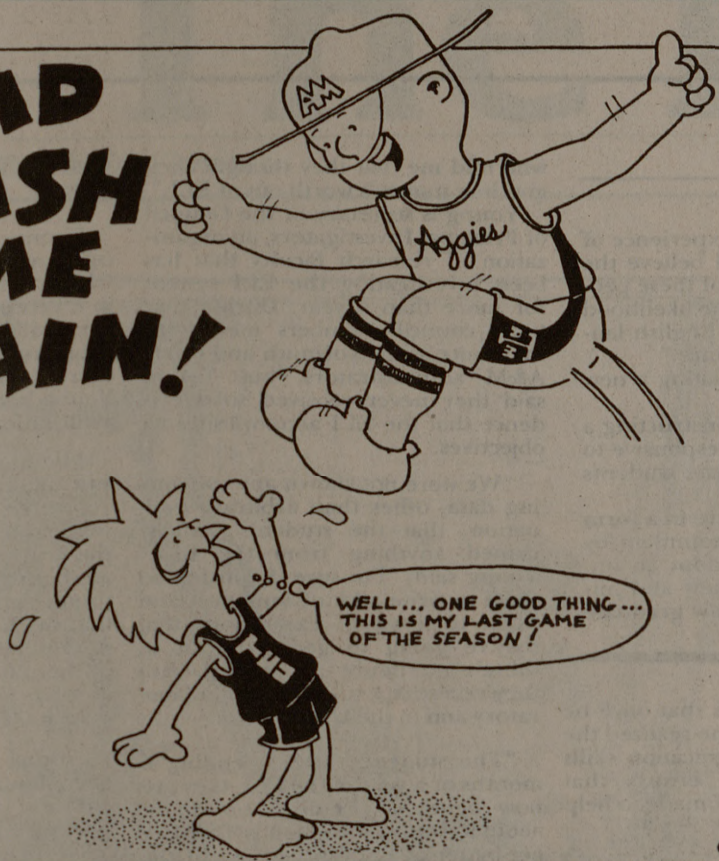


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A&M skiers must cope without water

By Dianne Normand
Reporter

The Texas A&M Water Ski Club is missing one important factor that could greatly affect its skiing performance this spring: water.

The club's practice lake was drained to improve skiing conditions and will not be skiable until after the collegiate season begins, club president David Meyer says.

The club's lake was drained late October to remove stumps, dig parts deeper and to reinforce the turn-around island with concrete.

The objective was to have the remodeling completed before the weather got warm enough to ski, Meyer said.

With less than a month before A&M is to sponsor the first collegiate tournament of the season, the 13th Annual Polar Bear, the team is coming up dry.

More rain was expected this winter to fill the competition lake says Richard Ameen, the lake owner.

Wells are being dug to help Mother Nature's slow process, Ameen says.

The lake may be skiable in a couple of months, team captain Mark Berry says.

"I have begun to save milk cartons to fill with water and bring out to the lake," Berry says.

"A skier without water is like an oxygen without two hydrogens."

Berry says skiers will now have to travel over an hour to practice on a competition lake north of College Station.

Veteran skier Joanie Pate says

Upsets come to halt for A&M men's tennis

CORPUS CHRISTI — The upsets finally ended for the Texas A&M men's tennis team as it lost 6-2 to 20th-ranked Northeast Louisiana Thursday in the second round of the HEB College Tennis Team Championship.

The Aggies, 7-3 on the year, will now play Arkansas in the tourney Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

In singles action, A&M's Dean Johnson lost to Ville Jansson 7-5, 6-2; NLU's Piero La Gioia defeated

Shaun O'Donovan 6-4, 6-2, and A&M's Steve Kennedy beat Steve Barley 7-5, 6-4.

Mike May stopped A&M's Mike Chambers 6-3, 6-3; NLU's Mike Bryan defeated Craig Whitteker 7-5, 6-4; A&M's Wayne Green defeated Bryan Miltz 6-4, 6-4.

In doubles play, A&M's No. 1 team of Kennedy and O'Donovan lost to Jansson and La Gioia 6-2, 6-1, and Miltz and May beat A&M's Chambers and Scott Campbell 6-3,

team's performance in next month's tournament.

The team is young but placed second in several tournaments last fall behind Northeastern Louisiana University, which is ranked No. 1 in the country. The Polar Bear Tournament is March 19 and 20 at Aqua Gardens, the team's alternate practice site. The tournament is called Polar Bear, Pate says, because the air is usually cold and the water generally 10 to 15 degrees colder.

"Last year the jumping event was snowed out," Pate said.

The team hopes the weather is more cooperative this year, but so far the team has not had the weather on its side.

Fifteen schools from Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas are expected to attend the tournament, including Northeastern Louisiana and Louisiana State University, which are ranked first and fifth in the nation, respectively.

In the meantime, the Water Ski Club continues its rain dance.



the two-hour round trip may discourage some skiers.

"Looks like only the most competitive skiers will get to ski on a competition lake," Pate says. "It may really hurt the others' chance of making All-Stars." Most members have not skied since regionals last October, Berry says.

A big part of water skiing is staying in shape during the off-season. Many members lift weights, attend aerobic classes, jog and practice on land, but nothing can replace time on the water, the team captain says.

The skiers hope the temporary loss of their lake will not hurt the

A&M softballers play host to 3 top 20 teams

The Texas A&M softball team will open its home season today when it competes in the Aggie Invitational, a seven-team tournament featuring four top 20 teams, at Bee Creek Park in College Station.

The tournament will conclude Sunday at 4 p.m. with a game between Louisiana Tech and A&M.

Teams participating in the tourney are ninth-ranked South Carolina, 17th-ranked Oklahoma State,

18th-ranked Tech, Illinois State, Sam Houston State, McNeese State and fourth-ranked A&M.

The Lady Aggies will play today at 11 a.m. against McNeese State and again at 6 against OSU.

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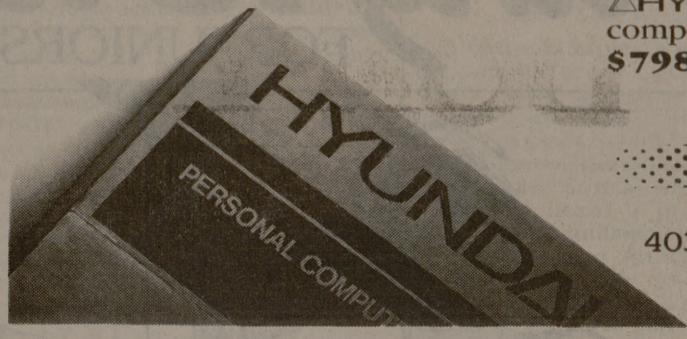
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