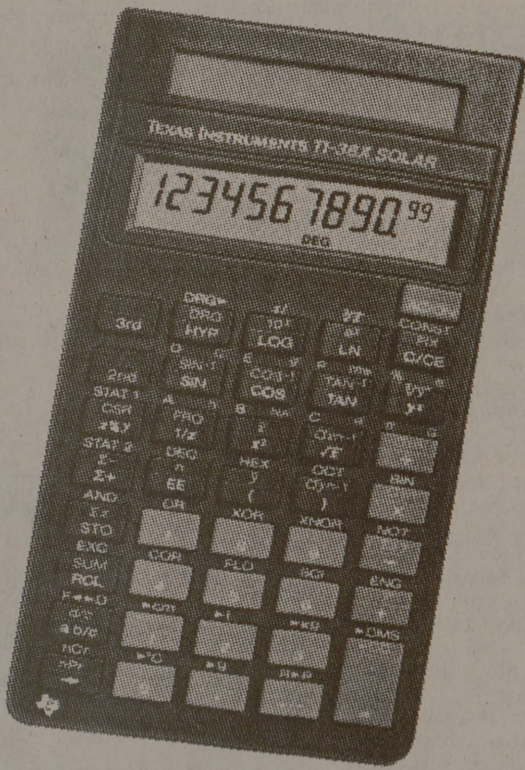
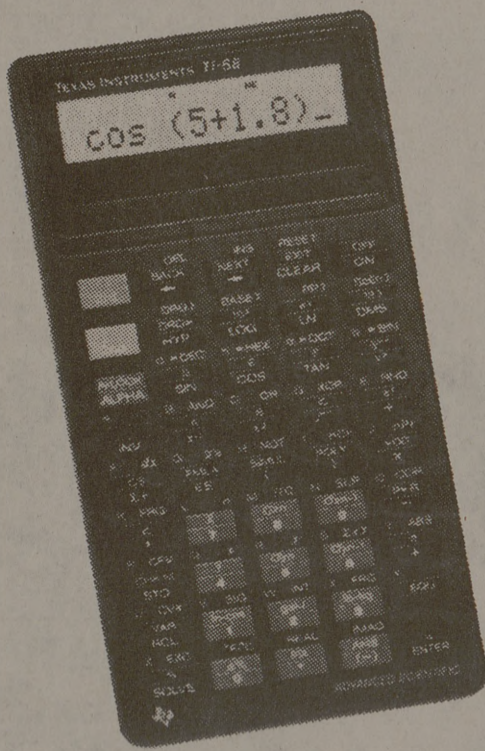
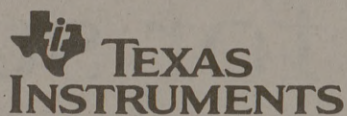


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Familiar Faces



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Volleyball players (left to right) Genny Wood, Dana Santleben, Andrea Williams and Suzy Wentle all hail from the city of San Antonio and say the area is a hotbed of high school talent.

San Antonio supplies talent for Aggies

By STEVE O'BRIEN
Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

The San Antonio River is fed by Lake Medina, located 45 miles northwest of San Antonio, and gently winds its way south toward the beaches of Matagorda Island. On its trek, the river meanders through the small Texas towns of Floresville and Goliad before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

The geography of the San Antonio River means little to Al Givens, but it's a safe bet he knows all about the river of talent that flows out of the Lone Star State's third largest city.

Lately, the current has been flowing his way. Givens, Texas A&M's head volleyball coach, has four players on this year's squad from San Antonio, including three freshmen and one junior.

Givens has tapped into one of four major recruiting areas in the state for volleyball players, and he hopes it means continued success for the Lady Aggies, who finished last season 18-16.

"There are certain pockets in the state that consistently produce great talent," Givens said. "The Houston area, the San Antonio area, the Dallas area and

the Austin area. They all produce great players, and if you can get players from all those areas you can be successful.

"We have players from all those parts of the state. It just so happens that we have a large group from the San Antonio area."

The four players from San Antonio are freshmen Dana Santleben, Suzy Wentle, Andrea Williams and junior Genny Wood.

Santleben, Wentle and Wood all went to Clark High School, while Williams attended Churchill.

Santleben was named to Volleyball Monthly's Fab 50 and was a three-time All-District performer. Wentle was named Volleyball Monthly Second Team All-American and was a Fab 50 recruit.

Williams was named All-District three years and All-City once in 1990.

Wood, a co-captain and returning starter on this year's team, was the San Antonio Player of the Year while in high school. She said her hometown is full of good volleyball players for a number of reasons.

"I think the main thing is that San Antonio has good volleyball programs in a lot of the high schools, and we had a real strong program at our high school," Wood said. "There's also a very competitive club league."

"It's just a really big place to play volleyball." When Wood was a senior at Clark, Santleben and Wentle were

on the varsity squad as sophomores and all three became friends then.

Now, three years later, they are playing together again.

"I've known them for quite some time," Wood said. "I think Dana and Suzy and all the freshmen are adjusting to college play really well. Our team as a whole is really good with bringing in freshman and accepting them."

Santleben, who has been playing with Wentle since the sixth grade, said the reason why San Antonio has a large number of good volleyball players is simple.

"For us at Clark, we had great coaches," Santleben said. "Our team jelled together really well and went to state two years in a row."

"The off-season city leagues are great."

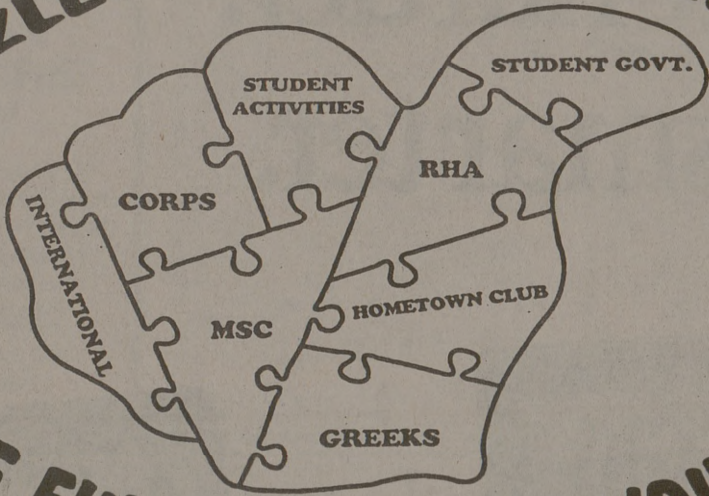
Williams, who competed against Clark when she was at Churchill, said the adjustment to college volleyball has been difficult at times, even with her San Antonio roots.

"It really is a different style of play," Williams said. "The game is so much faster in college. I'm adjusting quickly but I'm not there yet—I think it shows."

"Right now, I'm not really thinking about how much I'm going to play. Coach has said we've got a lot of talent on this team and it could go a lot of different ways."

Even if the young San Antonio players take a while to adjust, Givens will likely want the talent river to keep flowing in the direction of College Station.

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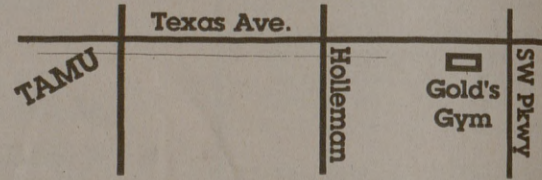
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