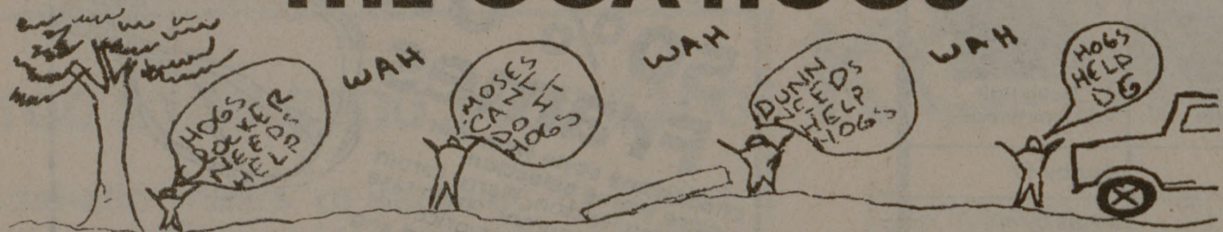


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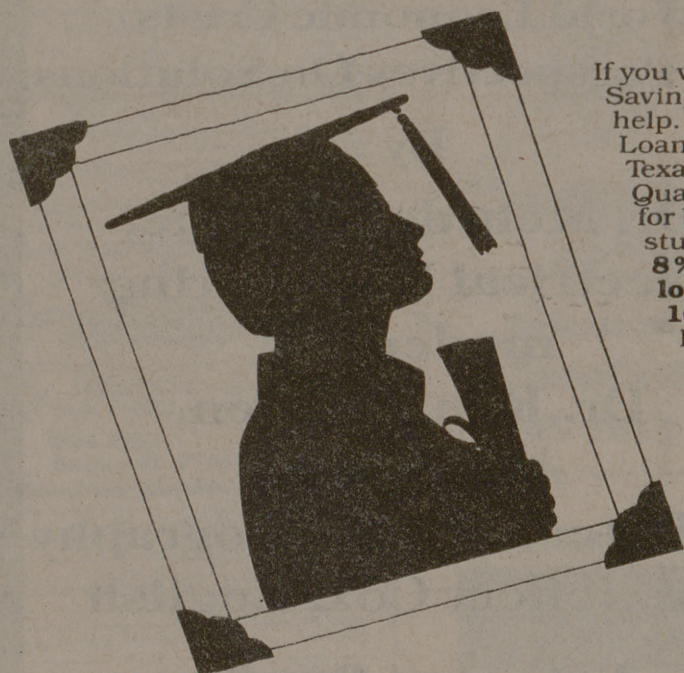
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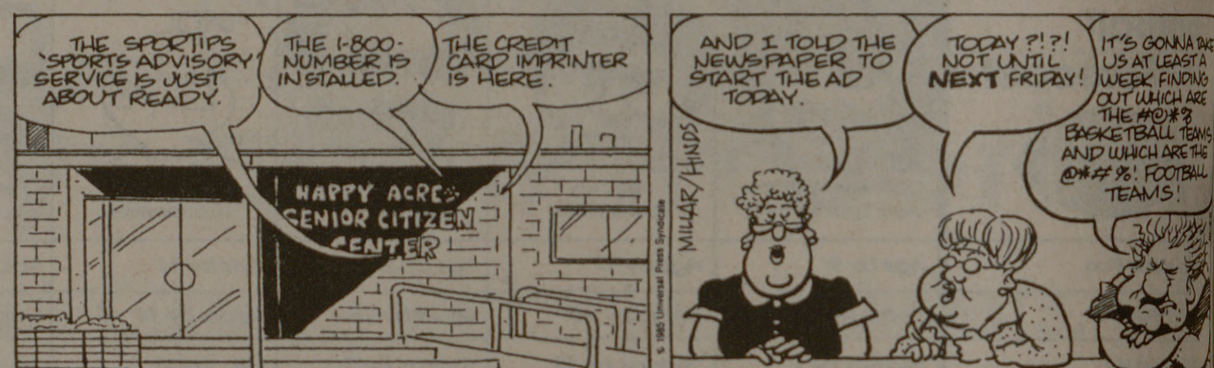
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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## NBA to tip off season

New coaches debut for Nets, Sonics, Sixers

Associated Press

Of the 16 head coaches pacing the sidelines at Friday night's eight season-opening National Basketball Association games, the biggest butterflies will belong to New Jersey's Dave Wohl.

Wohl is one of three coaches making his debut as a head coach, but the other two — Matt Guokas of the Philadelphia 76ers and Bernie Bickerstaff of the Seattle SuperSonics — have to wait until Saturday to get started. Wohl and the Nets, meanwhile, have to face the defending Eastern Conference champion Boston Celtics.

Wohl was an assistant coach for Los Angeles last season, when the Lakers beat the Celtics in six games to win their third NBA title of the decade.

Other openers Friday include Washington at Atlanta, Milwaukee at Detroit, Cleveland at Chicago, Houston at Utah, the Los Angeles Clippers at Sacramento, Denver at Golden State and Phoenix at Portland. The Clippers-Kings meeting marks the first NBA game ever at the California capital, where the Kings moved from Kansas City after last season.

On Saturday, rookie center Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks



who can take that role with the Nets. Wohl said he is most likely to go forward with Buck Williams and Otis Birdsong to take the pressure shot, but is reluctant to give that to Micheal Ray Richardson, who is ready to take the responsibility on the offense. All three players, however, say they want to take the important shots.

Boston has an unquestioned leader in Larry Bird, who is seeking to become the third player in NBA history to win three straight Most Valuable Player awards.

Back spasms limited his playing time during the exhibition season and there is some doubt that he will play in the opener.

Wohl makes his regular-season debut in a nationally televised afternoon game at Madison Square Garden against the 76ers. On Saturday night, it's New Jersey at Indiana, Boston at Cleveland, Detroit at Chicago, Seattle at Dallas, the Lakers at San Antonio, Atlanta at Milwaukee, Sacramento at Denver and Houston at the Clippers.

Wohl, after coaching a Lakers' offense that could rely on all-time leading scorer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in the clutch, says he isn't sure

"It's supposed to clear up in two or three days," Celtics Coach Jim Jones said after Bird visited a doctor's office this week. "Then, he's supposed to be able to go full out."

The Celtics, meanwhile, have made several changes in an effort to avoid a repeat of last season's disappointment in the finals. Veteran Bill Walton — acquired in a trade with the Clippers for Cedric Belfrage — and rookie Sam Vincent have been added to the roster.

## Aggie golfers West Coast bound

By DOUG HALL  
Sports Writer

While the rest of Texas A&M's student body undergoes the post-midterm blues next week, the Aggie women's golf team will play in two tournaments on the West Coast.

A&M opens up Monday with a three-day, 15-team tournament in Sacramento, Calif., the Sacramento State Invitational. The Aggies then travel to Palo Alto, Calif. for the Stanford Invitational, where 20 teams are expected to compete.

A week on the West Coast sounds like a great way to spend your time, but A&M Coach Kitty Holley says eight rounds of golf in eight days is tiresome — no matter where you're playing.

"I just hope they (the golfers) have the stamina to stand up to eight

straight days of play," Holley said. "We've done this before and they've always done really well."

Not only will it be a long eight days for the Ags, but the defending Southwest Conference Champions will face some stiff competition in both tournaments.

"These are two very big tournaments," Holley said, "with a lot of nationally ranked teams. As a matter of fact, 11 of the top 16 teams, according to how they finished at nationals last spring, are playing in these tournaments."

These top teams include Tulsa, ranked second in the country, No. 3 Arizona State and No. 6 New Mexico. A&M will also have to contend with two SWC opponents — Texas Tech and SMU.

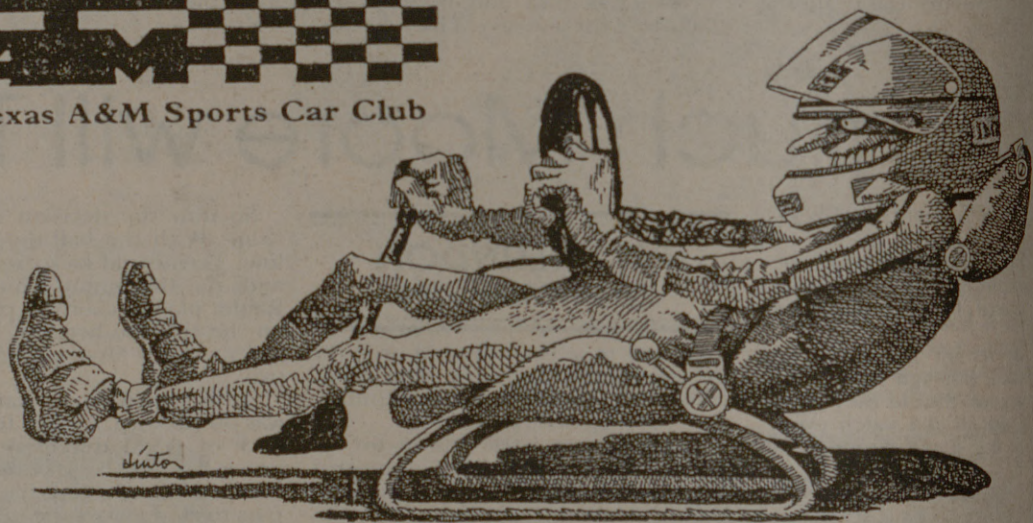
Holley said she hopes the Aggies,

ranked 10th nationally, will not do well next week, but continue to improve their game and establish greater consistency.

"I expect them (the women golfers) to do well," Holley said. "We had a really good week of practice and we're beginning to show some consistency, which is what you need to play good golf."

"Whenever you're playing a tournament with this much competition, it's always a challenge to know how well you can do up against the nationally ranked teams."

But Holley added that the challenge of facing top teams is not the most important goal for the Aggies. "Our first objective is to win," Holley said. "Our next objective is to know how well we can finish against teams of this caliber."



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