

Hardgrove Is King of Swing On, Off Pitching Mound

By RONNIE GREATHOUSE
Battalion Sports Staff

Versatile Joe Hardgrove's talents run from baseball pitcher to saxophone player, and either way he has 'em swinging.

The 6-2 southpaw from Fort Worth currently tops the Aggies' fine pitching staff with a 1-0 record. He has fanned 19 batters in 13 innings of chunking to rank first among A&M twirlers, and has been charged with no runs.

An all-state and all-city performer for Paschal high school of Fort Worth, Hardgrove helped hoist his team to the state finals as a sophomore and the state championship as a junior.

In the 1949 state finals Hardgrove lost a close game to Sunset of Dallas while striking out 12. The following year he sparked Paschal to the finals again with a 6-0 record, and won the championship game on a four hitter, whiffing 13.

Besides being all-state in baseball for two years, he was also named to the all-state basketball team his senior year. He was all-city in both baseball and basketball for three straight seasons.

Between stints on the baseball mound and the basketball court Hardgrove takes up the saxophone as a hobby, and blows a "real mean horn." He played with a dance band in the Cowtown area during his high school career.

"I like Stan Kenton, he's real groovy you know," said Hardgrove.

In his senior year at Paschal he turned in two brilliant no-hitters

in a row—but lost them both, 3-1 and 2-1.

Hardgrove is one of only four two-year lettermen on Coach Beau Bell's squad this season. As a sophomore he finished with a 1-3 record, and led A&M's moundsmen last season with a 6-4 mark, posting an earned run average of only 3.1.

He was the strike-out artist of the club last year with 61 strikeouts and leads so far this season with 19.

The 21-year-old senior belted a grand slam homerun against the University of Texas last season to give A&M a 5-4 win over the conference champions.

"All I did was take two, and hit to right," said Hardgrove, explaining his fence busting technique.

Hardgrove has played two years of basketball at A&M, and was a starter in 1953-54. He averaged over eight points per game.

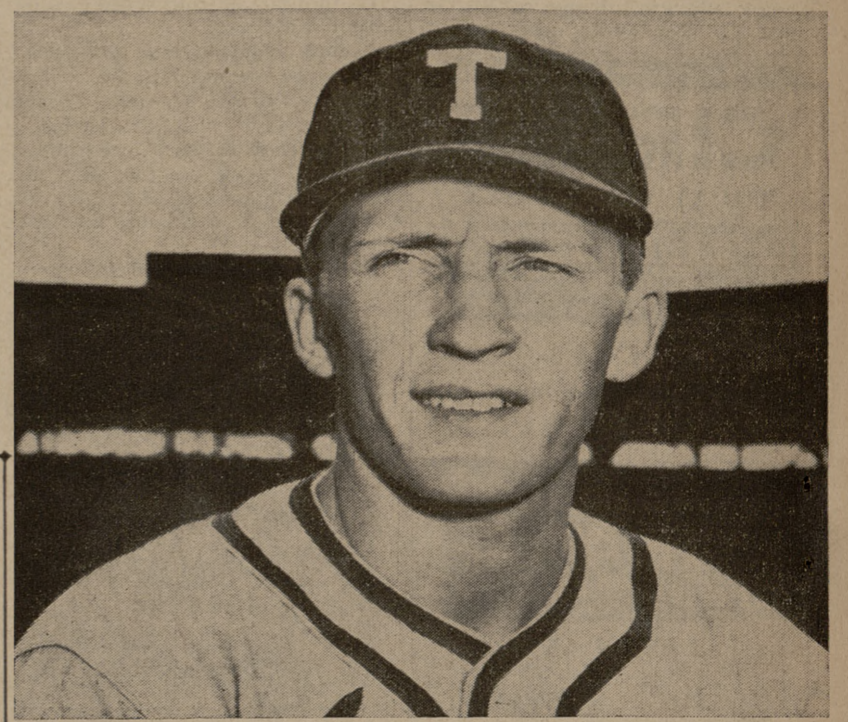
Hardgrove thinks his best pitched game came in the summer of 1951 when he was tossing for Columbus against Ft. Sam Houston. Although he lost the 16-inning 2-1 thriller, he gave up only three hits. The Ft. Sam Houston lineup was filled with former professional players.

He thinks his performance

against U of H earlier this season is one of the best he's twirled for A&M. He whiffed 13 players in taking credit for the 7-0 Aggie win, and gave up only four hits. None of the hits came after the fourth inning, and all came in separate frames.

"I've played under Coach Bell for two years now, plus two summers at Refugio, and everything he has told me to do has always helped me," said Hardgrove.

He plans to take a crack at professional baseball this summer, and then start coaching basketball. He is an English and Physical Education major.



Joe Hardgrove
Aggie Mound Ace

Grid Practice Pleases

Passing to Get Lots of Attention

Paul Bryant, head man in the Aggie football camp, has been displeased with the progress made so far by the 1955 eleven, but his spirits got a lift after yesterday's rugged workout.

"I was real pleased today," he

said. "It looked like everybody was having a good time. I've been disappointed with the progress we've made so far, but if we pick up where we left off today, we can get a lot done in our remaining four days."

Passing offense and defense will receive most of the attention the rest of the spring drills. The Aggies are due to finish next Monday.

"We haven't thrown the ball enough," Bryant said. "We're going to work on it every day."

Quarterbacks Donald Grant, Bobby Conrad and Jimmy Wright handled the throwing chores yesterday. The Maroons, Blues and Whites finished with a session on extra points and punt protection after about 50 minutes of contact work.

Quarterback Elwood Kettler, end Bobby Drake Keith, halfback Billy Pete Huddleston, and tackle Henry Clark were added to the injury list after Saturday's game-condition scrimmage.

"Our defense Saturday was pitiful in the movies," said Bryant. Eight touchdowns were scored, but commenting on the defensive weakness, Bryant said, "There should have been five more."

The Maroon team yesterday had Gene Stallings and Roger Hobson, ends; Charles Krueger and Jack Powell, tackles; Dee Powell and Dennis Goehring, guards; Herb Wolf, center; Grant, quarterback; John Crow and Ed Dudley, halfbacks; Ken Hall, fullback.

The Blues lined up this way — Ends, Bobby Marks and Dean Meeks; tackles, Darrell Brown and Dan Hancock; guards, Jim Stanley and Paul Lillard; center, Hollis Pollard; quarterback, Wright; halfbacks, Lloyd Taylor, Roddy Osborne and Billy Dendy alternating; fullback, Jack Pardee.

Conrad guided the Whites with Carlos Esquivel, Don McClelland and Bob Stolusky at halfbacks, and Bobby Ewell at fullback.

Handball Club To Play Mustangs

Winner over Rice and loser to Texas in their last two matches, the A&M Handball club plays SMU in Dallas Saturday afternoon at the Dallas Athletic club.

The Aggies downed Rice 7-2 in Houston Monday night after losing to Texas 1-7 in Austin Friday.

A&M swept the three doubles matches from Rice and won four of the six singles matches.

Jim Mathis, Johnny Johnson, Dave Korry and Charlie Johnson took decisions in singles play. Winning doubles duos were Mathis-Johnson, Korry-John Dillard, and Johnson-Gary Leslie.

In the Longhorn match, Johnson and Mathis won a doubles decision, 15-21, 21-19, 21-16, for the Aggies' only win.

Also playing at Austin were Leslie, Johnson, Don Grant and Paul Meiners.

Plans Discussed For Annual Rodeo

Tentative plans for the Inter-collegiate Rodeo to be held here April 21-23 were discussed at a recent Rodeo club meeting, said Billy Steele, club president.

The rodeo committees have been appointed and are working on plans, said Steele, but nothing definite has been set.

Aggie Pistol Team Wins National Title

A&M's unbeaten pistol team swaggered through the National Rifle Association meet at Tampa, Fla. March 8-12 to win the national championship in the college division.

Captain Toby Chandler, Joe Martinez, Frank Norvell and Ken Snipes piled up 1,059 points between them to walk away with the crown.

Snipes tied for fourth place in the .22 caliber slow fire event of the sharpshooter class.

"They turned in some great performances," said Sgt. Robert G. Cox, team coach, "and were a fine group to work with."

There were four divisions in the match which included military, police, civilian and collegiate. A&M would have won second place in the civilian division had it not already won a championship, said Cox.

The pistol team flew to the

match in an air force plane, and was accompanied by officer in charge Capt. Thomas H. Libby. Col. Henry L. Phillips, sponsor of the team was unable to attend the meet.

Presentation of the championship trophy will take place during the awards ceremony on Mother's day. Each member of the team will receive an individual medal also.

A&M won the collegiate championship at the Alamo Rifle and Pistol club meet earlier in the year, and finishes the season with a perfect slate.

Boxing Club

Ordering of awards letters and the Southwestern AAU boxing meet will be discussed at a meeting of the A&M Boxing club at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the little gym, said president James Earle.

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