

Ags Open Baseball Season With Houston Baptist Today

By JOHN PLATZER
 With many of their top stars back, the Aggies begin the 1969 baseball season today at 3 p.m. on Kyle Field against Houston Baptist. The game was originally scheduled for Saturday but was moved up to avoid conflict with A&M's basketball game against Trinity in Fort Worth.

Last season the Southwest Conference baseball championship dripped away from the Aggies when three of their league games were rained out and because of SWC rules were not made up. A&M finished third in the conference with a 10-5 record while

Texas won the title with a 12-4 mark despite losing the only game the two teams played against each other.

Three All-SWC performers are back for the Aggies this year to form the nucleus of what should be the conference's best hitting machine. Coach Tom Chandler's baseballers were the top batting artists in the league last season as they ended with a team batting average of .296 compared to TCU's second place mark of .276.

Strong point of the team this year should be a glittering outfield of Bob Long, Dave Elmendorf and Bob Arnold.

Long and Elmendorf, both members of the Aggie football team, were first team All-SWC selections last season. Long, who hit .328, was the only unanimous pick on last year's All-SWC squad. The Paris senior led the league in triples with 3 and tied for the conference lead in stolen bases with 5 and in runs scored with 16.

Elmendorf, the only freshman on the All-SWC team last season, was the loop's fourth best hitter with a .364 average. The Houston product led the conference in runs-batted-in with 21 and tied for the lead in home runs with 5 and in runs scored with 16.

A senior from El Paso, Arnold was on the all-conference second team last season. Arnold hit for a .293 average with one home run and 10 runs-batted-in.

The rest of the Aggie starting lineup is expected to consist of Larry Stelley, catcher; Boyd Hadaway, first base; Pete Maida, second base; Eddie Vaughan, third base and Jim Raley at shortstop.

Coach Chandler has named sophomore southpaw Doug Rau as his starting pitcher against Houston Baptist today. Rau compiled a 2-1 record last season with a 3.75 earner-run-average. The Columbus product struck out 34 and walked 13 in 24 innings of pitching last season.

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STARTING HURLER
 When the Aggies take the field for their first baseball game of the year this afternoon at 3 on Kyle Field, sophomore Doug Rau is expected to be on the mound against Houston Baptist. As a freshman last season, Rau posted a 2-1 record. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Senators' Frank Howard Demands \$100,000 Salary

By MIKE RECHT
 Associated Press Sports Writer

With Ted Williams managing and Frank Howard hitting, the Washington Senators should pack the parks this season, but Williams will have to carry the load alone today when the Senators open their exhibition season.

Howard, the giant home run hitter whose presence Williams certainly would trade for half the people in the stands, is still holding out for more money.

Still Williams' managerial debut is expected to attract a full house of curious fans at tiny Municipal Stadium in Pompano Beach against the New York Yankees.

Williams also will be without his other power hitter, Ken McMullen, but at least McMullen is where he can be seen after ending his holdout Wednesday by signing an estimated \$30,000 contract. However, he has missed the first 10 days of practice and will not play.

Howard, who led the American League with 44 home runs last season, was back home in Green Bay, Wis., talking about quitting unless he gets the three-year, \$100,000 per year contract he has been demanding.

Williams and the Senators were not the only ones without top players as the exhibition games begin.

Minnesota still was without Dean Chance, Jim Kaat, Cesar Tovar, Leo Cardenas and John Roseboro; Willie Horton was missing from the Detroit camp; Cleveland still had trouble with Sonny Siebert, and Cincinnati still had Pete Rose and Jack Fisher unsigned.

Atlanta had yet to sign Joe Torre and Los Angeles missing Don Drysdale, Claude Osteen, Ron Fairly and Paul Popovich.

The Twins, although they did give Ted Uhlendorf a \$10,000 raise to \$25,000, the largest increase among the Twins, they had other problems. Infielder Rick Renick broke his right ankle sliding into second base during an intrasquad game.

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