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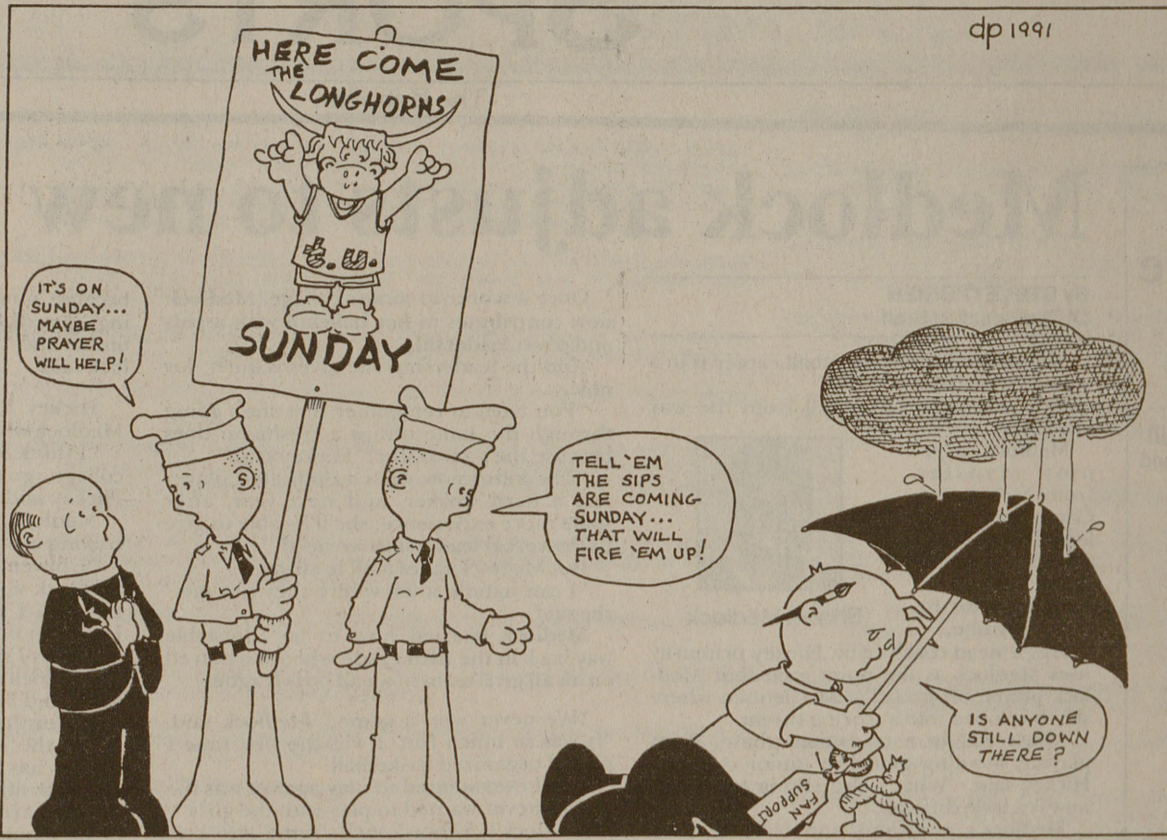
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12th Man Roundup
Netters, swimmers see action

The Texas A&M men's tennis team will open the spring season with some tough competition today at the Ryder Invitational in Miami, Fla.

The unranked Aggies face No. 12 Miami today at 12:30 in a dual match.

Saturday A&M will take on No. 9 Arizona State at 7:30 a.m. and will follow with No. 24 Clemson at 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

A&M head coach David Kent said the competition at the tournament will feature some of the Aggies' most fierce opposition all year. But Kent said he is confident A&M is ready for the challenge.

"This will be some of the toughest competition we've ever faced this early in the season," Kent said. "But we've been working on match play this semester and we had a good fall season.

"I think we're ready to tangle with these guys. Regardless, it will be a learning experience for the team."

The Texas A&M men's and women's swim teams will travel to Austin today to take on the Texas Longhorns in a dual meet. The meet will be held at 4 p.m. in the Texas Swimming Center on the UT campus.

The Aggie men, ranked No. 17 in the country, are 6-1 in dual meets and the women are 4-5. Both Longhorn teams are ranked No. 1 in the country and have identical 4-0 records.

Swim coach Mel Nash said he's looking forward to competing in the meet.

"This meet is very easy to prepare for," Nash said. "Texas has the best teams and facilities in the nation. We hope to swim some fast times since this is the same pool we will swim in during the SWC Championships."

Nash said he's been a little disappointed in the women's team but the men are doing great.

"The men are swimming well," he said. "I see us as a solid No. 3 behind Texas and SMU in the conference. I feel that right now we're where we should be."

Pils Continued from page 5

toward the endzone—they did so by crushing the quarterback before anything like that could happen.

They were Johnny "The Rock" Holland and William "Willie T" Thomas, quarterbacks turned safeties. And they each turned into two-time All-Southwest Conference linebackers.

The similarities among the three are striking and abundant.

- Size — Holland came to A&M at 6-2, 200 pounds; Thomas was 6-3, 190 pounds and Preston is 6-2, 187 pounds.
- Timing — Holland's career stretched from 1983-86, Thomas from 1987-90 and now Preston steps in for the 1991 season.
- Awards — All three were All-District selections at quarterback, while Preston is undoubtedly the most decorated of the three. Thomas was also an all-state safety.
- All were winners — Holland led his Hempstead team to a 6-3-1 record; Thomas' Palo Duro team was 25-5-1 in the three years that he played, including going 10-0 his senior year before falling in the first playoff game; Preston led Consolidated on a two-year tear through Class 4A.

After Holland was named first team All-American in 1986, he was drafted in the second round of the NFL Draft in 1987 by the Green Bay Packers. He quickly moved in to be the Packers' starting lineup. In 1989, he led the team in tackles and Thomas will assuredly follow Holland to the NFL in this year's draft.

The one difference among the three is that Preston enters A&M considered by many to be one of the finest quarterbacks in the state. But he enters a program that holds a loaded deck at the signal caller position.

Bucky Richardson returns next year for his senior season and following him is junior Kent Petty, not to mention Granger and Emerson.

Preston's passes tend to fall into the "it doesn't look very pretty, but it got there" category, much like that of Sonny Jurgensen, the old Washington Redskins' quarterback.

So Preston could find it hard to break into the lineup and settle for a move that would yield more playing time, as did Holland and Thomas.

One other coincidence about "The Rock" and "Willie T" is that both wore No. 11. Preston wore No. 14 at Consolidated, which is being vacated with the departure of wide receiver Cornelius Patterson.

I could be wrong, and Tommy Preston could become the best quarterback A&M has ever seen.

But should you ever hear, "and at outside linebacker No. 11, All-American Tommy Preston," remember you saw it here first.

Hill Continued from page 5

It is a role she said she has filled most of her athletic career.

Transferring to A&M from Blinn Jr. College last year, she feels her outspokenness is what earned her respect and put her in a leadership role.

Texas A&M Lady Aggies (4-4 in SWC) vs. Texas Lady Longhorns (6-1) Saturday 7:30 p.m. G. Rollie White Coliseum

"I speak and say what needs to be said and I am not shy about it," said Hill.

Guiding the team as leader she feels her main responsibilities are to encourage her teammates and to let them know when they are not doing their part.

She also said that most people are led by example.

"That's why I have to work hard every day in practice and not let them see me slack off, because if I slack off, that makes them think they can," said Hill.

Yvonne recognizes this intensity as the strongest point of her game, saying it keeps her and the team focused.

"Most of the time I am so intent while playing a game, that I can't hear fans yelling," Hill said. "I guess that's a good quality."

"Anytime I do something, whether it is athletics, academics or whatever, I try to be the very best and intensity is a major part of it."

Hill said she can concentrate harder when she is intense and she realizes that some nights she's not going to make all the shots.

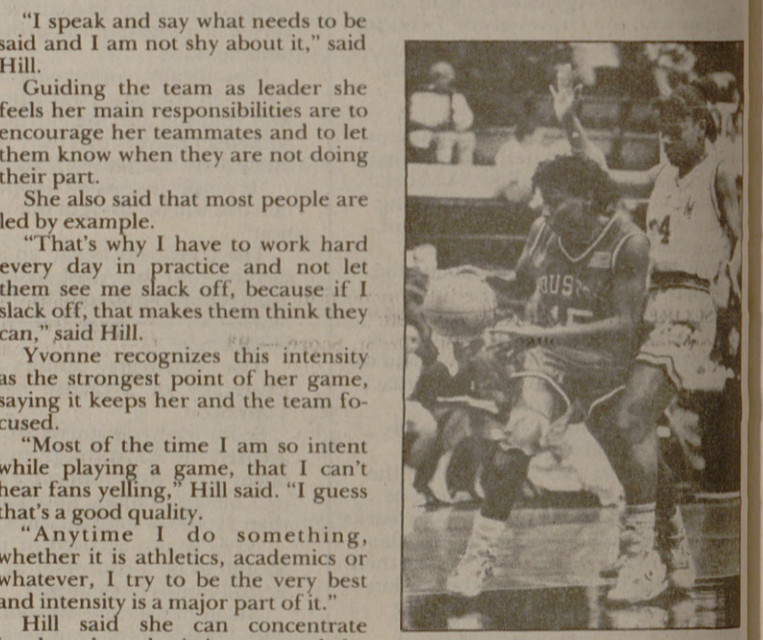
"My coach at Blinn (Wayne Williams) always said that if you don't have a good offensive night, at least you can play good defense, and I try to play good defense every single night," said Hill.

Oddly enough, she claims defense is the weakest part of her game.

"I've really been concentrating on defense these past couple of weeks," said Hill. "I'm definitely not close to being the fastest person on the team and sometimes when they give us the match ups I can tell they put me on the slowest player. So, I'm really trying to work on (my speed)."

Her devotion to basketball leaves little free time after her academic obligations are met. But, Hill said that it's not hard balancing her schoolwork and athletics, just merely a matter of getting her priorities in order.

"Most of my weekends are spent



HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion
Senior guard Yvonne Hill shows her defensive skill.

She said, "All the accolades aren't really important if the team altogether isn't doing well."

She feels the team could be doing much better as a whole, and attributes their mistakes to being a young and inexperienced team.

"We're not getting prepared enough for our games but that's one thing that is going to fall in place," said Hill. "I don't think there is really anybody in this conference we can't stand with."

"We're just through the first half and I think we are going to do a lot better this second half of conference."

If Hill and the Lady Ags continue to improve, they will have a shot to color the Southwest Conference championship maroon.

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