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Kenny Graham (left) uses the new Gates hose coupling machine to quickly install one of the hundreds of fittings now in stock (above) at Eagle Tractor.

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Sports

Team should be strong Rice picked as pre-season champs

In his usual non-boast style, Rice Raider head football coach Clifton Darden put it mildly Monday when he said "we have a real good chance of being one of the top teams in the district."

Texas Football Magazine, the pre-season bible of the school-boy gridiron, isn't so bashful. It picks the Raiders to win the district. However, it places cross-country rivals the Columbus Cardinals 7th in the state Triple-A bracket while the Raiders are not state ranked.

Darden wondered out loud how the two local teams could be picked that way, and added that when you get past the district championship, it is a toss up. Elsewhere in the district he said there have been some coaching changes at Edna and Gonzales. "I think everyone in the district will be improved with maybe the exception of Edna."

For 1985, the Raiders will be fielding new coaches at Rice High, and three at Eagle Lake Middle School.

The varsity team is looking to fill some voids from last year's graduation, and is looking at the competition around the district.

No Pass, No Play: No Effect

One area where void-filling won't be needed concerns the much talked about (and apparently feared) No Pass, No Play rule. Darden said this week that everyone out for the team passed all their courses last spring, therefore will be on the field.

That includes the 13 returning players from last year's district and bi-district champions. Of those, six are defensive starters and five are offensive starters. "We've got some good people to replace, but our kids worked real hard last spring and I think they are

capable of replacing them," Darden said.

Offensively, those returning include David Morgan, last year's team leader at quarterback; Cleve Scott, halfback; Dennis Hemphill, halfback, and on the line, big Tony Hosman and Roger Williams, tackles.

On defense, familiar faces include Ron McGrew, defensive tackle; Rodney Williams and Raymond Thomas, line backers; Hosman as defensive tackle, and Scott and Hemphill as cornerbacks.

Raiders to run

When the Raiders face opponents this year, Darden said they will use their basic wish-bone offense and usual 4-3 defense. There won't be a lot of new plays to develop and learn either, he said. "Some people won't believe it since we were pretty run oriented last year, but we'll concentrate more this year on running than we have in the past," he said. Last year the team took to the air quite a bit, statistics show.

To help them line up for the fall, returning coaches Mike Tankersley, Dusty Loewe and Bill Cain will take football assignments. New coaches include Gary McNeal on the line; Don Wild in the defensive secondary, and Jerry Russell, the new JV coach.

And, another big help will be the field on which the team plays in Raider Stadium. Groundskeeper Willie Cleveland has done a great job this summer, keeping the field in shape. The underground spring

system helped too.

Dolly Johnson returns

Other coaching changes include the return of Dolly Johnson as the girls coach. She returns after a year's absence, and replaces Jane Dostal at the high school. Two new junior high coaches will be on the field at Eagle Lake middle school. Dennis Jackson, from Bastrop,

will head the program there. Lee Politach will replace Bill Carpenter who is taking over the assistant principal spot vacated when former coach Larry Varley moved into the Hallettsville school system. Also on the coaching staff at Eagle Lake is Tammy McNeal who is replacing Elizabeth Miller, who will be a full-time classroom teacher.



Skeet medalist

Johnny Meltzen, owner of Johnny's Sport Shop, brought home these medals last week after competing in the week-long 1985 World Skeet Shoot in San Antonio. He placed in all four gun events (410 gauge, 28 gauge, 20 gauge and 12 gauge) and won a fourth place, third place, second place and five first place medals in the various classes. He broke 241 out of 250 birds in the 12 gauge competition, and is waiting to hear how he placed. He said he that although he failed to realize it, he was tied for first in the overall average, but left early putting him in second place. Meltzen shot in the "C" division. Four other divisions are for shooters rated better than those in the C division, and two are rated under that division. Meltzen interrupted the Monday through Saturday competition on Wednesday to return to Columbus and testify at the hearing before the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Steel Shot. (See story on Page One.)

Food giveaway here next week

Combined Community Action (CCA) will distribute USDA Surplus Food in Eagle Lake at the Providence Baptist Church, 1207 East State Street from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 15. On that same date, they will be at the CCA Community Center, 903 Preston in Columbus from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, August 28, surplus food will be distributed at Weimar City Hall from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

Information on eligibility requirements for the Emergency Food Assistance Program may be obtained from the local CCA Community Service Center in Columbus at 903 Preston Street or the CCA Central Office in Smithville.

St. Mary's school registration Tues.

Registration for all students (grades 1-8) planning to attend St. Mary's School in Nada during the 1985-86 school year is scheduled for August 13 at the Parish Hall.

Registration hours will be from 8 to 11 a.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m., announces Beatrice Schoellmann, principal.



At last week's public hearing on Steel Shot, Johnny Meltzen makes a point. The hearing before the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, held in the District Courtroom of the Courthouse, was attended by 20 to 30 hunters

and representatives of Eagle Lake area hunting clubs. In this photo are Doug Schwemm, Bill Appert, Wayne Cozman, Mike Giger, Jim Clipson, Clifton Tyler, John Fields and Meltzen.

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