



Sport Clubs RECOrd

Player Spotlight: Colin Feik (Sailing)

Q: How long have you been sailing? How did you get your start?

A: I grew up sailing with my dad on Lake Worth just northwest of Fort Worth starting around age 8. It wasn't until I was 12 that I began competing on my own, but I raced throughout high school in various competitions across the state, as well as, a few national level events.

Q: What has been your favorite part of being on the Texas A&M Sailing team?

A: Being on the team here has been fantastic. I think my favorite part has been teaching fellow students how to sail; I really enjoy spreading the sport of sailing to new people. We are self coached and no experience is needed to join the team. I have sailed in 4 national championships while here at A&M. Jenny Bender '13 has been my crew (teammate) in the last two. She had never been sailing before she came to college! The other half of our team at those competitions was Bob Long '12 and Travis James '13. Travis had never sailed before college like Jenny, and Bob had very little racing experience though he had sailed quite a bit.

Q: What has sailing taught you over the years?

A: I have learned a lot through sailing, like any sport, hard work and dedication are the keys to success, but I learned much more as the president of the team my sophomore and junior years. The Sport Clubs program really taught me how to be a better leader, as well as, a lot of other professional skills.

Q: Do you have any personal accomplishments? Academic or athletic?

A: As I said earlier, I have sailed in four national championships; we were one of the only teams without a coach to qualify for most of those championships. To qualify for nationals meant we were one of the top teams in our conference championships. Texas A&M Galveston has a varsity program and coach and they have won most of the conference championships in recent years. We beat them to win the conference match racing championship last year. That was the team's first conference championship is several years (about 10.) This semester I was selected to the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association All-Academic second team, ICSA is the national governing body for collegiate sailing. They chose nine first team members and ten second team members from across the country. Academically I am a National Merit Scholar Finalist, President's Endowed Scholar, and Von Gonten Scholar.



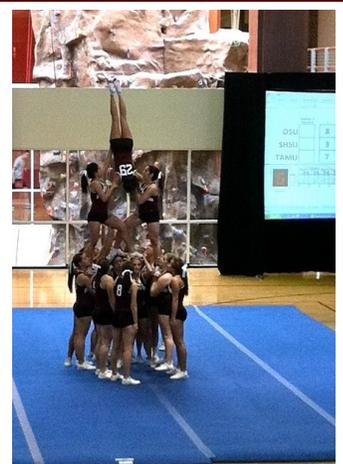
Q: If you could play any other sport what would it be and why?

A: I am a pretty big soccer fan. I played high school soccer, and now enjoy competing in intramural sports. I considered trying out for the club soccer team, but I knew I wouldn't have the time to commit to it and sailing.

Getting to Know Competition Squad

The Texas A&M Competition Squad was officially founded and became a part of the Sport Clubs Association in 2009. The team initially began in 2001 as an "All-star" team called Texas AgElite, but had no affiliation with Texas A&M or wore any official logos. Every Fall, over 40 participants try out for the squad, and roughly 20 participants are selected to be on the squad and this includes officers. The squad competes in the National Cheerleaders Association Collegiate National Championships in Daytona, Florida and a several other state wide USA STUNT tournaments. In STUNT competitions, the squad competes by performing cheerleading acts that focus on the technical and athletic components of cheer including several highflying stunts.

Aside from competition, the squad participates in Big Event as a group every year. The squad does hold Mini Cheer Clinics for minors, and does Read Arena Clean-Ups to fundraise their trip to nationals in Florida. Amy Benavides, the Competition Squad President, is looking forward to, "Winning Nationals in Daytona and receive our National Collegiate Championship Diamond Rings!"



Sport Club Association Meeting Feb. 4th @ 6:30pm in SRC 281. Be There!

For More Upcoming Events go to: http://recsports.tamu.edu/programs/sport_clubs/events.stm

Mastering Success



Name: Brandon Bush
Major: M.Sc. Geophysics

What Inspired you to pursue your graduate degree?

After I graduated from Colorado School of Mines with a B.Sc. in Geophysical Engineering, I worked for a directional drilling company based in Houston spending days to weeks out on rig locations in the "middle of nowhere USA." I quickly learned that my career had a much lower ceiling if I stayed in my current position, so I decided to return to school to pursue a Master's degree in Geophysics.

What has been the most rewarding experience as a graduate student?

Graduate school itself would be my most rewarding experience as a graduate student. As a graduate student I take less classes and with writing a thesis and conducting research there is more emphasis on expanding your knowledge how you want to and not just how your instructors want. The ability to truly direct your work based on your interests is a great reward.

How was playing a sport impacted your graduate experience?

Graduate school can feel more like a 8-12 hour day job rather than being an undergraduate. This means blowing off steam is very crucial. Playing handball several nights a week allows me to separate myself from my work and recharge my batteries for the next day.

Men's Rugby Sweeping the Nation

The 2012 season has started off great for the A&M rugby team. They began the fall semester by participating in many Collegiate Rugby Sevens Tournaments. This is a variant of the typical rugby game in which teams are made up of seven players, instead of the usual 15, with shorter matches. Sevens is one of the most well distributed forms of rugby, and is popular in parts of Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and especially in the South Pacific. It is now even recognized as an Olympic sport and will make its debut in the 2016 games. Sevens is played under substantially the same rules and on a field of the same dimensions as the 15-player game. While a normal rugby union match lasts at least 80 minutes, a normal sevens match consists of two halves of seven minutes with a one-minute half-time break. They have competed in four tournaments so far: Allied Rugby Conference North and South Tournaments, Southeastern Collegiate Rugby Conference's SEC Tournament, and the ARC Championship. The A team won every tournament and the B team won all except the ARC North Tournament. This is extremely promising for the team as they head into the USA Rugby Collegiate National Championship ranked 9th in the nation. Whoop!



Come support the Aggie Rugby Team in USA Rugby Collegiate National Championship being hosted at the Penberthy Sport Complex on Nov. 30 & Dec.1.

Last Events of the Semester

USA Rugby Collegiate National Championship
Penberthy Fields 7-10
Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 8 am-8 pm

Ice Hockey vs. Texas
Artic Wolf
November 30, 7:30pm

Handball Aggieland Classic
Rec Handball Courts 1-10
November 30 (5pm), December 1 (8:30am), December 2 (9am)

3rd Annual SCA Food Drive

Don't forget all food donations are due
Monday, Dec. 3 by 5pm!

Let's show them the Aggie Spirit by
beating last year's record of 1300 food
items donated!

