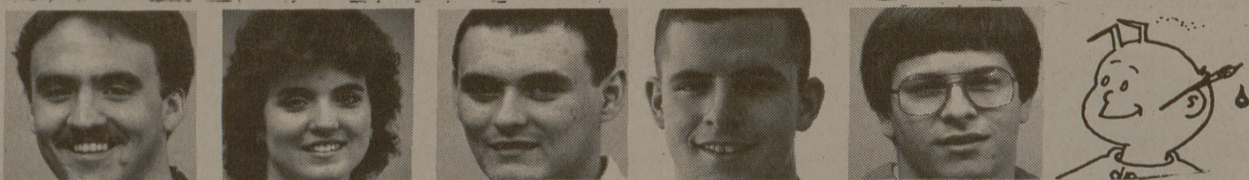
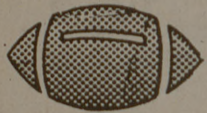


Football Forecast



Travis Tingle Sports Editor, Charean Williams Asst. Sports Editor, Pete Herndon Sports Writer, Doug Hall Sports Writer, Ken Sury Sports Writer, d.p.

Texas A&M at Alabama	Alabama by 3	Texas A&M by 4	Texas A&M by 1	Texas A&M by 4	Texas A&M by 2	Texas A&M by 3
Miami (Fla.) at Rice	Miami by 15	Miami by 11	Miami by 21	Miami by 18	Miami by 21	Miami by 7
Tulane at TCU	TCU by 21	TCU by 24	TCU by 7	TCU by 1	TCU by 14	TCU by 14
Texas Tech at Tulsa	Tulsa by 1	Tulsa by 8	Tulsa by 21	Tulsa by 7	Tulsa by 4	Tulsa by 7
Baylor at Georgia	Georgia by 13	Georgia by 3	Georgia by 10	Georgia by 10	Georgia by 6	Georgia by 7
Arkansas at Mississippi	Arkansas by 14	Arkansas by 14	Arkansas by 17	Arkansas by 4	Arkansas by 14	Arkansas by 10
Maryland at Boston College	Boston College by 8	Maryland by 14	Maryland by 3	Maryland by 7	Maryland by 5	Maryland by 7
Washington at BYU	BYU by 3	BYU by 12	Washington by 6	BYU by 4	BYU by 13	Washington by 3
Notre Dame at Michigan	Michigan by 4	Michigan by 4	Notre Dame by 3	Michigan by 4	Notre Dame by 9	Notre Dame by 1
UCLA at Tennessee	Tennessee by 1	UCLA by 10	UCLA by 10	UCLA by 14	UCLA by 7	UCLA by 10
Houston at Washington	Washington by 6	Houston by 7	Washington by 14	Houston by 1	Washington by 7	Houston by 1
Dallas at Detroit	Dallas by 21	Dallas by 14	Dallas by 21	Dallas by 20	Dallas by 11	Dallas by 3
Last Week						
Overall						

Nearby lakes hold trophy bass
Texans privileged to have good fishing spots

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Senior Staff Writer

Although Rudder Fountain doesn't even have a goldfish in it, some of the best fishing spots in the world can be found only a short distance from here.

Gibbon's Creek Reservoir, about 20 miles east of the Texas A&M campus, is perhaps the best-known bass fishing haven in the United States.

The 2,500-acre reservoir, located in Carlos, is used by the Texas Municipal Power Agency to cool its coal-fired electric generating plant. It was liberally stocked with Florida bass in 1981 and fishermen got their chance to catch the 4-year-old fish six months ago. That's when the reservoir was officially opened.

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials estimate about 1,100 bass were caught by some 240 fishermen on March 11 — the first day the lake was opened. Louis Bohack, of Navasota, landed 70-pounds of channel catfish on that day.

But lately, the fishing hasn't been quite so hot.

Lake officials say few fishermen have been trying their luck and the ones that have aren't catching their limit.

Biologist Paul Seindensticker, of Jasper, says that future catfishing at Gibbon's Creek will be good.

"The lake is populated by blue cats up to 15 pounds," Seindensticker says. "And most people are concentrating on the bass so the catfish go unnoticed."

Biologists are hoping special rules at Gibbon's Creek will help the reservoir produce trophy-sized bass, too. One rule, a special slot limit, has been implemented to protect medium-sized bass because they're the most effective spawners.

No bass caught can be kept unless it's less than 15-inches or more than 21 in length. Each fisherman is allowed to keep only three bass a day. Also, no trotlines are allowed on Gibbon's Creek.

It costs \$2 per vehicle and \$1 per adult to fish Gibbon's Creek. The boat launch fee is \$2 and children under 12 are permitted to fish free.

Fishing from the bank is permitted. Recently, boat fishermen have been found along the banks because the bass have been congregating there.

Near the dam, where the water is about 35-feet deep, sun perch can be caught using live worms and a small hook.

Between Oct. 1 and March 31 the lake is open from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., while it's open April 1 — Sept. 30 from 5:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. The lake is not open on Wednesdays.

To get to Gibbon's Creek from here, take state highway 30 to Carlos, then turn on farm road 244 and go about a quarter-mile until you see the marked turnout.

Lake Somerville, a 11,460-acre lake boasting 85 miles of shoreline, is another popular fishing spot, although it's mainly a crappie and catfish lake.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department operates two park areas at Somerville — the Birch Creek Unit on the north shore and the Nails Creek Unit on the south shore.

These parks collectively are known as the Lake Somerville State Recreation Area. They are connected by the Somerville Trailway Unit, a 21.6-mile hiking trail which offers nature lovers sights like live deer and wildflowers.

And if the fishing isn't good at Somerville (which often is the case), several barbecue grills and picnic tables are provided at the park units.

To get to Somerville from here, take farm road 60, alias University Drive, through Snook and you're on your way.

If you're in the mood to catch an exotic fish, the Alcoa Lake, near

Rockdale, is the place to go. It's the only Texas lake with an established population of Peacock bass.

A medium-sized "white beetle spin" is one of the best lures available to entice a Peacock bass.

To get to Rockdale from here, take state highway 21 south past Caldwell, then take farm road 908 north to Rockdale.

The Brazos River has long been known for its fishing.

How long?

Since the Mexican Army, under Gen. Santa Anna, used it for their food supply.

Species most often caught from the Brazos are channel catfish, white bass, largemouth bass, sunfish, freshwater drum and carp.

All of the shoreline is open to the public, however permission must be obtained from landowners before crossing private land adjoining the river.

All of the fishing spots mentioned, so far, are less than an hour's drive from College Station.

However, if you're a fisherman who wants to get away for the weekend and enjoy some bass fishing at an established bass lake, one of the "big three" located in East Texas — Sam Rayburn, Livingston or Toledo Bend — just might be the place to go.

Sam Rayburn is a 114,500-acre lake with about 560 miles of shoreline. It was initiated in 1955 by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The dam is located on the Angelina River 10 miles northwest of Jasper.

The primary functions of the lake are flood control, generation of hydroelectric power and water conservation for municipal, industrial and agricultural uses.

For years though, the lake has been known for its largemouth bass. And it recently has been gaining recognition for its striped bass fishing.

Access roads to the lake are numerous and every major area of the huge lake can be reached.

Livingston Reservoir, which lies on the Trinity River, is the second step of a three-step program, undertaken by the City of Houston and the Trinity River Authority, to ensure adequate surface water for industrial, municipal and domestic use in the Houston area.

Livingston is known for its largemouth bass fishing, however the lake also steadily sports "nice-sized" catfish and has recently been stocked with striped bass fry.

Two state hatcheries provide fish for stocking the "big three" lakes. This helps the lakes provide the finest bass fishing in the United States. One of the hatcheries is in Tyler and the largest can be found in Jasper.

Toledo Bend is the largest reservoir in the Southwestern United States with 181,000 acres on the Sabine River. It was built for water conservation, hydroelectric power supply and recreation.

It lies in Texas and Louisiana and contains more than 200 miles of shoreline in Texas, most of which lies in the Sabine National Forest.

Many bass which once swam in the waters of Toledo Bend now hang on living room walls.

The lake continues to produce trophy largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass. Numerous species of catfish also are routinely taken from Toledo Bend.

The reciprocal fishing license agreement for border waters of Texas and Louisiana honors the license of either state for fishing in Toledo Bend.

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