

-2-

about this issue

Football gets most of the fans, most of the money and most of the publicity. Yet life exists beyond the gridiron. In addition to all the varsity teams, A&M has 29 extramural teams, some of whom are ranked nationally. And unlike the football team, since the extramural teams are clubs — anyone can join.

We wish we had room to talk about all the teams in depth, but space considerations don't allow it. But we did mention briefly all teams to give you an idea of what's available. Then we took a closer look at several randomly chosen teams and members.

A&M's handball team is first in the nation and team member Julie Werner is the women's national champion. Most of the team members had never played handball before they came to A&M. In fact some of the members, Werner included, took handball as a P.E. class because the racquetball classes were full. The moral seems to be that if you're a hard worker and somewhat athletically inclined, you could rank up there too.

The women on A&M's rugby team say they have to deal with stereotypes of women ruggers as unattractive macho women. Ironically, a Playboy bunny started the team about a decade ago. The women are confident in who they are and what they're doing, and rightfully so since the team is ranked 8th in the nation.

Frisbee started out a simple sport, the mere tossing back and forth of a flying disc. But now Ultimate Frisbee has taken this simple sport and turned it into a complex game of precision throwing. Ultimate is a combination of football, soccer and basketball, with some of the rules of each sport with a few of its own tossed in for good measure.

A&M's power lifting team has a world ranked member, a senior physical education major from El Paso. Steve Lumpee ranks first in the world in the junior division. In 1984, Lumpee won the Junior World Power Lifting Championship in Australia and in Germany this year he placed third. Lumpee plans to work his weight up to the senior division but first he's going to take some time out to open up a gym here in town.

- at ease co-editors

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