

Darts

(Continued from page 11)

sation-filler" game to a sweat-it-out battle in which every point counts.

Large or small, athlete or arm-chair philosopher, everyone's the same when he or she toes the hockey.

In its relaxed style, darts resembles horseshoes, but a round of darts doesn't require an entire back yard or 15 pounds of steel.

Proper play does require a bristle board and a nice set of darts. Professional bristle boards are available from almost any sporting goods store for about \$30.

They are made of a dense carpet of sisal (rope fiber). If you push a dart into the board and pull to the side, you can see the individual hairs it is made of, and a dart stays in the board just like a straw will stand up in thick carpet.

Under ordinary use, a bristle board will last several years. Wound

paper boards, such as those found in discount stores, are much less sturdy, and your darts will begin falling out after only a few months' use.

A dart that doesn't stay in the board doesn't count.

To use your new board, you'll need darts — proper darts. A proper dart is a beautiful instrument, long, sleek and well-proportioned. It will have a specific weight (measured in grams) and may be made of brass, tungsten steel or wood.

There is no need to invest more than \$12 to \$15 in your first set, but go to a darting store to buy it if possible.

Test-throw a few different kinds to see what feels best. Choosing a set of darts is as much a matter of what feels comfortable as anything else.

Brass is the least expensive and probably the best choice for a first set. Later, as you begin placing your darts in closer and closer groups on the board, you may want to move on to tungsten.

Tungsten is heavier and denser — the same weight comes in a smaller package, and that means it is easier to place them in a small area — preferably close to the center.

A heavier dart can be more accurate, but be careful not to buy just for weight.

You'll wake up with a sore arm if your darts are too heavy, and you won't be able to throw for more than a few minutes without losing significant accuracy.

Some stories will let you return a set if it is too heavy or too light, but take your time choosing anyway.

The choice is strictly a matter of personal preference — whatever works best for you. One dart store in Houston carries hundreds of types and sizes, from 13-gram brass to 55-

gram tungsten, from less than an inch long to seven inches (the legal maximum for tournament play).

One wall of the shop is covered from floor to ceiling with flights, the replacement for feathers on the dart.

There's a flight for every occasion, every preference. Angry? Buy black with red stripes. St. Patrick's Day approaching? Go for shamrocks or an Irish flag. The Fourth of July

keep in good condition.

If you're a classicist, write to friends in France or England; maybe they can find you a set. But the wooden darts days are numbered, and there may not be any manufacturers left.

The game's origins are deeply buried in England's history, but darts may have been invented by bored 14th- and 15th-century noblemen and knights.

When they weren't at war, they had to pass the time, so they pared their arrows down and maybe passed a bribe to the palace fletcher for feathers, and *voilà!* darts.

There are theories that darts were used for fighting, and archers may have carried 10-pound, hand-thrown missiles to supplement their arrows. Perhaps they used darts to sharpen their hand-eye coordination. No one knows for sure.

The Oxford English Dictionary lists references to "darts" as early as 1314, listed alongside "launces and swerdes," but still, no one knows exactly how and where it became a game.

Early "darters" threw at the end of logs and wine casks outdoors which was all right, although it had its problems. England's weather, famous for its dampness, cold winters and rainy summers.

It probably didn't take long for an enterprising nobleman or archer to have a passing peasant saw off the target end off a log and haul it inside.

Boards like theirs (made of elm) are still in use today, but they have been soaked overnight to prevent cracking and drying.

The elm board is more of a romantic remembrance, like the wooden darts used on them, than anything else, and they, too, seem destined to disappear. Players today use bristle boards with their tungsten and brass darts. The "plunk" of a wooden dart into a wooden board is all but forgotten.

INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

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FOOTNOTES

- Basketball playoffs will be posted Mon. Feb. 20, and playoffs begin Sun. Feb. 26.
- Softball Corps captains meeting Wed. Feb. 22, 167 Read 6:30 PM. Team captains meeting Thur. Feb. 23, 601 Rudder 5:00 PM.
- Preseason Softball schedules posted Wed. Feb. 23 after 3:00 PM. Play begins Thur. Feb. 23 - 25.
- Billiard Singles schedules posted Thur. Feb. 23 after 3:00 PM. Play begins Fri. Feb. 24.
- Handball Doubles schedule posted Fri. Feb. 24.
- Outdoor Soccer playoffs are posted.
- Team Bowling petitions are due March 1.

SPORTS CLUBS

- The Men's Soccer Team will be hosting a youth tournament with over 40 teams Sat., Feb. 25 on East Campus.
- The Pistol Team will be competing in a sectional tournament Sat. & Sun., Feb. 25 & 26 at the University of Texas at Arlington.
- The Wrestling Team will host the John Strom Memorial Tournament Sat. Feb., 25, 10 AM - 4 PM in 351 G. Rollie White.
- The Archery Team will host a National Indoor Tournament with Collegiate and Open divisions, Sat., Feb. 25, 8 AM-6 PM and Sun., Feb. 26, 9AM-2 PM

IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES CLOSE: FEBRUARY 21

PRESEASON SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT LIMITED ENTRIES: Entries will be limited to the first 128 teams. **DIVISIONS:** Men's, A, B, and C, Women's Open, CoRec A and B. **ENTRY FEE:** \$10.00 per team. **SCHEDULES:** Schedules will be posted in the Recreational Sports Office on Wednesday, February 22. The tournament will be held February 24 - 25. In case of rain, the tournament will be held March 3 - 4. If both weekends are rained out, the tournament will be cancelled. Only teams not completing one full game will be given a refund.

SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL DIVISIONS: Corps, Fish, Men's and Women's Residence Hall, Men's and Women's Independent, Fraternity, and CoRec. **RULES:** ASA with Intramural exceptions. Rules are available in the Recreational Sports Office. **COMPETITION:** Round Robin league play with single elimination playoffs in all classes. Class A - highly skilled; Class B - average skilled; Class C - novice; Class D - recreation. **PLAY BEGINS:** Sunday, February 26. **ENTRY FEE:** \$30.00 per team. **AWARDS:** T-shirts will be given to All-University Class A Champions and certificates to Class B & C All-University Champions. Class B CoRec Champions will receive General Motors t-shirts. **TEAM MANAGER'S MEETING:** Thursday, February 23 at 5 PM in Room 601 Rudder Tower. Schedules will be available and rule changes will be discussed. **CORPS MANAGER'S MEETING:** Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 PM in 167 Read Building. Schedules will be available and rules changes will be discussed.

BILLIARD SINGLES SCHEDULES POSTED: Thursday, February 23, 3 PM outside the Recreational Sports Office. **ENTRY FEE:** \$4.00 to be paid in the Recreational Sports Office. **TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE:** Double elimination. **COMPETITION:** Men's and Women's Divisions will be offered with no class distinction (no A, B or C). Residence Hall teams will receive points as

if they were in Class A. **COMPETITION DATES:** Matches will be played on the weekend of February 24-25. **RULES:** BCA Rules with Intramural exceptions. Matches consist of 3 out of 5 games. Championship round will be 5 out of 7 games. **HANDBALL DOUBLES ENTRY FEE:** Free!!! **PLAY BEGINS:** Tuesday, February 27. **EQUIPMENT:** Each participant must supply a can of balls. The winners keep the unopened can, losers keep the used can. **COMPETITION:** Class A, B, C. All tournaments are single elimination. Class A All-University Champions will receive a t-shirt. Class B and C All-University Champions will receive a certificate. Class B CoRec Champions will receive a General Motors t-shirt. **SCHEDULES:** Will be posted on the intramural bulletin board after 1 pm on Friday, February 23. Check to see when you play. **RULES:** USHA Rules apply. Matches will consist of two games to 21 points and an 11 point tie breaker if necessary.

BASKETBALL 3 POINT SHOOTOUT. Sponsored by NIKE and TAMU Recreational Sports REGISTRATION: All participants are encouraged to sign up for a starting time at the Recreational Sports Office. Late entries will be accepted on an availability basis only. **PRELIMINARIES:** Wednesday, February 22 and Thursday, February 23 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM in Gym 303. **FINALS:** Top scorers will compete on Saturday, March 4 at half time in the A&M - U.T. Men's Basketball game. **AWARDS:** Men's and women's scores will receive a All-University Championship T-Shirt. In addition, Nike will award the 4 female and top 12 male shooters with Nike socks and jerseys. The four finalists male or female will receive Nike basketball shoes and shorts. The top scorer from the final will receive a Nike sweatshirt and gym bag. **RULES:** Available at the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Building.

RAINING???

CALL 845-2625 TO SEE IF YOUR GAME HAS BEEN RAINED OUT.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

VOLLEYBALL TRIPLES
BADMINTON SINGLES

TABLE TENNIS DOUBLES
SWIM MEET

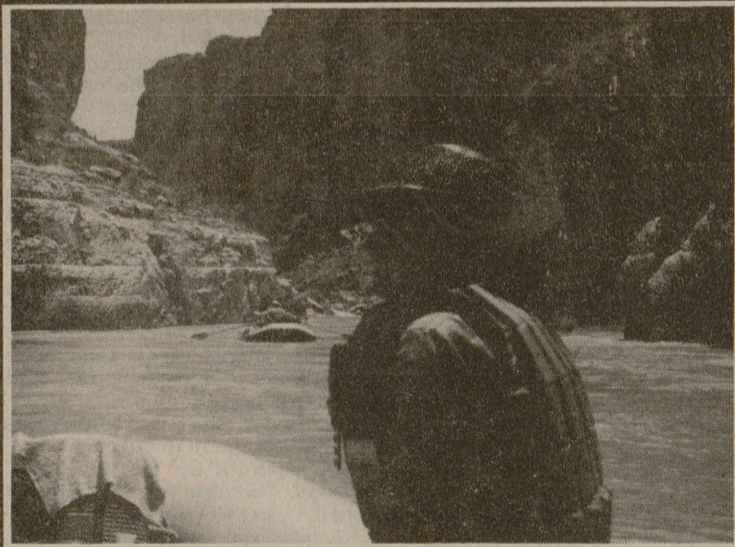
GOLF DRIVING RANGE HOURS

The Driving Range located at the Intramural Sports Center is now open for operation Mon-Thu, 3 PM - 6 PM; Fri, 12 PM - 6 PM; Sat, 10 AM - 6 PM; and Sun, 12 noon - 6 PM. Individuals with student ID or TAMU Recreational ID may purchase a large bucket of balls for \$3.00 and a small bucket of balls for \$1.50. Without an ID individuals may purchase a large bucket of balls for \$4.00 and a small bucket for \$2.00. Club rental is also available. For more information, contact the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read, or call 845-7826.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATIONAL SPORTS LOGO CONTEST

The Intramural-Recreational Sports Department is officially changing to the Department of Recreational Sports on September 1, 1989. We are holding a logo contest to identify potential designs for our new logo. Designs are due in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Building no later than 5:30 PM, Tuesday, March 7. The winner will be announced after Spring Break and will be awarded a \$50.00 prize. Rules are available in the Recreational Sports Office 159 Read. For more information, call P.J. Miller, 845-7826.

TAMU-OUTDOORS



**Kayaking Workshop
San Marcos River
Sat. & Sun, Feb. 25 - 26
REGISTRATION: Feb 6 - 20**

Take the weekend off and learn the fundamentals of kayaking in a two day class offered by TAMU Outdoors. The first day will be an introduction to kayak strokes, rescue, and the eskimo roll. The second day will be spent on the San Marcos River learning how to paddle the boat and get a feel for white water. The \$40 (\$45 for non A&M) fee for this workshop includes group camping equipment, kayak equipment, camping permits and experienced instruction. Sign up early because class size is limited.

**Canoeing the San Marcos River on Saturday, March 4
Registration: February 13-27**

Enjoy paddling the beautiful and scenic San Marcos River! The water remains a constant 72° year-round and this lush, almost tropical environment plays host to a wide variety of plants and animals. The \$25 (\$30 for Non A&M) fee for this outing includes transportation, rental of canoes, instruction while on the river and experienced guides. This trip is geared to the beginning canoeist. The trip is limited to 12 participants.

**Raft/Kayak the Canyons of Big Bend March 11 - 19
Registration: February 6 - March 1**

Paddle the Rio Grande along majestic canyon walls that tower as much as 1500 feet above the water. Take exploratory hikes into side canyons and caves. Relax in a tinaja. Experience sleeping under the stars. The \$225 (\$250 Non A&M) fee for this spring break adventure includes transportation, food, rental of rafts/kayaks, camping equipment, and shuttle costs. All you need to bring is your camera and personal items. Swimming ability is a prerequisite for the trip. Kayakers should be competent in the eskimo roll and white water paddling. This trip is limited to 11 participants.

Register for these trips in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Bldg. For more information about these trips or TAMU Outdoors contact Patsy Greiner, 845-7826.

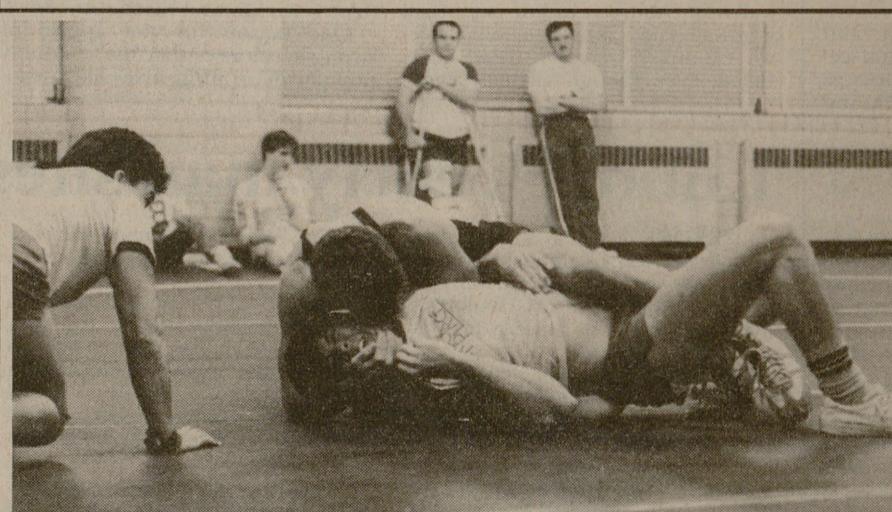
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurant at University Drive, Manor East Mall, Hwy 21, Texas Ave. at SW Parkway and Post Oak Mall. Stories are by Steve Harding, graphics are by Paul Irwin and photos are by Mark Figart and Lynda Bottos.

ENTRIES OPEN: FEBRUARY 17 ENTRIES CLOSE: APRIL 11

10th Annual Penberthy Softball Tournament April 14-16. ENTRY FEE: \$40.00 per team (Double Elimination Tournament). **TOURNAMENT DATE:** April 14-16. **ELIGIBILITY:** Open to all TAMU Students, Faculty, Staff and Spouses. **DIVISIONS:** Men's A/B, Men's B/C, Men's C/D, Co-Rec A/B, Co-Rec B/C. Divisions must have at least 8 teams in order for the division to make. The Recreational Sports Department reserves the right to combine divisions as they are necessary. **AWARDS:** Men's and CoRec A/B: Top 3 places will receive Penberthy t-shirts and champions will receive a trophy. Men's A/B Champion will also receive a \$200.00 CC Creations gift certificate good for 15 team shirts with 200 screen and numbers with one hour toward art production. Men's and CoRec B/C: Top 2 places will receive Penberthy t-shirts and the champion will receive a trophy. Men's C/D: The champions will receive Penberthy t-shirts and a trophy. **RULES:** A.S.A Rules with intramural exceptions will apply. T-shirts awards will be limited to 15 per team. **TEAM CAPTAINS MEETING:** Tournament Brackets may be picked up on Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 pm in 167 Read Building. **SPONSORS:** Thanks to our sponsors: CC Creations and McDonald's. **EXTRAS:** All Homerun Hitters will receive a food coupon compliments of McDonald's. Most valuable player of each game receives a Penberthy player of the week koozie compliments of CC Creations. Rain?? In case of rain the tournament will be rescheduled for the following weekend. For more information call Tom Reber at 845-7826. * Food Services Department will have food available throughout the tournament at the Penberthy Intramural Complex.

ENTRIES OPEN: FEBRUARY 20 ENTRIES CLOSE: FEBRUARY 20

WRESTLING ENTRY FEE: Free! **CLASSES:** A - highly skilled; B - moderately skilled. **WEIGH-IN:** Mandatory weigh-in on Monday, March 6, between 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm in 173 Read Building. **MATCH TIMES:** Will be posted in the Recreational Sports Office the day following weigh-ins. **TOURNAMENT:** Single Elimination. **RULES:** NCAA. **WEIGHT CLASSES:** Upper Limit 118, 126, 134, 142, 150, 158, 167, 177, 190, unlimited. **AWARDS:** Class A - All University T-Shirt; Class B - certificate; no team awards. ** Each match will consist of two one-minute periods. ** Anyone who has won a weight class during the previous year may wrestle in Class A. ** Anyone who has wrestled in the Texas A&M CoRec with in the last year is eligible. ** Participants may present a student or recreational ID at weigh-in and match time.



ENTRIES OPEN: FEBRUARY 20 ENTRIES CLOSE: MARCH 2

HORSESHOE DOUBLES PLAY BEGINS: Tuesday, March 7. **ENTRY FEE:** Free!!! **TOURNAMENT:** Class A - highly skilled; Class B - average skilled; Class C - novice. All tournaments will be single elimination. Class A Champions will receive a Championship T-Shirt and Class B and C will receive certificates. Class B CoRec Champions will receive General Motors T-Shirts. **ELIGIBILITY:** All TAMU Students, Faculty and Staff and their Spouses may play provided they meet the eligibility requirements in the intramural calendar. **LOCATION:** Horseshoe Pits are located directly north of the Penberthy Intramural Complex. **RULES:** Matches consist of the best two out of three games to 15 points. **EQUIPMENT:** Horseshoes are provided for the competition. **SCHEDULES:** Will be posted after 1 pm on Friday, March 3 on the bulletin boards outside the Recreational Sports Office. ** Any Participants who have won a class championship in the doubles may play in the next higher class in all future competition provided the team remains the same. **

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