

Third time's a Charm

Aggie Polo Team achieves three-peat while overcoming financial difficulty

By JEFF WEBB
Sports editor

When the Polo Club Team practices at Dick Freeman Arena on Thursday nights, one might get the wrong impression by looking at the few BMWs or a Mercedes-Benz sitting in the parking lot. The majority of the club members aren't independently wealthy and do not jaunt off to the country club to play tennis on the weekends. They are hard-nosed players who had to fight for their third consecutive National Championship — and the funds to get there.

The men's team took home their Championship trophy this year after a marvelous run in the tournament in which they beat No. 1 University of Virginia 24-21 in the final game. Virginia was the same team that beat the Aggies in the Ben Snow Tournament in Ithaca, N.Y., earlier in the year when Texas A&M was ranked No. 2 in the country.

Texas A&M Polo has established a tradition of excellence ever since it was established in 1934 by Colonel Farber. It died when many Aggies were called off the fight in World War II, but was resurrected in 1971 and now stands as one of the older Polo Clubs in the nation.

The women's team took home the national trophy in the 94-95 season. The men last suffered defeat in the tournament four years ago when they lost by two goals to those same Virginia Cavaliers in the championship game.

The most intriguing fact about their amazing title run has been the economics involved in financing the venture. Aside from a small subsidy from the Department of Recreational Sports, the club must provide the approximately \$33,000 required to run itself. Money comes from club fees and fundraisers, which are required by the Department.

"It's tough because it's a real expensive sport," said Kevin Coventry, a Zambia native who also happens to be the United States Polo Association National Player of the Year. "The club is barely keeping its head above water. Rec Sports has a lot of clubs to look after."

Beverly Cooper and Abi Able garnered regional All-Star honors this year for the women's team, and Cooper said that many members of the club have jobs to pay for club membership fees.

"Most of us out here are not rich and don't come from rich families," Cooper said. "We work to pay our dues and pay for our horses. We do it out of the love of the horses and the love of competition."



The Polo National Champions include (from left to right) Daren Tamplin, Kevin Coventry, Mark Coventry and Adair Seager (not pictured). The team beat Virginia 24-21 in the championship game.

The competition Cooper refers to is becoming tougher every year. The women lost to Colorado State University in the tournament by a count of 15-12 and lost a player to a broken elbow in the first minute of the match.

Some of their opponents, like Cornell University and Virginia, have endowments to help finance their teams. Virginia has a \$1 million endowment that allows them to keep a large stable of horses and an office along with their own playing field.

The men's polo team relies on volunteer Coach David Barrons and Jesse Upchurch, who lets the players use his field in Burleson to practice on during the weekends.

Members of the team must pay a \$150 fee to join and returning members have to fork over \$250 for the ride. The price sounds high, but keeping a horse is no cheap endeavor. The Polo Team currently has 32 members, some of whom had never even been on a horse before they joined.

Close to \$3,000 of the money the team uses comes from Rec Sports. Each club sport team is allowed to request no more than that and must make a presentation to the Executive Sport Club Committee which is

made of other club sport members. Jonathan Rye, a student assistant to the sport club director, said that the drain of all 26 clubs puts a limit on what each team can request.

"The money that we give them is mainly for travel," he said. "Each club has to do fundraising activities. Probably 75 percent of their money comes from fundraising."

The Polo Club has a fundraiser planned for April 19 at the Houston Polo Club. The Aggies will take on the University of Texas and the proceeds of the event, which will also include a barbecue afterwards, will be split with the Longhorns.

Next year looks bright for A&M despite losing reigning Player of the Year Coventry. His brother, Mark Coventry, returns and a bumper crop of recruits will be joining the squad next year. Craig Frazier, another Zambia product, will come to A&M and José Antonio Piedra is an outstanding recruit from Columbia.

One thing is certain. The Aggies will have the talent to go to the championship game next season, but the remaining question is whether they will have the money for a ticket to get there.

ROOMMATES

Roommates needed for Summer. 3bdrm/2bath, \$250/mo. bills included. Jennifer, 694-8528.

2bdrm/1bath duplex, on shuttle route, fenced yard, pets ok, non-smoker preferred, \$195/mo. Call Mobile Mechanic 693-0726, 255-3000.

Roommate needed for summer. \$200/mo. Bryan Call 778-8416.

Roommate needed for summer. 2bdrm/1bath, Non-smoker. \$280/mo. +1/2utilities. Jennifer, 823-7888.

Roommate needed. 1st summer session. Furnished. Bryan home. \$200/mo. 778-8416.

Roommate needed. 3bdrm/2bath house. \$240/mo. Walk to campus. 693-0870.

Roommate needed. Fall/Spring '98-'99. Rent \$100. +1/2utilities. Quiet area. 823-7305.

Roommate needed. Summer. Non-smoker. \$150/mo. +1/2utilities. Close to campus. Tonya, 696-9898.

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Roommate needed for summer. Preferably for the summer. Please call 260-2728.

Roommate needed. Fall. \$137.50/mo. +utilities. 2bdrm/2bath. On bus-rt. 696-8542.

Roommates needed. Summer or longer. 2bdrm/2bath. W/D, walking distance to campus. 260-9800.

Roommate wanted. Move in anytime in May. \$281/mo. +1/3 utilities. Brook, 694-1056.

Roommate. 2bdrm/11/2bath apartment. \$100 plus 1/2 utilities. For summer. 694-1056.

Roommate needed. 2bdrm/1bath house, huge yard, pets ok. \$175/mo. +1/2utilities. End of May. 778-8086.

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Roommate needed for May. 2bdrm/11/2bath duplex. \$275/mo. 693-9134.

Roommate needed to share furnished 2bdrm/2bath house. Summer. \$357/mo. +1/2utilities. Call Wendy 696-1559.

Roommate needed. 3bdrm/2bath house. Close to bus, w/d, summer. \$250/mo. Dan, 268-2668.

Roommate wanted for Fall. Please call 693-9432.

ROOMMATES

Roommate needed. M/F. Summer. 2bdrm/11/2bath. Non-smoker. \$282.50/mo. +1/2deposit. Erin, 693-0687.

Roommate needed. Share furnished 2bdrm/11/2bath 4-plex. Summer. \$280/mo. +1/2bills. Katherine, 764-0655.

Roommates needed. M/F. Summer. 4bdrm/2bath. \$250/mo. +utilities. 1/2-acre backyard. 1-mile from campus. Max. 847-4903.

Summer. M/F. Roommates needed. \$200/mo. +shared utilities. 3bdrm/2bath house, furnished, w/d, on bus route. Eric, 694-8782.

Summer. M/F. 2bdrm/1bath. \$212/mo. Free utilities. Near campus. Seamas, 846-2433.

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You Have An ALLY

The individuals listed below are some of the 200 ALLIES throughout the Texas A&M University campus. Each ALLY has attended a voluntary training seminar, has resource information available, and has pledged to provide a "safe haven", a listening ear, and support for the gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the A&M community. All ALLIES can be identified by the ALLY placard posted in or near their offices or residence hall rooms.

Paige M. Abshire Student Life C-1 Hart	Becki Elkins-Nesheim Student Life 213 YMCA	Kim Novak Student Judicial Services 201 YMCA	Denise Ramos d0r2035@unix.tamu.edu
Laura Bettor Student Counseling Henderson Hall	Rev. Kathleen Ellis UUC Minister 696-5285	Brent Paterson Student Life 317 YMCA	Jerry D. Smith Jr. Resident Advisor 109 McInnis
Christina Maria Bloem cmb5158@unix.tamu.edu	Tracey Forman Student Life 211A YMCA	Jelinda Pepper RPTS 354 Francis	Rachelle Taylor Residence Life 128 Keathley Hall
Susan A. Bloomfield Health & Kinesiology 276-E Read Bldg.	Aimee Gheen Student Life Orientation 312 YMCA	Becky Pettit Diversity Ed. in Res. Life, B-1 Lounge, Northside	Shaun Travers Student Judicial Services 201F YMCA
Rick Brenneman Animal Genetics 422-A Kleberg	Ann C. Goodman Student Life 320 YMCA	Peggy C. Philpot MSC 223-F MSC	Eric W. Trekell Academic Enhancement 529 Blocker
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Kevin Carreathers Multicultural Services 137 MSC	Judy Priddy Haw Academic Enhancement 529 Blocker	Teresa Rothausen Management 418-F Wehner	Glen Vigus Architecture 416F Langford
Kristina Diecidue Student Counseling Henderson Hall	Kerry Hope Student Counseling Henderson Hall	Lori Salter Student Activities 125 Koldus	Jess Wade Vocal Music Lower Level, MSC
Penny Ditton MSC Student Programs 216M MSC	Anthony L. Lewis Resident Advisor 113 Keathley Hall	Emily Santiago Multicultural Services 137 MSC	Marc Wade Resident Advisor 149 Aston
Stephen Dunn Student Activities 125 Koldus	Carrie Misak purpleturtle@tamu.edu	Carolyn Sandoval Student Activities 125 Koldus	Cedric Wesley Student Life 311 YMCA Building
	Jason L. Moore jlm@labs.tamu.edu	Kristin Sayre Student Life 317 YMCA	Nancy J. White Construction Sci. 436A Langford
	John Moore johnboy@tamu.edu	Sheri Schmidt Multicultural Services 147 MSC	Jan Winniford Ofc. of the V.P. for Student Affairs 10th Floor, Rudder Tower
	Mary Ann Moore Student Counseling Henderson Hall		



If you are interested in becoming an ALLY, training seminars are held three times each semester. The next seminar will be offered in the Fall '98 Semester. To learn more about the Texas A&M ALLIES program, please send email to becki@stulife2.tamu.edu, or call Gender Issues Education Services at 845-1107.

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Summer 1998

Fall 1998

Please check box to indicate semester(s) for which you are applying.

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Major:	If you have another job, what is it?
Classification:	How many hours per week?
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Please check the position(s) for which you are interested in applying. If you are interested in more than one position, number them in order of preference with 1 being your top choice.

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- 1) Why do you want to work at *The Battalion*, and what do you hope to accomplish?
- 2) What experience do you have that relates to the position you are applying for? (include classes, seminars)
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Please attach a resume and samples of your work (stories you have written for publications or classes, pages you have designed, photos, drawings, or other creative samples)

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