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Bowling team strikes it rich in Vegas

A&M's bowling team struck west to Las Vegas for tournament action Dec. 27-30 at the Las Vegas National Invitational Tournament.

A&M placed 33 of 76 in men's action. Team President Paul Janish said the team is in the process of rebuilding.

In singles bowling, Janish was the top Aggie, placing 15th out of 675. Emmanuel Bautista led the Aggies with a 201 average.

Anyone interested in joining the team can attend an organizational meeting Jan. 25. The next tournament for the Aggies is scheduled to take place Feb. 4 in San Antonio.

A&M Soccer team kicks its way to title

The Aggie Men's Soccer Club put in a great effort in the fall to win the Texas Collegiate Soccer League championship with a 13-0-1 record.

Club President Anthony Thomas said, "We're really proud of our achievement and trying to get more recognition. It was really a team effort — I'm proud of the way we played."

The fall schedule was only the second year of the league, with the Aggies taking third place in 1987.

The leading scorer for A&M was Barry Chubb with 18 goals. The team had three starting freshmen: John Simpkins at goalie and fullbacks Danny Kenny and Bryan Cesston.

Latest Rice coach retains optimism

HOUSTON (AP) — After a decade of unprecedented punishment of Southwest Conference schools for recruiting violations, will there finally be a dawning of the age of "the Rice way?"

Will Rice be looked upon as the league's shining beacon because of its academic integrity instead of its laughing stock because of its athletic ineptitude?

Probably not. But it's an intriguing thought for new Rice football coach Fred Goldsmith.

"I really believe this is the best time in the last 25 years for the resurgence of schools that have maintained their academic integrity," Goldsmith said.

"This is an institution that just doesn't give lip service to academics in athletics. It's one that stands for everything that intercollegiate athletics is supposed to be."

In the past decade, athletics in the SWC has meant cash payments to recruits, a death penalty for one school and probation for six other institutions.

The woeful Owls haven't had a winning football season since 1963 and the past season is well documented as an 0-11, part of an 18-game losing streak that is the nation's longest.

Rice and Arkansas are the only SWC schools to escape NCAA sanctions in this decade.

Perhaps the rest of the SWC should join Rice.

"It's happened at Duke, Wake Forest, Northwestern and Vanderbilt," Goldsmith said. "I don't see any reason why we can't win again at Rice."

But Goldsmith follows a long line of coaches who thought they could produce a winner under such pristine conditions.

Rice faces big challenges on the field and in the financial ledger for its survival.

Rice President Dr. George Rupp says he won't comment on rumors of a cutback in the school's athletic budget.

"We have just appointed an athletic director and coach who recognize there are some major challenges," Rupp said.

"One is to maintain our integrity in the athletic program and to compete more effectively.

"The second is to increase revenues and manage expenses so the funding of athletics here is sustainable in the long haul."

Goldsmith will be given the same opportunity to succeed as his predecessor, Rupp said.

"We certainly aren't recruiting a new football coach and then cutting resources out from under him," Rupp said. "I think the rumors are really mistaken there."

But if the losing continues and the crowds continue to dwindle, how long can the school maintain its resolve?

"We do have an agreement that we'll continue to review athletics in all dimensions just as we review all other programs," Rupp said. "That will take its course."

Bobby May was promoted to athletic director after serving under three athletic directors at Rice and has worked for his alma mater since 1967.

"We do have an ongoing financial problem and it's a problem that we intend to deal with," May said.

Rupp said competing in intercollegiate athletics is important to Rice.

"I think it's important to have both outstanding academic programs and a first rate opportunity for athletes to compete," Rupp said.

"I think it's possible to do that in a range of forums, one of which is the Southwest Conference."

Goldsmith isn't interested in the past. He expects the new age to be a more suitable climate for schools such as Rice.

He expects to have better success than his predecessors and he expects to stay longer than they did.

Goldsmith replaces Jerry Berndt, who left with two years remaining on his contract to become coach at Temple.

Berndt replaced Watson Brown, who departed after two seasons to return to his alma mater Vanderbilt.

Now Goldsmith is promising to stay with the program.

"They're going to have to carry me out of here dead, sick or fire me," Goldsmith said. "I'm going to be here for them (players). I promised them I intend to remain here at Rice University."

They've heard that speech before.

Former big leaguer recalls baseball career

SULPHUR SPRINGS (AP) — Any way you slice it, baseball is a numbers game.

Batters shoot for the magic .300 mark, and pitchers set their sights on winning 20 games in a season.

Dave Philley is a perfect example of how numbers tell the story in a baseball player's career.

He spent 19 seasons in the big leagues while performing for nine teams and answering to 18 managers.

But the product of Paris, Texas, did one thing better than any player who ever put a major league uniform on. He earned a spot in the record book by his prowess as a pinch hitter.

He connected safely nine straight times as a pinch hitter for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1958 and 1959 and set another mark in 1961 by collecting 24 hits off the bench for Baltimore.

Philley, 68, recalled his years in the big leagues during a recent speech before the Sulphur Springs Rotary Club.

A switch hitter who was noted for his all-out hustle and dedication to the game, Philley slashed away on such baseball topics as salary structure, the designated hitter rule and fundamentals of the game.

"Bill Veeck's theory was, 'If you want to keep a ballplayer happy, pay him,'" he said. "I also agree with what Pete Rose said when he was traded from Cincinnati to Philadelphia."

"Rose made the comment that 'No player who ever lived is worth a million dollars, but if the owners are going to pay it I'm going to take it.'"

Philley's top salary was \$33,000 as a member of the 1954 American League champion Cleveland Indians, who finished 68 games above .500 that season with a record of 111-43.

Philley estimates he would be making at least \$500,000 a year and perhaps as much as \$1 million a year by today's salary scales.

The pinch-hitting champ is against the designated hitter rule, although he feels he could have remained around at least three or four more years performing in the DH role.

"The way I see it, there are nine guys in the field and those nine guys should come to bat," he said. "Besides, it separates the managers somewhat."

"It's easy to manage when you don't have the pitcher coming to bat. I'm certainly against the rule being used in one league and not used in the other league."

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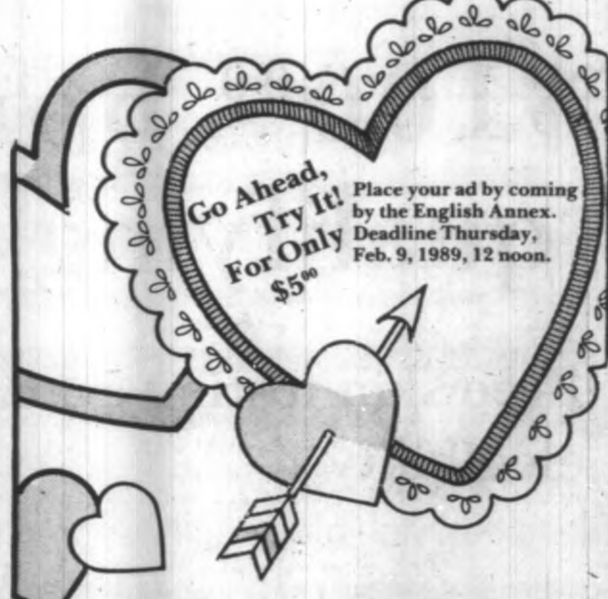
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