

# Southwest Conference Champs Set To Meet Minnesota In Series Game

The Southwest Conference Baseball Champs, the hustling Aggie nine, will meet Minnesota Monday, June 8, at Omaha for the first round of the College World Series playoffs.

The A&M team will leave via chartered bus for Oklahoma City early Friday morning. Upon arriving at Oklahoma City the Ags will work out, then proceed to Wichita, Kan. for a night's rest that will precede another workout the following day at the home field of the Kansas City A's. The team will arrive at Omaha around 9 a.m. Monday.

Last Wednesday night the Aggie nine played a practice game with the Seguin Steelers at Travis Park in Bryan.

Few A&M backers would have given a plug nickel for the Aggies' chances in the Southwest Conference race after the first three games. At that time Coach Tom Chandler's crew had a league mark of 1 win and 2 losses.

But suddenly the Aggies jelled. They reeled off 10 consecutive conference wins and carried a two-game lead into their final two game series against the Texas Longhorns at Austin May 7-8.

That series actually turned into a three game battle and those who watched Longhorn and Aggie continue their storied athletic rivalry still are talking about "the greatest baseball series in SWC annals."

In the first game on Thursday, May 7, Texas scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to gain a 5-5 tie. The game was called after 10 innings because of darkness. A doubleheader was then scheduled for Friday, May 8.

In the seven inning opener, Texas again staged a come-from-behind rally, scoring twice in the bottom of the seventh to gain a 3-2 victory. A victory by Texas in the nightcap would give the Longhorns a share of the SWC title and another trip into the playoffs. A win by A&M would give the Aggies the title outright.

The first five innings (second game was nine inning affair) were scoreless. A&M went ahead, 1-0, in the sixth and upped the lead to 2-0 in the top of the seventh. Texas tied it, 2-2, in the bottom of the seventh. In the top of the ninth, A&M first baseman Frank Stark



AAAAAH! I CAN SEE IT COMING  
... Aggie third baseman George Hargett nails Steeler during practice game against Seguin.

hit a three-run double with two away and the Aggies won it, 5-2.

In looking back, Chandler said that the 14-7 loss to TCU in the league opener at Fort Worth was the key to the Aggies eventual success.

"TCU scored nine runs in one inning and humiliated us. It was a long ride back home and all of us did some serious soul-searching. We knew we were better than that and I believe our players decided they'd prove they were."

The second game was against Texas at College Station and the Aggies won that one, 5-2. Then they went to Waco and lost an 8-7 verdict to the Baylor Bears. The outlook was dark indeed, after that

one, but the Aggies buckled down and started moving toward the top. They won some close ones along the way, like the 3-2 decision over SMU, 2-0 over Rice and 2-0 over Baylor.

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