

Wrestling team set for match

The Texas A&M Wrestling Team begins its regular season in Ft. Worth against TCU on Nov. 5. Practice showed a record turnout of over 40 new wrestlers, along with 16 veterans and seven returning 1976 lettermen. Prior to this time, the team had been working out in an off season program consisting of running, drills, and weight training which began September 6, 1976.

The Aggies, who were State Runner-up Champions last year, will find the usually strong Texas Tech team out of Lubbock to be their main obstacle in winning the Southwest Conference Crown this year. Other strong contenders in the Texas Conference this season will include Richland College, South West Texas State, and North Texas State.

The A&M Squad is extremely well rounded this year with at least three wrestlers in each weight class and in some classes as many as four competing for the varsity spot. The team is full of young talent from all over the country and will be depending on the services of new wrestlers like Rick Vigue, a 118 lbs. Texas state runner-up from San Antonio, Bob

Benevento, a 134 pounder from Murrysville, Pennsylvania, and Jack Cliff, a free style wrestler from Ohio at 142 lbs.

The Ags' designated captains for the 1976-77 season are Bob Hines, 126 lbs. from Bryan, and Blair Monhollon, 167 lbs. from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Both were outstanding wrestlers last year and will hold key positions on the varsity squad this year. Monhollon was A&M's only State Champion last year and was honored by being voted Most Valuable Wrestler by the Texas Wrestling Coaches Association. Hines took runner-up in his weight class in the 1976 State Tournament and received trophies for both fastest pin and most team points.

Other wrestlers that will probably round out the varsity squad this season will be Tim Caulton at 150 lbs., Jay Clements at 158 lbs., Dave Schlosberg at 177 lbs., Mike Larson at 190 lbs., and Richard Lynn at the heavy weight slot. Coaching the Aggies this season for his second year is Jim Giunta from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Last year under the

leadership of Coach Giunta the Ags took second place in a tough battle for the Southwest Conference Title and ended the season with a record of 11 wins and 4 losses. Giunta attended Penn State University for three years where he captured the Commonwealth Campus Wrestling Title in 1973. Then in the fall of 1973, he transferred to Texas A&M and while wrestling for the Aggies in 1974, took first in the State Cham-

ampionship at his weight class. Giunta received his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from Texas A&M and is presently working on a graduate program in Exercise Physiology. When asked to comment on the team, Coach Giunta said, "The Ags have a lot of potential this year and with good "team" effort, I feel they are capable of capturing both the Southwest Conference and Texas State titles.

Grudge match for wrestlers

By LISA JUNOD

The Texas A&M University Wrestling team, sporting seven returning lettermen, will face Richland College today in Dallas at noon in A&M's second match of the season.

The Aggies will consider today's game a grudge match against Richland, last year's State championship team. The Ags were last year's runner-up champions.

A&M will pit its ten starters against the strong Richland team after a 51 to 3 win over Texas Christian University (TCU) last Friday.

The starting lineup for today's match includes Rick Vigue, a 118-pound Texas State runner-up from San Antonio. Bob Hines, 126 pounds, will be a team captain for the 1976-77 season and will also start

against Richland.

Bob Benevento, 134 pounds from Murrysville, Pa., will start for A&M after last week winning a 9 to 2 decision over TCU's John Gunkins. Also starting for the Ags is 142-pound Jack Cliff, who last week pinned TCU's Jay Ogelton after 5 minutes and 35 seconds (5:35).

A&M's Blair Monhollon, a 167 pounder from Tulsa, Okla., will also start for the Aggies after pinning TCU's Drake at 1:45. Monhollon was A&M's only State Champ last year and was voted Most Valuable Wrestler by the Texas Wrestling Coaches

Association.

Jay Clements, 158 pounds, who won a decision against TCU's Tom Brotherton 6 to 0 will also start, along with Steven Evans, who lost a 10 to 5 decision against TCU's M. Johnson.

Tim Caulton, Randy Stewart and Richard Lynn will start for A&M also.

The Aggie team was picked after practices presented a record turnout of more than 40 new wrestlers, along with 16 veterans and seven returning lettermen. The squad this year has at least three wrestlers in each

weight class, and in some classes has as many as four competing for the varsity spot.

Coaching the Aggies this season for his second year is Jim Giunta from Pittsburgh, Pa. Last year under Giunta's leadership the Ags ended the season with an 11-4 win-loss record.

Giunta, who in 1973 captured the Commonwealth Campus Wrestling Title at Penn State University, transferred to Texas A&M in 1974. While wrestling for the Aggies Giunta took first place in the state competition in his weight class. He is currently a graduate student working on a program in Exercise Physiology.