

Fun Day brings Aggies, local kids together

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer

G. Rollie White Coliseum was transformed into a miniature Fish Camp Saturday as the Red Hots, Green Martians, Blue Jeans and Purple Penguins competed for fun and prizes.

The event, attended by about 250 third, fourth and fifth graders from Bryan elementary schools, was the Student Y Association's second annual Youth Fun Day.

The idea behind Youth Fun Day is to have fun and make new friends, says Michelle Loncar, sophomore pre-physical therapy major and one of the directors of the event.

Loncar says the youngsters were randomly divided into four different teams and these teams were divided further by grades.

Another goal of Youth Fun Day is to get the community involved with Texas A&M, says Denise Arledge, sophomore elementary education major and Red Hots' coach.

"The kids really look up to the college students," Arledge says.

Sheri Galny, a fifth grader at Lamar Elementary School and Purple Penguin team member, says this was her second year to participate.

"I like it because the people here are nice," Galny says.

The children participated in a cotton ball relay, obstacle course relay, sack race and other games, while their coaches and fellow teammates cheered them on.

One of the favorite races, among both youngsters and coaches, seemed to be the cotton ball relay. Youngsters, with a thick coating of vaseline on their noses, ran across the gym and, without using their hands, stuck their faces in a bag of cotton balls. Once the cotton balls stuck, they ran back and tagged their teammates.

During the course of events, the gym resounded with yells: "We've got spirit, yes we do, we've got spirit, how 'bout you?"

The organized chaos was fun for everyone. About 75 Student Y members seemed to enjoy themselves more leading yells and cheering on their teams than the players did competing in the events.

Scott Sloter, sophomore computer science major and Blue Jeans' coach, says everybody gets a ribbon.

"There are no losers at Youth Fun Day," he says.



Taniba Dabney, left, Anabel Ariano and Summer Smith tickle their coach, Desiree Montgomery.

Photo by Tracy Staton

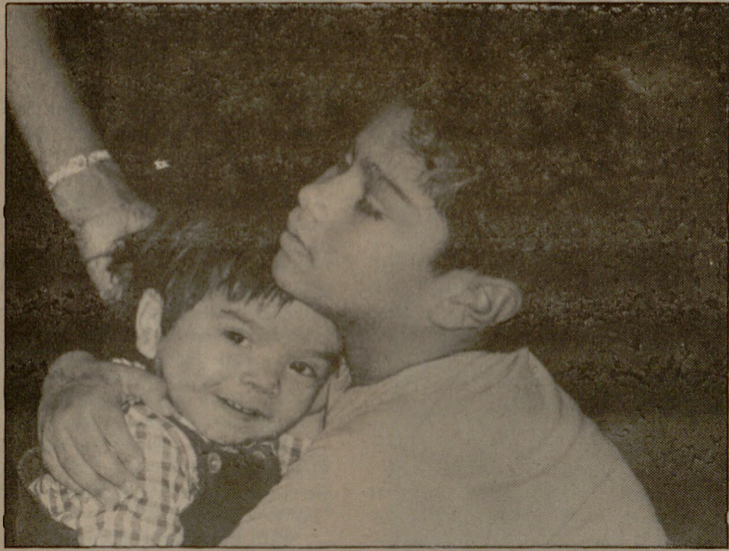


Photo by Doug La Rue

Eric Macias, left, and his brother Paul take a break.



Photo by Doug La Rue

The sack race caused a couple of scraped knees and twisted ankles, but that didn't stop the kids.



Photo by Tracy Staton

A participant gets ready to find his shoes at the start of a relay race.



Photo by Tracy Staton

Amy Simpson, left, plays patty cake with a coach.