camp just means a chance to order pizzas.

For Jason Burton, 12, and his buddy Chris Williams, 12, that's one of the added attractions of attending a basketball camp being held at Texas A&M until Friday.

"We're going to order pizzas tonight," Williams says, "we're the first camp that is allowed to do it. We came here Sunday and we'll be here until Friday. We, like, do drills, offensive and defensive."

Williams and Burton talked in the basement of the Memorial Student Center during their break. It was crowded with future Magic Johnson's and Dr. J's hammering out their fantasies on video basketball, golf and football games.

Burton and Williams are from Holub Middle School in Houston and say they put in a full day at A&M.

"They work us nine hours a day," Burton says — as a trace of weariness passes over his face, "that's three three hour sessions starting at 8:30. We get tired by the end of the night."

After concentrating on offense the first day the two players say they are now working on defense. Both agree that the level of coaching at A&M is impressive with some minor exceptions.

"Sometimes you'll think you're doing something right," Williams says, "and the coaches will say it's wrong. But they're not too mean."

Burton says, "No kidding, except if you goof off, then they get real mad."

Williams nods silently in agreement.

To release the pressure after a tough day's work out, Williams says boys will be boys.

"At night we have candy fights," Williams says, "even though we're supposed to be in

by 10. But we're always running around and stuff."

"But then we went to bed earlier the next night because a coach sat in the middle of the hall."

All the players in the camp are working towards the championship game played on Friday, with a largely sympathetic crowd, their parents, in attendance.

And there are some aspects of the camp that aren't that appealing to the players.

"They wake us up too early in the morning," Burton says, "at 7."

"The food here (the players eat meals on campus) is OK," Williams says, "except the morning meal which is kinda gross."

Burton says his favorite NBA player is Magic Johnson. Williams says Dr. J is number one, even though Williams admits he can't slam dunk, but can touch the net "on a good day."

An argument erupts between the two players on which is more fun, offense or defense, accompanied by some pushing. End of interview.

Europeans flood golf scene

Associated Press

SANDWICH, England —There's an air of buoyance and bright hope surrounding the Europeans and a mood of embattled determination to a tough little cadre of American stars on the eve of the British Open.

The 114th renewal of the world's oldest golf championship begins Thursday at the Royal St. George's Golf Club links, 6,857 yards of wind-swept sand dunes and deep, wiry sea grass on the Kent coast overlooking the English Channel.

A field of 153 will be chasing a total purse of \$715,500, with \$87,750 to the winner.

And, for one of the very few times in the years since World War II, Americans are not favored, not expected to dominate the competition that is, in all but the United States, known simply as The Open.

It's a situation of complete delight to the British, whose game has been ruled from the other side of the Atlantic for so many years.

At an annual dinner of the British Golf Writers earlier this week, the master of ceremonies — a London sports writer — confidently, smugly and with obvious glee announced:

"I think it's safe to say that the winner of the 114th Open Champion is in this room tonight."

The gathering included Seve Ballesteros of Spain, Bernhard Langer of West Germany, Nick Faldo, Paul Way and Mark James of England, Sandy Lyle of Scotland and Greg Norman of Australia.

No American players were present.

With their ranks thinned in quality and quantity by a massive withdrawal of stars, the Americans have

only one man in the top four pre-tournament choices by Britain's legal bookies. That's Tom Watson, whose career has centered on his five victories in this ancient championship. But Watson, the outstanding player in the game over the last decade, has been in a slump for some time, hasn't won in a year and missed the cut in the U.S. Open.

Watson is listed as the No. 3 choice behind defending champion Ballesteros of Spain and Masters champion Langer of West Germany, with Australian Greg Norman, "the Great White Shark," ranked fourth.

Among the American absentees, for one reason or another, are U.S. Open titleholder Andy North, Ray Floyd, Hale Irwin, Hubert Green, Calvin Peete, Johnny Miller, Fred Couples and Curtis Strange.

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