



Jayme Blaschke  
Sports Editor

## When will women play with men?

Why aren't there any professional women athletes?

Oh sure, there is Jennifer Capriati, Gabriella Sabatini and all the rest of the women's tennis superstars, but there aren't really any well-known female athletes outside of Wimbledon.

There's a few in golf and gymnastics, but the only other women athletes anyone is likely to recognize star on American Gladiators. Even so, it would stand to reason at least a few women would make it into the "high profile" sports.

Football is not traditionally known as a women's sport, and it's easy to understand why. Steroid use aside, most women are not physically capable of competing at the same level as most men — their bodies just aren't designed to be linebackers or fullbacks. Many women are in excellent shape, and it stands to reason they could be successful at positions where sheer physical size isn't necessary, like at wide receiver or place kicker.

Baseball's a bit harder to explain. After all, a person doesn't have to be seven feet tall and weigh 400 pounds to shag grounders. Baseball is a physical sport that demands a lot of stamina, but after watching all the pot-bellied pitchers and second stringers puffing around the diamond, one begins to wonder if the male body is that much better equipped to play the game.

Basketball doesn't have that excuse. It seems incredible that in all the years of the NBA, not one woman has ever scored a basket. Nearly every university in America has a women's basketball program, and every year a women's national champion is crowned, but no one from the championship team is ever drafted.

It can't be because women are too short. Spud Webb ruined that argument. Female basketball players hustle as hard as men, and shoot with the same percentages.

Just a few years ago, a woman by the name of Nancy Leabermann tried out for the Boston Celtics, and made the first cut. Imagine that, a woman making the first cut.

The most disappointing aspect of Leabermann's tryout is the fact she was not the most talented of women basketball players at the time. Yes, she was good, but she wasn't the best.

In any case, it probably wouldn't have made any difference how well she played. Professional sports are simply incapable at this point of integrating the sexes.

Remember the New England Patriots' locker room scandal? Imagine all the problems that would stem from co-ed locker rooms across the nation. Even Jackie Sherrill, the man who never turned down a challenge, sent home women who showed up to try out for the 12th Man. After all, separate showers would be too expensive to install.

Until men and women can learn to act like adults around one another, male-dominated sports will continue to dominate sports.

## Bellard: Still coaching after all the years

By David Leahy  
The Battalion

Former Texas A&M head football coach Emory Bellard is back doing what he has always had a desire and love for, and that's coaching football.

Bellard has been the head football coach at Westfield High School in Spring (Tx.), since 1988. In his second year as coach, he brought the school its first ever district title.

"It's really good to be coaching again," Bellard said. "I've got a great bunch of kids on this team that really give it their all."

Success isn't new to Bellard. Besides being well-known in the collegiate ranks, he is also one of the most successful high school football coaches in the history of Texas.

Prior to joining the collegiate ranks in 1966, Bellard won a total of 3 state titles and 12 district championships in his 15 years of high school coaching. His overall record is 139-34-4.

In 1976, he was voted into the Hall of Honor of the Texas High School Coaches Association.

At the age of 44, Emory Bellard was named Texas A&M head football coach and athletic director in December of 1971. In assembling his coaching staff, Bellard named a relatively unknown freshman coach from Kansas State as offensive ends coach, a man by the name of R.C. Slocum.

Bellard took over a program that had won only 13 games the previous 4 seasons, but it didn't take him long to turn the program around. After two tough seasons in which A&M went 3-8 and 5-6, Bellard led the Aggies to 4 straight winning seasons that included two 10 win seasons and three straight bowl appearances.

The Aggies posted the nation's second



Emory Bellard coached the Aggies to a 48 - 27 record from 1972 to 1978, including three consecutive bowl appearances. Bellard resigned under pressure midway through the 1978 season.

best defensive team in 1974, and the nation's best defensive team in 1975. That same year, Bellard was named The Sporting News National College Coach of the Year, as the Aggies went 10-2 and tied for the SWC Championship with Texas and Arkansas.

However, not reaching the Cotton Bowl and two successive disappointing losses to Houston and Baylor drove Bel-

lard to suddenly resigning halfway through the 1978 season.

"There was a misrepresentation of facts to me, and at that point I made the decision I didn't want to operate anymore," Bellard said. "It wasn't the players or students, but strictly administration."

Before being named head coach at A&M in 1971, Bellard served as offensive

backfield coach under Darrell Royal for 5 years at the University of Texas. It was during his years at Texas when Bellard designed what was to become the Longhorn trademark: the famous Wishbone T formation.

In May of 1975, he received the Academy of American Football's gold cup award for his role as the originator of the formation.

After leaving A&M in 1978, Bellard was named head coach at Mississippi State in 1979. In his second year as coach, he achieved one of his greatest victories ever, when his Bulldogs defeated the defending national champions Alabama, 6-3. The victory snapped the Crimson Tide's 28-game winning streak.

Bellard retired in 1985 after 7 years at Mississippi State, but discovered retirement didn't fit well.

"I was retired for three years, and it was very boring," he said. "I was so bored that I decided to get a bunch of kids together and have fun."

What Bellard will do after coaching at Westfield is anyone's guess, including Bellard's.

"I don't know what I'll do (after Westfield). I'll coach until I no longer enjoy it," he said. "I won't go into any other business. Everything is relative. Coaching is a hard job. I've never known an easy coaching job."

Bellard's intense love for the game and love for each individual member of his A&M teams was what distinguished him as an outstanding football coach. He has very fond memories of A&M.

"A&M was a great place to coach. It had good people and great support," Bellard said. "We took a program that was down and built it into a national power."

"We changed a lot of things: attendance dramatically increased, resulting in the expansion of Kyle Field," he said. "I believe in all the traditions there, but I really do miss the people."

## A&M's Trap and Skeet team shooting for the stars

By John R. Martin  
The Battalion

According to Texas A&M Trap and Skeet team member Tom Marrs, skeet shooting, like all target sports, is 98 percent mental, one percent skill and one percent luck.

"Skeet shooting requires one to be very focused, because shooting sports are very mental," Marrs said. "Hitting the target is easy. It's hitting the target consistently that makes it a sport."

The sports of trap and skeet are versions of the earlier sports Box-bird shooting and Around-the-Clock. The sports evolved from live targets to the clay targets, which are referred to as birds or pigeons.

The differences in the two sports lie in the way the contest are run. Trap shooting is a single station with a wide open shooting range. It requires quicker reflexes than skeet, and has more room for error.

On the other hand, skeet is known as the more of a social sport. It involves eight firing stations and a controlled target area.

Team member Ty Pendergrass said many people are involved in trap and skeet before they come to A&M.

"I became involved in skeet while I was working at a gun club in Amarillo," Pendergrass said. "I am fascinated with shotguns and I really enjoy the sport. I love to destroy targets."

M.J. Schult, another member, said the variety of competition makes trap and skeet challenging. "I enjoy shooting International (Olympic style contest) skeet because it is faster," Schult said. "I like the speed and the action and it is harder



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Ty Pendergrass demonstrates the skill which helped him and the Texas A&M Trap and Skeet team place at last year's national collegiate competition.

Other than the team tournaments, there are many solo tournaments at various clubs, said Vincent May.

"I like trap because of the thrill of competition," May said. "Trap shooters have an attitude they seem to be more cocky and self-centered."

"I also enjoy seeing the target smoked," he said. "I like shooting trap tour-

naments more than skeet because there is more money to be made."

The team practices at the Arrowhead Gun Club on Hwy. 6, south of College Station. The club is open to anyone who wishes to join. Although the team does not have a coach, Marrs is currently working on his certification to teach skeet shooting.

The Texas A&M Trap and Skeet team placed fifth this past April at the collegiate Nationals in Peoria, Illinois.

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