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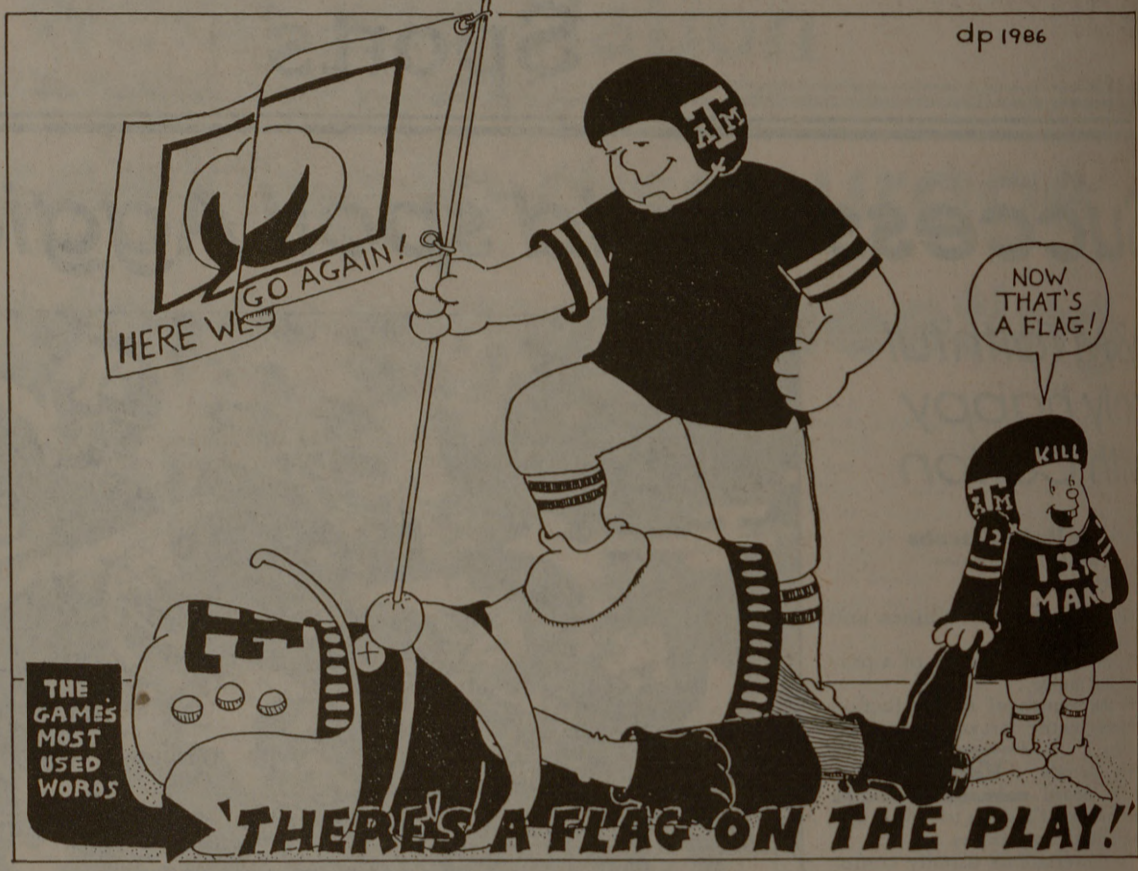
**A&M slips to eighth in tourney**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Texas A&M women's golf team fell from fourth to eighth place after two rounds of play at the Women's Intercollegiate Golf Tournament at the Colonial Country Club.

Duke leads the field with a two-round stroke total of 608. South Carolina followed with 611 and Louisiana State University had a 616. The Aggies' stroke total was 643.

Individually, the Aggies couldn't break out of the 80-stroke range for the day.

Fiona Connor, after shooting an 80 Monday, pushed her tournament total to 158 strokes; Adriana Penuela shot an 83 to give her a 159; Mariana Oyanguren had an 85 for the day, 161 for the tournament; Hollie Frizzell shot an 83, 166 for the tournament; and Caroline Basarab's 84 gave her a total of 169 strokes.



**Baseball playoffs**

**Clemens claims elbow healthy for AL series**

BOSTON (AP) — Roger Clemens, the most dominant pitcher in baseball this season, said his injured right elbow was "100 percent" ready Monday as the Boston Red Sox prepared to meet the California Angels in Game 1 of the American League playoffs.

Clemens, who was 3-0 against the Angels this year, admitted his elbow that was hit by a line drive last week was still "sore to touch."

But the right-hander, who led the AL with a 24-4 record and 2.48 earned run average, said he would be fine to start tonight's playoff opener against Mike Witt.

"My arm's 100 percent," Clemens said. When pressed for details about his recovery, he firmly replied, "I don't want to talk about my arm anymore."

Witt was 18-10 this year and 1-2 against Boston. Overall, the Angels won the season series 7-

5, with the teams splitting six games at Fenway Park.

While Clemens' problems may have cleared up, another injury clouded the outlook for the start of the best-of-seven series.

Reggie Jackson, the Angels' designated hitter, again was in the postseason spotlight, nursing a left hand injured when he hit a dugout wall Saturday night during a game at Texas. California Manager Gene Mauch said the incident occurred when Jackson got upset after making an out.

X-rays on Jackson's hand were negative, and he took batting practice Monday.

"I think by tomorrow (today) I'll be 100 percent," Jackson said. "I've hurt my hands a lot, but my hands have always come back."

Mauch said he would wait until today before

deciding on a lineup for the 8:20 p.m. EDT game.

Jackson, despite his "Mr. October" reputation, has a career average of only .234 in 10 playoff series. However, in the World Series, he has hit .357 with 10 home runs in five appearances, thereby gaining his nickname.

Two other Boston players who had been slowed by minor injuries, third baseman Wade Boggs and catcher Rich Gedman, were expected to start Game 1.

Boggs, the major leagues' batting champion in 1985, did not play in Boston's final four games because of a right hamstring injury.

"Four days off and sitting in the trainer's room doing the therapy drove me crazy," Boggs said. "I just hope the therapy worked."

Chilly temperatures in the upper 40s were forecast for tonight.

**NL championship to create pitching duels**

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Manager Hal Lanier realizes very well that it will be strength-against-strength when the Astros meet the New York Mets in the National League playoffs.

"They won their division so early because of their pitching," Lanier said. "That's their strength. They have so many people who can shut you down."

However, the Astros also have superb pitching. Their staff finished with an earned run average of 3.15, second in the National League, behind the Mets' 3.11. The Astros had one stretch, beginning on Sept. 23, during which they won six of eight games, all by shutouts.

The best-of-seven playoff series begins Wednesday night in the Astrodome, with 1985 NL Cy Young Award winner Dwight Gooden of New York facing Mike Scott, who led the NL with 306 strikeouts and pitched a no-hitter

against San Francisco on Sept. 25 when the Astros clinched the NL West. Scott was 18-10, while Gooden was 17-6 for the Mets, who clinched the NL East on Sept. 17.

Lanier, first-year manager for the Astros, has a great deal of respect for his Mets counterpart, Davey Johnson. And he realizes the Mets have more weapons than just pitching.

"Davey's done a great job, and I think the difference this year with the Mets is that they're not just one pitcher," said Lanier, who was a coach for the pennant-winning St. Louis Cardinals last year. "They've had Kevin Mitchell, Tim Teufel and Len Dykstra all for the whole season. They can go to their bench. They have better balance and a stronger bench."

"You throw a left-hander at them, and they come back with Mitchell. You throw a right-

hander, and they come at you with Dykstra, Wally Backman and Howard Johnson."

The Mets' manager, on the other hand, recognizes Lanier's game plan, refined as a coach under Cardinals Manager Whitey Herzog. On offense, the Astros' philosophy is to attack, be aggressive, take the extra base.

"You know pretty much what the other guy's style of managing is," Johnson said, "so you tend to anticipate what kind of moves he's going to make."

"Anytime a team plays up to its potential, you've done a good job as a manager. And the Houston club was the best of any one in the National League in the second half of the year."

Pointing out the age of the Houston staff — Nolan Ryan is 39 and Bob Knepper is 32 — Mets right-hander Ron Darling said he thought the edge in pitching still belonged to the Mets.

**Dolphins' floundering dims playoff hopes**

MIAMI (AP) — To paraphrase Mark Twain, reports of the death of the Miami Dolphins' championship hopes may not have been greatly exaggerated.

Before Sunday's game at New England, Coach Don Shula had talked about problems having hit bottom, but that his team might be ready to turn it around.

After the Patriots handed the Dolphins their fourth loss in five games, 34-7, Miami was on target to become

Shula's all-time worst team, sliding below the injury-plagued, 6-8 1976 squad.

"We're doing everything a losing football team does," Shula said. "You hate to be associated with a team that isn't competitive."

"Everything negative, nothing positive," embattled defensive coordinator Chuck Studley said. "No question, serious doubts are beginning to creep into the minds of our players."

The Dolphins' players have adopted a pledge not to point fingers, and Shula and his coaches have indicated there were no plans for major lineup changes or trades.

This is basically the same team that handed the Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears their only loss last season and lost to New England in the AFC championship game.

Sunday was another combination of poor effort between the defense and offense, with Marino throwing

three interceptions and totaling only 167 yards.

Steve Hummer, columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel, wrote: "With what the Dolphins have become, they qualified Sunday for New England's homecoming opponent. They are the Miami Sacrificial Lambs."

The Dolphins were lustily booed at the end of the 49ers loss, with some fans putting sacks over their heads.

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