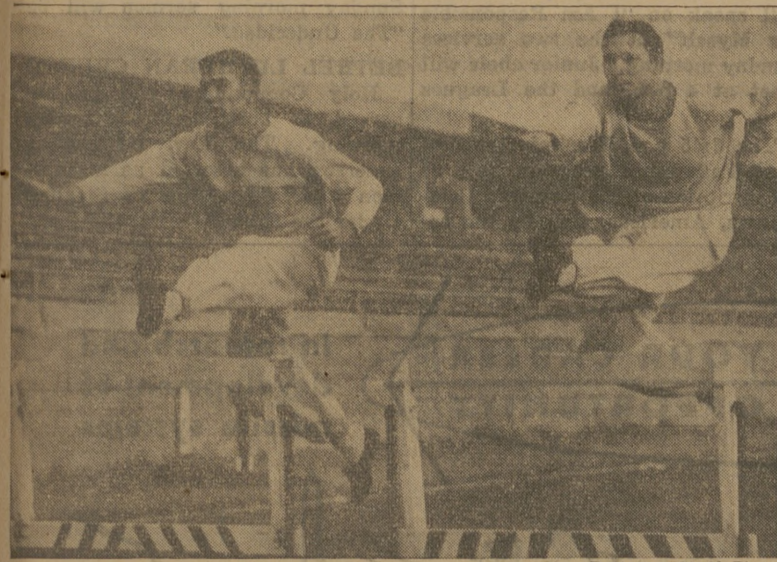


# Ag Athletes Do Battle On All Fronts



Battalion Staff Photo

## The First Of Many Hurdles

Ernesto Uribe, soph hurdler from Laredo and Emmett Smallwood, senior trackster from Galena Park will lead Coach Ray Putnam's thinyclads in their first effort of the season Saturday against the Houston Cougars and the Texas Longhorns in Austin.

By GARY ROLLINS

From the green grass of Kyle Field to the cinder track at Austin this Saturday, the Texas Aggies will find themselves in various stages of spring competition with other schools.

In what might be the deciding game for the SWC basketball crown, the Cadets journey to Dallas to contest unpredictable Southern Methodist. The Farmers already boast one conference win over the Ponies. At the present time, the Mustangs are in first place and have the advantage of a four-year home court winning streak.

Coach Beau Bell's baseball team will take to the field in their season opener with the University of Houston Cougars Saturday afternoon at 2.

In Austin, Coach Ray Putnam will make his debut as head track coach as his thinyclads participate in their first triangular meet

against the Longhorns and the Houston Cougars.

P. L. Downs Natatorium will be the scene of a swimming duel between the Aggies and the Texas Longhorn tankers Saturday afternoon at 4.

The Fish swimming team will tackle one of the most powerful high school swimming squads in the state when they meet Lamar of Houston.

And finally, G. Rollie White Coliseum will host the regional class A and AA high school basketball teams beginning Saturday afternoon and continuing that night.

The Aggie golfing team will engage the tough University of Houston team on the A&M course with tee-off time set at 1 p.m.

As far as Aggie athletics are concerned, the month of March is "coming in like a lion."

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## Untested Ag Nine Meets UH In Baseball Season Opener

By ROBERT WEEKLEY

The seventh inning stretch once again comes into fashion at Aggie-land when Coach Beau Bell's highly touted baseball team takes to Kyle Field at 2 p.m. Saturday against the University of Houston Cougars.

The '58 version of the Cadets will feature an infield composed largely of sophomores. Several position changes tend to make the infield more stable this year.

Wendell Reed, all-SWC third baseman last year, has been moved to left field to take advantage of

his hitting potential and leaves the hot-corner position in the hands of smooth-fielding Wayne Balke, who moves over from shortstop.

Reed hit .308 in SWC play and was .278 over the season. Balke broke out of an early season slump and finished with .273 in conference.

Infield hopes ride on the play of three sophomores who, if they come through, should lead the Farmers to the top of the conference heap.

Sophomores Dink Patterson at second base and Ralph Plumlee at shortstop give the Aggies a quick-reacting double play combination that could prove to be the best in the conference.

Southpaw Bill Houchin of Shreveport, La., is due to start for the Aggies at first base. Houchin hit .375 for the Fish last year.

"Our infield looks a lot sounder than it did a year ago," said Bell in discussing the most important change in this year's club.

Jim Smotherman, slugging right fielder from Frisco, is top man in the outfield, leading the club in hitting, total bases and RBIs in '57. Smotherman hit .300 in league play and led the conference in total bases with 33.

Centerfield poses the big problem for the Aggie staff, where either J. B. Carroll or Ed Dudley may get the starting nod. Dickie Thomas was expected to start in this position but a shoulder injury should keep him out of action for three weeks.

Catching chores are in the capable hands of all-SWC Gary Herrington who hit .268 and was the best fielding backstop in '57.

Bell will probably call on Lefty Toby Newton and righthanders Donnie Hullum and Percy Sanderson to make up his pitching staff. Newton may be a doubtful starter with a blister on the finger of his pitching hand.

Aggie workouts have suffered from wet weather and strong winds this past week.

In recent practice sessions Herrington and Dudley have been the most consistent hitters.

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Bullfighter and Author

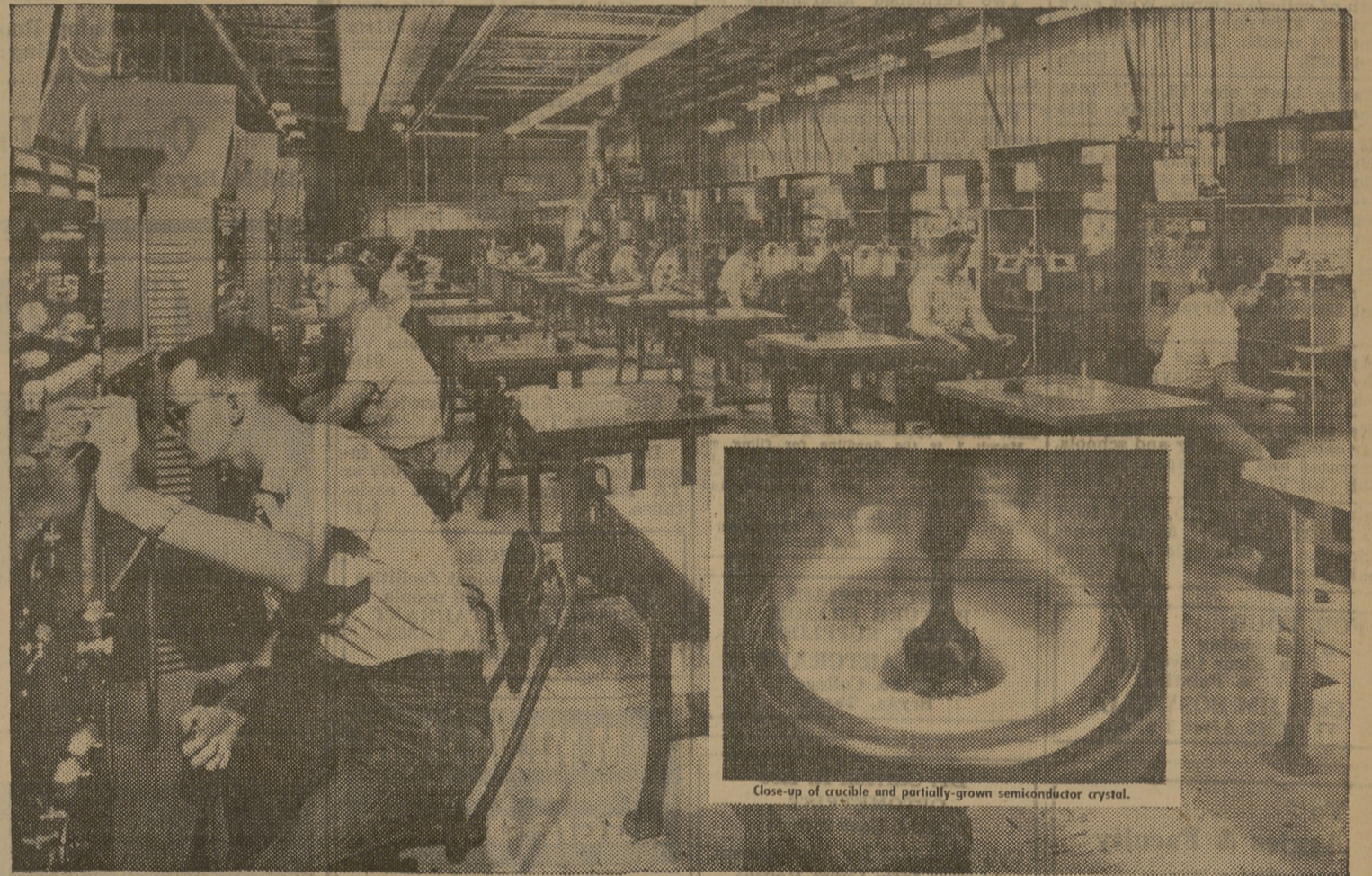
"My closest shave was in Mexico when I was 18," says Barnaby Conrad, author of the best selling books *Matador* and *Gates of Fear*. "I went to a bullfight, thought it looked easy, and jumped into the ring with a fighting bull. It charged... and if it hadn't been for the quick work of the professionals, I'd have been a goner. Later I went to Spain and really studied the dangerous art, but I never had a closer call than when I thought 'la fiesta brava' was easy!"

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