

A&M lacrosse to host Texas

By LARA L. ZUEHLKE
THE BATTALION

The Aggies vs. the Longhorns — a longstanding rivalry in both schools' histories. The legacy began on the football field, but now the competition extends into other sports.

The Texas A&M Men's Lacrosse Club Team members will put their heart and soul on the line as they square off against the Longhorns at the Zachry Field Saturday.

Both teams are undefeated and boast a 9-0 record in the Southwest Lacrosse Association league, setting the stage for a heated contest.

Senior club president Jay McCracken said Saturday's showdown will be one of intense competition.

"There's a huge rivalry between the two teams, just like with other sports," McCracken said. "They've been our nemesis the last two years. I think it's going to be a really exciting game

"This is one of the better teams we've had and has a lot of cohesiveness."

Tony Scazzero
Lacrosse coach

because there is a lot of pride involved." McCracken said A&M has had problems overcoming the tough Texas squad, but Saturday they will look for revenge.

"Both teams really come out and play hard and put everything on the line," McCracken said. "They are one of the two (conference) teams that have beaten us at home in the last five years. They have a lot of very talented players, but we play more as a team. Our philosophy is to play team ball."

Senior club secretary Todd Hendricks said A&M hopes to elevate their level of play after losing 15-5 in a recent non-conference game against the University of Illinois.

"Losing to Illinois showed us that we have more work to do this week," Hendricks said. "We haven't lost any games lately, but we realize that we didn't like losing to them. Now maybe we'll be more focused and play at the level we're used to playing at."

The A&M squad is aided by Coach Tony Scazzero, who was an All-American lacrosse player at Cornell University.

Scazzero, who has been volunteering with the A&M team since 1978, said he is confident the Aggies can beat their foe.

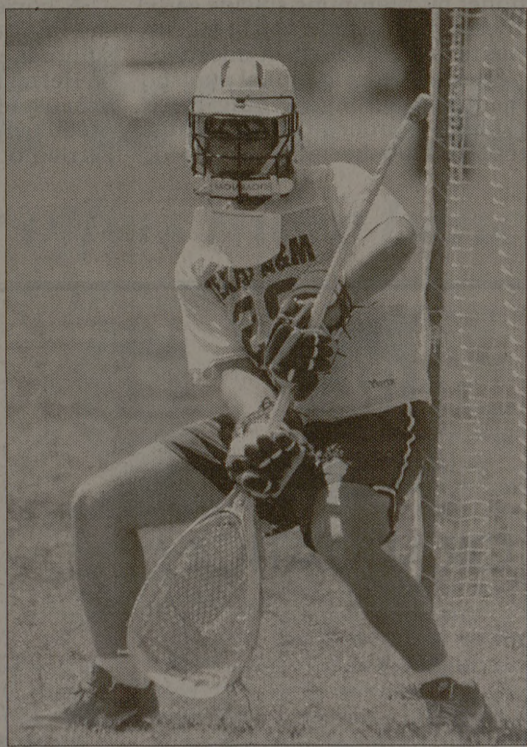
"This is one of the better teams we've had, and [it] has a lot of cohesiveness," Scazzero said. "The last few years Texas has had more athletic skill than anyone else, but Saturday's game should be a good game."

"This A&M team lost by one goal in the championships to Texas last year. We've been creeping up and becoming a better team, though."

The Aggie team, an affiliate of the Recreational Sports Club Program, began in 1971.

McCracken said the club has an open membership and is always looking for new players.

He said lacrosse is increasing in popularity, but has not become a competitive varsity sport



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

Senior goaltender **Todd Hendricks** blocks a shot against the University of Illinois last Friday.

in Texas colleges and universities.

"In the last five or six years the high school programs in Texas have picked up, and they are now starting to feed the college (club) teams," McCracken said. "We'd love to see lacrosse become a varsity sport here at A&M, but I think the game needs to develop a little more."

McCracken encourages everyone to come out and support the A&M squad. The contest will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday.



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

Senior president **Jay McCracken** (#25) is knocked down by an Illinois defender last Friday.

BROWN

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His mental maturity is much more expected than the maturity in his golf game, especially considering he did not take up golf until his sophomore year of high school.

He went on to earn All-State honors as a sophomore and junior. However, his golf career was able to start only after he gave up his first love — soccer.

"Basically, it was one of those things where I had played soccer my whole life and needed something to do besides play soccer because I was getting burnt out," Brown said. "That's when I picked up golf. My dad encouraged me to play golf if soccer wasn't what it was to me at one point."

Brown's dad, Jeff Sr., was his soccer coach and also played golf while

in the service.

Brown credits his late start as a major reason for his success.

"I started late," he said. "I was under instruction more so than some guys because I was just beginning. I didn't go out and pick up some bad habits playing by myself; I spent more time with my teacher."

The change in sports has been good for Brown and the golf team.

"He's been a tremendous asset," Ellis said. "He's been very much a leader. He has a lot of integrity. The players all look up to him and he gets more out of his golf game than almost anyone I've ever seen. He doesn't have tremendous length, he doesn't have just tremendous iron play, he doesn't have tremendous sand play. He's just very solid in all areas. He gets a lot out of his game — thinks his way around the golf course very well."

REED

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Although Reed struggled at times, he says having the year off provided him a chance to adjust to his new surroundings.

"I think it helped me a lot that I was redshirted," Reed said. "It's hard to adjust from high school to college golf, and I don't think I was ready to play college golf then. Now I put forth more effort because I can actually play and help the team out."

Reed comes from a family of golfers. He first began playing as an eight-year-old with the encouragement of his grandfather. Reed's younger brother and sister both play the game back home in Idaho.

"If it weren't for my grandfa-

ther, I wouldn't be at A&M today," Reed said. "He is a huge inspiration to me, along with my parents."

Reed dominated the golfing circuit in Idaho before coming to A&M. He has numerous championships under his belt, including the Idaho State high school title and eight prep tournament titles, and has won the Idaho Golf Association Junior Americas Cup.

Reed's past accomplishments and success from this season leave his future looking bright. But as far as Reed is concerned, the team weighs first on his mind.

"When someone plays well, it fires up the other team members," Reed said. "I just want to keep getting better so I can help the team."

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