By Catherine Harper

The fields at Penberthy are starting to look a little different. Construction began on the new Penberthy Rec Sports Complex this past week and it is a very exciting time in the world of Sport Clubs. New turf fields will be installed, as well as a new building that will bring restrooms closer to the playing fields. These new turf fields will help prevent event cancellation due to rain, as there will not be the risk of tearing up the grass fields anymore. While the process to get this facility up and running has already caused a few headaches when it comes to moving equipment and making sure all the teams get practice time, it will be well worth it in the end.

“The Sport Club fields will be 140 yd x 75 yd in order to accommodate all the sports we need,” Drew McMillen, Associate Director of Sport Clubs and Intramurals, explained. The new Penberthy building will have a control room, classroom, outdoor pavilion area (to be used as a lightning shelter), showers and dressing area. Around the fields there will be sports netting to help keep balls on their field of play. Sport Clubs will have the ability to paint any lines that are needed so the fields will be available for every club. The current fields being used, fields 7 & 8 will not be used as much to help reduce the wear and tear on the fields thus increasing the quality.

By Andrew Spriggs

The first day that freshman computer science major Robert Wooley attended a Texas A&M Fencing Club practice, he was unsure (but hopeful) of what to expect. All Wooley could guess was that the collegiate club environment would be markedly different from his competitive club back home. He and one of his teammates for the fencing club’s foil team, Zachary Bartholomew, amicably dispute the value of the Southwest Intercollegiate Fencing Association (SWIFA) tournaments in which the club competes four times a year. Wooley contends that these regional tournaments provide bouts both for newer fencers to learn and for experienced fencers (like Bartholomew and himself) to challenge each other. Bartholomew counters that the foil team is undefeated at SWIFA tournaments this year, and few teams come close to challenging that dominance.

Both foilists, as well as the other members of the fencing club, know that this spring will be different as the club prepares to attend the United States Association of Collegiate Fencing Clubs (USACFC) Nationals over April 9th and 10th at the University of Chicago. In 2007, Texas A&M’s men’s epee squad placed 3rd nationally, with epeeist Patrick Moore placing 2nd individually. The question is whether the epee squad – or the squads for foil or sabre – can set new records.

Again the two foilists amicably dispute. Wooley, as from the beginning, is unsure (but hopeful) of what to expect. Bartholomew, while conceding the fiercer level of competition at the national level, expresses greater certainty that the club will do well.
By Christopher Parker

The 19th ranked Texas A&M Men's Rugby team got off to a flying start in the inaugural Collegiate Premiere League (CPL) this past weekend. Around 300 fans braved the gusty day and witnessed the ranked Aggies beat (22) Oklahoma 28-18. A&M started off well, taking a 23-8 halftime advantage, but the start was aided by a strong wind, against which they'd have to defend in the second half.

“It was very windy so the wind definitely played a big part,” said Aggie coach Craig Coates. “They had the use of the wind in the second half to score another couple of tries, but luckily we were able to score a try in that second half and hold on. It was very hard working through that wind.” Oklahoma had one of their best teams in recent years, and shouldn’t do so without some recognition. We will feature each of these seniors in the next 3 newsletters.

Calli Blaschke has been a supervisor since her freshman year. “[The job] gave me a chance to work with sport clubs at a job that was conveniently located on campus and could work around [my] class and [my] powerlifting practice,” she said. She is currently getting ready for an internship at BCS Hearth this coming summer and plans on graduating in August. Her ultimate goal is to go to PTA school or physical therapy school.

Most Embarrassing Moment: “My junior year in high school I was running the 200m dash at the district track meet. With fifty meters left in the dash I tripped and fell, got up, tripped and fell again, got up and somehow made it to the finish line. I somehow managed to still beat 4 people so the humiliation could have ended there, but besides the fact that my hands, arm, shins and knees looked like I had been sliced up by some gruesome animal, my mom managed to catch the whole thing on video tape!”

By Alex Sinatra

The A&M Men’s and Women’s Volleyball teams are on their way to yet another National Championship title. Both teams have been playing exceptionally well this season, with Women’s Volleyball coming off a winning streak in California and Men’s Volleyball preparing for a tournament in Las Vegas. According to Women’s Team Captain Taylor Purswell, “There is most definitely a chance for us to win Nationals. In fact, we are expecting it from both teams.” And Men’s team captain Tyler Baldauf shares the same sentiment on his team’s chances of taking Nationals again. The freshman on both teams have been contributing greatly in games and are gaining the experience they need to be breakout players. Nationals this year for both Men’s and Women’s Volleyball will be in Houston April 7th-9th, so everyone should go out and support them on their journey to a nationals title repeat.

By Rachel Benson

The Sport Club supervisors are the behind-the-scenes workers for all of our clubs. They make sure that we are all following the rules, that no one gets hurt, and that our practices and events are able to run smoothly. There are three supervisors that graduate this year, and shouldn’t do so without some recognition. We will feature each of these seniors in the next 3 newsletters.

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