

# SPORTS

## Sports campers invade A&M

Aggie coaches, facilities provide college atmosphere for athletes

BY RUTH STEPHENS  
The Battalion

Although most NCAA sports have ended for the semester, the Texas A&M Athletic Department is still hopping as many Aggie sports programs are hosting athletic camps for non-college students.

These camps generally range in length from three to five days and host campers from ages eight to 18.

Campers have the option to commute to practice each day or stay overnight in campus residence halls. Overnight campers usually stay in Cain Hall, where they also eat most of their meals.

Several of these camps have long and successful histories. This summer marks the tennis camp's 22nd year, and A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson started the Aggie Baseball Camp 15 years ago.

Thousands of kids come from all over Texas to the athletic camps each summer, braving the heat to learn from the coaches and athletes at A&M.

At almost any athletic facility on campus, hundreds of campers can be found running, hitting, swimming, kicking or putting.

Swarms of campers in cleats and shin guards crowd soccer fields. Screams, music and directions from coaches blare out from the \$4 million A&M Varsity Tennis Center as campers play on any of 12 courts or relax in the lounge or training rooms.

When rain makes the fields too wet to use, coaches and camp directors arrange alternate sites and drills for campers. Between storms Thursday night, baseball campers practiced their swings in the Olsen Field parking lot, and Friday they practiced in the Student Recreation Center.

For female athletes, A&M offers softball and volleyball camps, while boys can attend golf, baseball or football sessions. Sessions for both boys and girls are offered for the track and field, tennis, swimming, soccer and weightlifting program.

Rosemary Montgomery of Ennis, Texas, brought her nine-year-old son, Weston, to Col-



Catherine Wade, a high-school junior from Midland, runs through a diving drill under the watchful eye of head goalie coach David Bucciero, a student at Texas Tech University.

lege Station for the Aggie Baseball Camp.

"We have a group of four boys that came from Ennis," Montgomery said. "He (Weston) wants to come to school here, so we thought it was a good way to get started."

The boys attending the baseball camp, ages nine to 10, said they were enjoying the camp, even with all the weather problems.

"Camp is great," Kelby Grohann of Weinar, Texas, said. "I've learned all about hitting, throwing and catching."

Ritchie Biggs of College Station agreed. "I just like coming because it's fun," he said.

Like most of the camps, baseball sessions are directed by an A&M coach who is assisted by top coaches from around the state.

John Adair of Athens High School, one of the many coaches at the baseball camp, said he enjoyed working with the campers at A&M.

"This camp has been excellent and well-organized," he said. "It's been a lot of fun, and it helps us as coaches, too."

Several more camp sessions will begin this Sunday, including basketball, golf and swimming. The A&M Sports Information Department can provide more information about each camp.

## Rec Sports offers summer athletics

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

Although many students have gone home for the summer, Texas A&M University's Intramural Program offers a chance to compete for those who have not.

Michael G. Waldron, associate director of the Department of Recreational Sports, said there are many ways students can get involved.

Rec Sports offers students the opportunity to join team sports, such as 3-on-3 basketball, half-court indoor soccer, sand volleyball and softball. Individual sports such as golf, racquetball and tennis also are being offered.

Competition for the first summer session is wrapping up this week, but second-session registration for all sports will be available July 5.

During the fall and spring semesters, the number of teams participating in a given sport can range from 200 to 400 teams. But because of class schedules and lower enrollment in the summer, participation during the summer sessions is smaller, Waldron said.

"In the summer it's a whole different beast because students are in class every day," he said. "Trying to make any time for anything outside of the textbook, if you're taking more than one class, is tough in the summer, but we're running some-

where in the vicinity of about 20 teams or so in a sport."

Teams participating during the summer play the same number of games as those participating in the fall and spring.

"They play three league games, and they play single elimination playoffs, but it's over a more compressed period of time," Waldron said.

Playing a sport is not the only way to participate in intramurals. Rec Sports also hires students to serve as officials for games. New workers take part in a two-week, paid training course where they learn how to officiate.

"The training program we offer here at A&M is one of the most extensive, if not the most extensive, in the country," Waldron said.

Anyone interested in playing intramural sports can sign up at the Member Services Desk in the Student Recreation Center. If a student would like to play on a team sport but does not have a team already formed, he or she can be placed on a team by the intramural staff. Students must present a student ID and may have to pay a fee.

Fees for team sports range from \$20 to \$30 per team. Most individual sports are free of charge, but a tournament fee of \$5 dollars may be required.

Registrations for all team sports must be turned in by July 10. Individual sport registrations need to be turned in by July 11.

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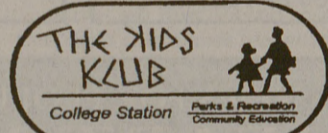
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