

Bob Kropiewnicki, 19, hurled five School. The Villanova sophomore no-bitters while winning 25 of 26 has been signed by the Cincinnati decisions for Plains, Pa., High Redlegs.

Farmers Tackle Owls Here Saturday Conference Statistics Show Ags Tops

Southwest Conference baseball makes the turn past third base this weekend and thunders towards home with Texas, A&M and Rice battling it out for the championship.

The Longhorns currently lead the race for the pennant with a 4-1 mark but the Farmers are breathing hot on their necks a scant half-game behind. Rice trails the Cadets by a game.

Texas has a chance to increase its slender lead this weekend when

they tackle the SMU Mustangs twice on their own Clark Field. SMU has a 2-3 conference mark.

Rice Here Saturday
Meanwhile at Aggieland the second and third place teams play in Houston Friday and then in College Station Saturday for their two-game series. This will be the last meeting of the year for the Owls and A&M.

The Aggie-Rice tilt is the most crucial series either team has faced. If the Cadets drop one

game and Texas wins both of theirs the Steers will have a game-and-a-half lead. Rice can't afford to lose either one of the matches.

CONFERENCE STANDING				
Team	Games	Won	Lost	Pct.
Texas	5	4	1	.800
Tex. A&M	6	4	2	.667
Rice	6	3	3	.500
SMU	5	2	3	.400
Baylor	6	2	4	.333
TCU	6	2	4	.333

But if the Longhorns do happen to lose one game to the tough Ponies and the Aggies manage to scrape by the Owls the Farmers will be a half game ahead of the Steers.

Texas has played one less game than the Aggies and the Owls but they, like A&M, can't make up those games they missed because of inclement weather unless it has direct bearing on the final standings of the SWC.

The Aggies have missed only one conference game this season, that being to the Baylor Bears, a team they dropped in two previous meetings.

A&M needs to win only two more games to post their best season mark since 1956, a year they won 10 and lost 13. One year earlier the Farmers won their sixth SWC championship.

Texas Leads SWC Champs
Texas has won the crown 35 times out of a possible 43. They have shared two titles with the Aggies and one with the Mustangs.

According to the latest Southwest Conference statistics released yesterday from Dallas, the Aggie nine has the best team averages on paper while the cellar bound Baylor Bears are runnerups in the batting department.

As a team the Farmers lead the conference sluggers with a solid .297 batting average. Baylor trails with a .291. A&M has scored more runs on more hits than any other team.

Texas ties the Cadets in homers (both teams have five) but the Aggies are second in two-baggers, 16, and have one triple to tie three other teams in that department.

Cadet Fielding Low
In team fielding A&M stands way down the list with 13 errors to their credit, six less than Rice who has the dubious distinction of leading the field in that department. The Aggies' fielding percentage is .942.

A&M leads the other teams in



Undefeated in SWC Play

Percy Sanderson, who trails only the Texas Longhorns' Elmer Rod in the earned run average department, claims a 2-0 conference record and an ERA of 1.17. Only two runs have crossed the plate against the steady hurler in 15 innings of conference mound performance.

individual batting with three players in the top ten, one more than second place Baylor and Rice. TCU's Jim Walker leads the batsmen at the plate with a .500 average, but has been at the plate approximately half as many times as the rest of the leading sluggers.

Gary Herrington, A&M's all SWC-catcher, is ranked 2nd in that list with a percentage of .445. He ties Mel Carbo of Baylor and Bobby Lively of Rice.

Other Aggies in the top ten in batting are J. B. Carroll who sports a .409 and is rated seventh and Staffy Davis who slips under the wire in the No. 10 position with a .375 mark.

Barber Leads in Homers
Left fielder Byron Barber of A&M leads the sluggers in round trippers with three in conference play. Two other SWC batters have two. Barber is second in runs batted in with eight, two less than the leading Dick Kristinik of Rice.

The fabulous Elmer Rod of Texas leads the conference moundmen with a tremendous 0.47 earned run average and a 2-0 win-loss record. Rod has given up nine hits

and struck out eight in 19 innings of ball. He has walked only three.

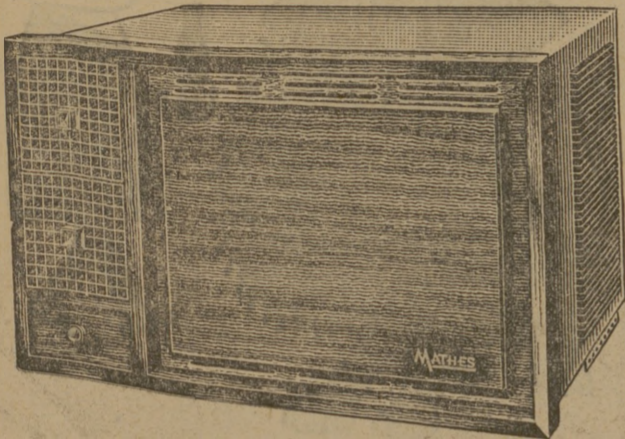
Righthander Percy Sanderson of A&M trails Rod with a better than average 1.17 ERA and a 2-0 record. Sanderson has thrown 15 innings and given up 13 hits. The junior has struck out 11 and walked eight. Two runs have crossed the plate against him.

Rice's Paul Timme is third followed by the Aggies' Wayne Schaper who also has a 2-0 record. Schaper has had what might be termed bad luck as far as run scoring goes, posting a lofty 6.5 ERA. Schaper has struck out seven, walked two and given up 14 hits.

Timme will probably toe the mound for Rice against the Aggies Friday while Coach Tom Chandler has scheduled Sanderson to oppose him. James Brock of Rice and Donnie Hullum will be the two duelists Saturday at College Station.

Game time Saturday is 2 p.m.

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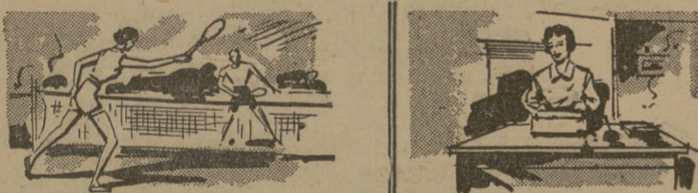


Ags' Big Stick

Gary Herrington, the Farmers' All-SWC backstop last year, will be batting in the cleanup spot for the Cadets today as they meet the Rice Owls in Houston in a crucial loop clash. The Aggies trail the Texas Longhorns by one-half game in the circuit race with the Owls another game back.

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