State and Local

Ranger Challenge team A&M group settles for second with TCU win

By Stan Golaboff Reporter

exas A&M's Ranger Challenge failed by one point to capture cond straight title win in the d ROTC Region's Ranger Chal-ge competition held from March 0 at Ft. Riley, Sgt. Maj. Larry

dand said. he team, which consists of nine ROTC cadets, scored 85 points of a possible 100, while Texas tian University came in first 86, Kirkland said.

The team was tested on eight at skills that they learned in IC. They were tested on builda rope bridge, a grenade assault rse and a weapons-assembly test a the M-16 rifle and M-60 mae gun.

lso required on the test was qualg with the M-16, an army physifitness test, an orienteering e, a 10K run and conducting a maissance patrol. The run and patrol were worth 20 points and e other events were worth 10, land said.

lay Sumner, a sophomore politiscience major and team meer, said, "It gives us a chance for high-speed training dealing military skills that we don't alhave time for in military sci-Plus it's fun.

irkland said, "The team gives adets a chance to showcase their and show the cadre in the miliscience department what they

&M was one of 10 teams that morning for an hour.

Correction

In Wednesday's Battalion, artork with a story about Aggieon incorrectly was attributed to san C. Akin. The artwork actuwas done by Otto Cordray, ne of the guests at AggieCon.

"The team gives the cadets a chance to showcase their skills and show the cadre in the military science department what they can do."

- Sgt. Maj. Larry Kirkland, A&M Corps adviser

competed at FT. Riley. Five brigades are in the Third ROTC Region and each brigade sent two teams. A&M were, not just supervising. She is very motivated and was a team memand TCU are both from the second brigade. The Third ROTC Region consists of Texas, Alabama, Arkan-Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Georgia, Florida and Puerto Rico, Kirkland said.

The team placed first in the weapons assembly, the orienteering course and the patrol events. Even though the standings are posted af-ter each event, the team did not know how well it was doing because they weren't allowed to look at the scoreboard, Kirkland said.

"I don't let the team look at the board because I don't want them to relax," he said. "I want them to do their best on every event. Our goal was not to win every event, but to do our best and hopefully place in the top three at least.

The team has been practicing for this event since the beginning of the 1987 fall semester. The members practiced from 3:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. every day and did physical training, which consisted of push-ups, sit-ups and running, every

The team also practiced every weekend except for two in the spring semester. The team was advised during practice by 2nd Lt. Dawn Simmons, a member of last year's championship team, Kirkland said.

"She really helped them learn their stuff and helped get them re-ady for Ft. Riley," he said. "She was out there every day helping them

ber last year, so she knows how to handle herself."

The team members are team captain Rob Harris, a junior recreations and parks major; Bryce Reeves, a junior industrial distribution major; Steve Peck, a senior speech commu-nications major, and Brian Mat-thews, a senior physical education major.

Other members of the rigorous team are Clay Sumner, a sophomore political science major; Eric Layne, a sophora science industrial distribution major; Chad Keith, a sophomore general studies major; Christine Lyle, a sophomore elementary edu-cation major, and Johnny Hester, a freshman sociology major freshman sociology major. "Hester is the first freshman to

ever compete in Ranger Challenge and he did very well," Kirkland said.

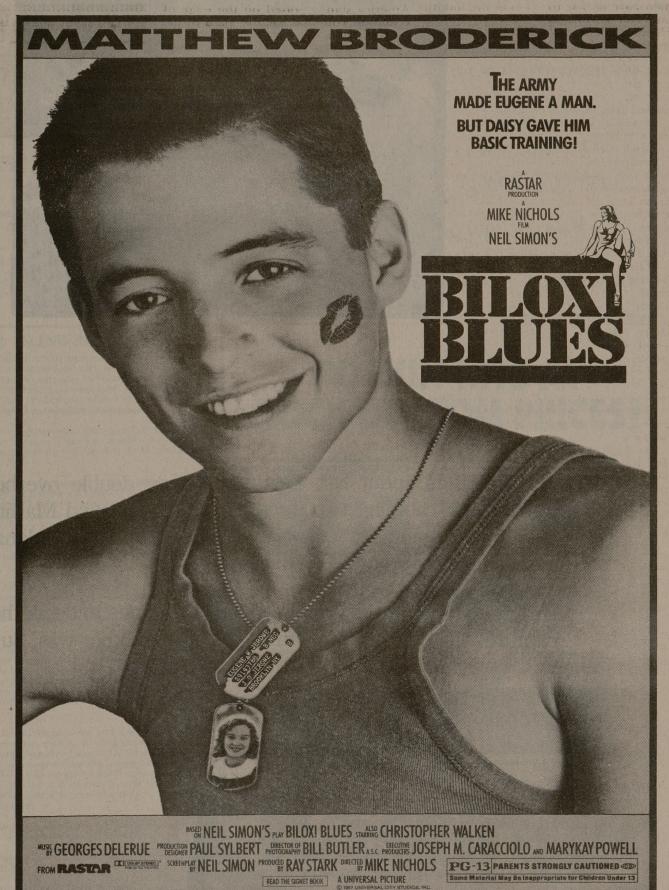
All the members are army ROTC cadets - one of the requirements for trying out for the team.

The sport is not recognized at this time by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. However, the cadet command in Ft. Monore, Va. is trying to influence the NCAA to recognize the event. There is not a national meet as of yet, but there are plans for a national meet next year, Kirkland said.

The team's main concerns now are maintaining their present status and getting new members involved, Kirkland said.

Clay Sumner, a sophomore political science major, assembles an M-16 rifle and an M-60 machine gun simultaneously, while team captain Rob Harris, left, a junior recreation and parks major, and adviser Sgt. Maj. Larry Kirkland watch and time him. This was one of the eight events in which the team competed. The team won the event and took second place overall.

Photo by Lucinda Orr



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