

Sports

Firing anything but blanks Aggies hit bulls-eye with pistol team

By Stan Golaboff
Reporter

Most students know about the success of the Texas A&M's football team and most know about the women's softball team winning the national championship last year, but few know about one of A&M's most successful collegiate teams, the pistol team. Mark Benden, a junior bio engineering major and a team member, says the pistol team consistently has been one of the top 10 teams in the nation over the last 14 years.

The team competes in air pistol, free pistol and standard pistol categories as a team and as individuals.

The air pistol competition consist of the shooter shooting 60 rounds using a pistol that resembles something similar to a pellet gun.

Team Coach Curtis Burns says, "We start most people out in this event since it is the easiest of the three events to compete in. Once the shooters get better, then we move them up into the other events."

The next event is the standard pistol, which has the shooter using a .22 caliber at 50 yards. The shooter still shoots 60 rounds. The shooter shoots 20 rounds at his own pace, 20 rounds timed and 20 rounds at a rapid pace.

The hardest event is the free style, Burns said.



Photo by Teresa Montz

Mark Benden practices standard pistol. He ranked first in state and 13th in the nation in the event last year.

Benden said that the team has 11 members, but only four compete as a team for competition.

This year's varsity team has three members returning from last year's team that advanced to the nationals.

Benden says, "We should have a good shot at returning to the nationals, but it's hard to tell because a score that would have qualified last year may not qualify this year."

Burns says A&M hosted a sectional competition two weeks ago and won. Teams from all over competed, including Texas Tech, the University of Texas, the University of Texas-Arlington and Sam Houston State.

There is also an individual from Long Beach State attending, Burns says.

The sectionals will determine who goes on to compete in the nationals held at Colorado Springs on April 5 through 10. The top 30 individuals and the top 10 teams in the nation will compete at the nationals.

"A&M recently held a warm-up meet a couple of weeks ago for these sectionals and A&M did rather well," Burns says.

A&M won first place in the overall team category. Scott Fosdal, a senior political science major, won first place in the free pistol.

A&M began pistol competition in 1944. Burns says that when he retired from the Air Force in 1973 he came back to A&M and found that the team no longer existed.

With help from a captain in the ROTC department he started the team again in 1974 and has been coaching the team ever since.

The team receives funding from the Texas A&M Bookstore profits like all other campus organizations and also charges dues to cover the teams expenses.

Lady Ags fall to UT 79-57

Those Texas Lady Longhorns keep on rolling.

The Texas A&M women's basketball team couldn't stop them, losing 79-57 Tuesday night at the Frank Erwin Special Events Center in Austin.

A&M's Donna Roper had 23 points in the loss, and forward Nette Garrett chipped in 10. The Lady Aggies outrebounded the Lady Horns 36-33.

"The pressure bothered us," A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said. "Considering Roper had a bad ankle and that she played 40 minutes against (UT's Yulonda) Wimbish, I thought she played an excellent game."

The Lady Aggies are now 13-12 overall and 7-8 in the Southwest Conference. UT improves to 27-2 and 15-0 in the SWC.

The game was relatively even until the 6:47 mark of the first half, when UT made a string of shots to pull away and take a 38-24 halftime lead.

It didn't take long for the Lady Horns to take control in the second half, increasing a 48-32 lead to 56-32 at the 14:42 mark.

UT was led by Wimbish with 21 points. Beverly Williams added 12, all coming in the first half.

"We came in here with one purpose in mind — to play hard," Hickey said. "We got beat by 21 points but we didn't play scared. We just don't have the personnel to match up with them for 40 minutes."

"Texas has one of the finest teams in the country, no doubt," Hickey said. "We tried not to get the team too hyped up that it wouldn't carry over to the TCU game."

A&M will play TCU Saturday at 5 p.m. at Daniel Meyer Coliseum in Fort Worth.

Men's hoopsters at UT tonight

The Texas A&M men's basketball team will play Texas at 7:30 tonight at the Frank Erwin Special Events Center in Austin.

The Aggies will be trying to avenge their 52-49 loss earlier this season at G. Rolie White Coliseum.

A&M is in sixth place in the Southwest Conference at 7-7. UT is 9-5 and fighting for a third or fourth seed in next weekend's Southwest Conference Classic.

Underdogs, make a bow

1966 — A little-known West Texas college called Texas Western knocks off traditional power Kentucky 72-65 in the NCAA Division I basketball finals.

1969 — The New York Mets beat the Baltimore Orioles four games to one in the World Series.

1969 — Joe Namath leads the delegations in a stunning 16-7 upset allowed the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl II, letting the world know that as a fledgling American Football Conference was for real.

1980 — The United States Olympic hockey team shocks the world with a 3-2 win over the seemingly-invincible Soviet Union. The U.S. goes on to defeat Finland for the gold medal.

1984 — A struggling 5-5 Texas A&M football team takes the field against the highly-regarded University of Texas Longhorns and promptly executes them 37-12 in national television, providing the catalyst for the Aggies' three consecutive Southwest Conference championships.

There's a point to this brief chronology of sports events. All were upsets, and I think it's high time to celebrate one of America's greatest institutions: the underdog.

Nowhere else can you capture the true value of sport until you see a team like the Minnesota Twins go from nobodies to world champions in less than a year, and he didn't cheer for Great Britain's upstart Eddie Edwards in the ski jump during the recently completed Winter Olympics?

On the other side of the coin, did anybody (except for those souls who had bets in the series) want the Boston Celtics to beat the Detroit Pistons in the 1987 NBA Eastern Conference finals, or the Houston Rockets the year before in the championship series?

The underdog is a cherished institution, one that somehow seems unique to the United States. My theory is that the whole tradition of the underdog began way back in 1776 or so, whenever those 13 minuscule

colonies picked a fight with the British Empire to kick off the Revolutionary War. Do you think anybody outside of England wanted the British to tame America once and for all? I don't think so.

The underdog has flourished since then, and occasionally an underdog has gone on to be an American or world power. College basketball provides a good example here. DePaul was unheard of until it made it to the Final Four several years ago, and although the Blue Demons haven't equaled

that success of yet, they are now a household name among basketball fans.

Texas has seen plenty of underdogs of its own. Take the 1980 and 1986 Astros, for instance. Both made it to the National League Championship Series, and they lost both times. But they played classic games against teams considered far superior to them in the Philadelphia Phillies and the New York Mets.

And let's not forget A&M. Many an underdog has worn an Aggie uniform. Not

only can Aggies relish in the 1984 walloping of Texas, they can also look to the 1986 A&M basketball team that came alive to thoroughly thrash TCU, Texas Tech and Baylor in the post-season tournament to advance to the NCAA playoffs, or the 1987 baseball team that came within a game of advancing to the College World Series, or the A&M's women's tennis team that won the SWC championship in the spring of 1986 behind Gaye Lynn Gensler and Kim Labuschagne, and on and on and on. Long live the underdog.

Can Your Apartment Pass this College Quiz?

- Recently Remodeled
- Washer-dryer connections
- On the shuttle bus route
- Pool with jacuzzi
- Basketball court

- Laundry facility
- Extracurricular activities
- Roommate Plan

Located off Texas Avenue just west of Kroger. Leasing office open 7 days a week. Affordable rates.

*Restrictions apply. Inquire at leasing office.

Redstone Apartments

1301 Bartholow 696-1848

FREE SNEAK PREVIEW

Just when he was ready for mid-life crisis, something unexpected came up. Puberty.



viceVersa

The comedy about not acting your age.

Columbia Pictures Presents A Clement/La Frenais Production
Starring Judge Reinhold "Vice Versa" Fred Savage Swoosie Kurtz
Music by David Shire Director of Photography King Baggot Executive Producer Alan Ladd, Jr.
Written and Produced by Dick Clement & Ian La Frenais Directed by Brian Gilbert

FREE POSTERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 7:30PM
RUDDER AUDITORIUM

PASSES AVAILABLE AT
M.S.C. BOX OFFICE
NIGHT OF SHOW

PRESENTED BY
M.S.C. AGGIE CINEMA