

Powerlifters aim for national title

□ The A&M Powerlifting team is trying to restore the glory that they have attained in the past.

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

After 33 years and three national championships, the Texas A&M Powerlifting Team is still working to be recognized on campus. But under the new leadership of president Dean Yamada and vice-president Thomas Conlon, the team now spends its time working with the weight of student involvement.

"We're starting to get some support from student activities," Conlon, who also serves as the team's head coach, said. "We're now in the process of moving under Recreational Sports."

Yamada and Conlon took over the team last year and have spent most of their time trying to improve it. They immediately held elections for officers and started recruiting for the team.

"We went around to different high schools all over the state," Conlon said. "Powerlifting is more popular in high school than it is in college. We talked to the powerlifting and football teams and told them what we were planning to do."

The recruiting paid off as the team's roster improved from seven to 28 members.

"I got involved in powerlifting in high school and did very well," freshman Curtis Young said. "I wanted to powerlift in college. I went to look at Louisiana Tech, they have a real good program over there. Then, (Yamada and Conlon) showed me that Texas A&M was coming along. I'm glad I chose to come here."

The powerlifting team is also pleased with Young's decision. In the two meets Texas A&M has entered this year, Young has won both in his weight class.

In powerlifting meets, each individual competes in the squat, bench press and dead lift. The totals of the three events are then added up for the individual's score. Individuals compete only in their weight divisions.

"I run all the practices," Conlon said. "I work with the guys on their techniques and forms. Also, a lot of the guys on the team have never lifted before and joined the team to get physical fit. So I give them powerlifting training and nutritional tips. We have five practices a week."

Those practices paid off on Nov. 4 when the team brought home the Texas Powerlifting Championship. It was the first time the team had won the title in ten years.

The team's next meet will be in Austin at the Longhorn Invitational on Dec. 2, the same day the Aggies and Longhorns are scheduled to meet on Kyle



Photo Courtesy of Thomas Conlon, THE BATTALION

Members of the Texas A&M Powerlifting Team pose with their trophies that they won at the 1995 State Championships in Seguin on Nov. 4.

Field. "Hopefully, we will be able to kick butt at two places at the same time," Conlon said.

But the meet that Conlon cannot wait for is the national championship in March at Ft. Hood.

Last year, the Aggies placed fourth in the nation. Texas

A&M has won the national title in powerlifting in 1975, 1977 and 1983.

"Powerlifting was really popular at A&M during the 70s," Conlon said. "It kind of died off during the 80s. This year is the best chance we have had in 15 years of winning a national championship."

Maryland governor OKs Browns' move

□ Delegate Robert Flanagan thinks that the state is giving away too much in the deal.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Despite worries that Maryland is offering too much to lure the Cleveland Browns, Gov. Parris Glendening and the state Board of Public Works today gave formal approval to a deal aimed at getting the NFL team for Baltimore.

Signing off on an agreement reached between the Maryland Stadium Authority and Browns owner Art Modell on Oct. 27, the three-member oversight board, which is chaired by Glendening, unanimously approved the deal.

If the league's other club owners go along with the move at meeting in January, today's action by the state means a 30-year lease with the Browns will immediately be put into effect.

The decision came amid rumblings that the state is giving away too much to bring the Browns to Baltimore and committing money Maryland doesn't have for a \$200 million stadium to be built in the shadow of Camden Yards, where the Baltimore Orioles play.

"They're breaking the bank on this one," said delegate Robert Flanagan, who sits on the state's House Appropriations Committee.

Flanagan told the board prior to its vote that he has serious reservations whether the state lottery games earmarked to retire stadium bonds will bring in enough each year to cover the costs. He said those games have brought in only about \$20 million a year in recent years.

The stadium project will require as much as \$35 million a year to cover debts.

The Stadium Authority deal also gives the Browns a rent-free lease, as well as up to \$75 million on the sale of personal seat licenses, which give the holder a right to buy a season ticket.

The state would also allow the Browns to keep all proceeds from parking and concessions and split with the team any money brought in through stadium events other than football games.

Glendening called criticism of the deal "erroneous," saying the economic benefits will far outweigh the costs.

"These are complicated issues," said the Democratic governor. "We're going to receive some political questions, particularly some partisan political questions."

Nashville Mayor meets with Adams

□ Mayor Bredesen went to Houston to discuss the details of the deal with Bud Adams.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Mayor Phil Bredesen flew to Houston this morning to talk with Houston Oilers owner Bud Adams about the details of a 50-page agreement to move the NFL team to Tennessee.

"He had a lengthy conversation on the phone with Mr. Adams last night and decided he'd fly out to Houston this morning," mayor's spokeswoman Tam Gordon said.

Neither she nor Oilers spokesman Dave Pearson knew the details of the conversation, or what the mayor would discuss with him today.

"They're obviously reviewing the project agreement," Pearson said today. "Whether it will be formally executed I can't tell you."

Adams postponed Monday's scheduled signing of the document, which lays out details of the city's \$292 million plan to relocate the Oilers and build them a stadium.

Bredesen, who flew with negotiators Byron Trauger and Dennis Bottorff, was expected to return to Nashville this afternoon.

The day before, Bredesen

shopped in Memphis for support of his plan to woo the Oilers.

"I'm not trying to say it's just as good for Memphis as it is for Nashville ... I genuinely believe it's very good for the state of Tennessee and for the other cities in the state of Tennessee," Bredesen said Tuesday.

"And certainly, as the other major city in the state of Tennessee, I think Memphis stands to benefit."

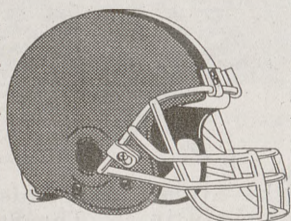
His proposal would bring the Oilers to Nashville in 1998. The team has two years left on its stadium deal in Houston, but might be able to get out of it early, he said.

"If the team comes early, and I think there's a chance they would want to, their preference would be to try to find someplace to play (in Memphis)," he said.

No agreement will be final, he said, until the Oilers sign a lease on a Nashville stadium. That could take place next March.

"There are lots of ways for both parties to get out between now and the time the formal lease is signed," he said.

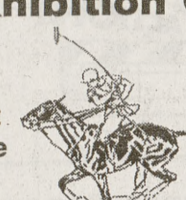
The proposal, including a new stadium, would cost more than \$290 million. It would be funded primarily through a bond issue and the sale of luxury seats and the rights to buy season tickets. The city council in Nashville and the state Legislature must give their approval.



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