

# Aggie baseballers shine in summer leagues

With the loss of only three seniors, this past spring the Texas A&M baseball team was riding in pretty good shape, but the summer has passed and the Aggies find their pitching, a strong point during the '69 season a question mark.

The Aggies lost only one senior pitcher, righthander Dave Benesh. The pro draft came along in the early part of June and the Los Angeles Dodgers selected lefthander Doug Rau in the special phase for those who had been drafted before, and their offer was too good to turn down and

broke a finger this summer and missed most of the summer season. He and another Aggie, Jim Simpson, played for Jack Williams - Chevrolet semi-pro team this summer.

One of the real bright spots as far as pitching was the performance this summer of lefthander Bruce Katt. Katt turned in a 9-2 record for Galesburg, Ill., in a semi-pro league and one of his wins was a no-hitter. According to Chandler, Katt's performance was the best by any pitcher.

Katt's performance was extremely encouraging after he hurt his arm in the middle of last season after a good start.

Paul Czerwinski was one of the leading pitchers in a semi-pro league in Houston. Larry Smith was one of the leading hitters in that league. Frazier also pitched well in that league.

R. J. Englert, the Southwest Conference batting champion last spring, continued his hitting and won the Basin League semi-pro crown with a .405 mark.

Dave Elmendorf, who seems to

be the Columbus High ex bypassed his senior year of eligibility to turn pro.

Rau was sent to Bakersfield in the California League and caught fire winning 11 of 12 decisions for Bakersfield. He was promoted to Spokane at the conclusion of the Bakersfield season and will be pitching for the Dodgers' AAA farm team when it takes on Hawaii in the Pacific Coast League playoffs.

Hardy Frazier, whom the Aggies had hoped would be a starter next season, is a scholastic casualty and will be ineligible for the 1970 season, according to Coach Chandler.

Charlie Jenkins, who had pitched only briefly for the Aggies this past year as a freshman,

enjoy his best hitting in the summer, connected for at least one hit in 31 consecutive games this season, and he and teammate Billy Hodge were both named to the All-Tournament team while playing for the Boulder Collegians. A&M second baseman Butch Ghutzman is also playing in that league and Ghutzman and Hodge are playing in the National Tournament. Elmendorf returned instead of playing in

the tourney so he could play football.

Elmendorf and Rau received an honor recently when they were selected to the Academic All-American baseball team, which is picked by the Sports Information Directors of each university.

Two players who did not play on the varsity also saw action in semi-pro ball this summer. Infielder Carroll Lilly and Karl Bystrom played this summer in the Arlington semi-pro league.

Jimmy Langford, a speedy shortstop from San Jacinto Junior College, has been signed by the Aggies and he has been playing in the same league with Czerwinski and Frazier.

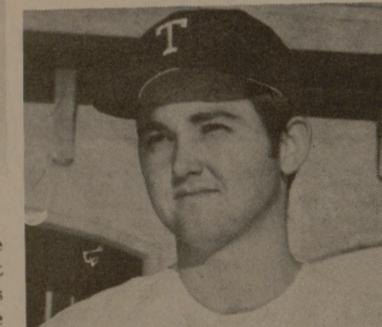
Langford is a good prospect to take the shortstop spot vacated by Jim Raley.

The Aggies have also announced the signing of five schoolboy prospects. They include two players who turned down professional offers to play for the Ags. Jimmy Hacker was the first round draft choice of the Boston Red Sox and lefthander Jackie Binks from Beaumont Forest Park was also drafted by the Bosox.

Neil McKittrick, catcher from Ft. Worth Western Hills, is also signed with the Aggies.

Other signees include pitcher Jim Wallace of Corpus Christi King and Jim Atterbury, an outfielder from the same school.

All-state second baseman Leonard Truitt from AAAA state champion Aldine, has also put his name on the dotted line for A&M.



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*Aggies*

Doug Rau

## THE BATTALION

# Track recruits strengthen Ags

The Texas Aggies, who won their first Southwest Conference championship since 1953 last year, put together a recruiting season that kept the Ags strong in one area and gave some depth in areas where they used to be lucky to have one available player.

A&M's major losses was shot put and discuss man Ronnie Light-

throw 183 feet and is also a threat to throw the shot 60 foot.

With Lightfoot gone the Ags weight points will be few and far between, but Brown is capable of picking up some if not all the slack.

A&M's summer track included the National Collegiate Athletic Association Meet in June where the Ags sprint relay did okay in



Curtis Mills

not only in the sprint relay but also in the sprints where A&M made hay last year. They qualified five men for the finals in A&M's points. He also noted that TCU had an outstanding recruiting season.

Texas, Thomas said, recruited

an outstanding hurdler from San Jacinto Junior College and like SMU will be able to cut into A&M's points. He also noted that TCU had an outstanding recruiting season.

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College Station, Texas

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Rockie Woods

the semis when they tied the Drake stadium record of 39.8, but Marvin Mills suffered a muscle pull and in the finals the next day, A&M placed sixth in a time of 42.1.

Rockie Woods, who had pulled a muscle during the school year while running at the Freedom Games in Philadelphia repelled the muscle a week before national and put the Ags minus their 9.4 sprinter.

Curtis Mills, defending NCAA 440 yard champion and world record holder of the event placed third when Larry James of Villanova

Pat Bradley is a high school miler from Houston Memorial.

Half milers, Harold Vogtberg and Eric Holloman are top high school 880 men.

Gary West premier high school hurdler who broke the state AAAA records in the 120 yard high hurdles and the 330 yard intermediate, gives added strength at the hurdles where they already have Don Kellar and David Prince, who had times that qualified for the national meet.

The latest addition to the Aggies is discuss man Tim Brown from Belton who is the state AAA discuss champion with a

lanova passed him in the stretch and Tommy Turner of Villanova outdistanced him in the stretch.

Curtis was named to the U.S. National track and field team later in the summer and went with the team to France, Germany and Russia. Curtis ran on the U.S. mile relay team while in Europe.

Coach Charlie Thomas noted the fact that several conference schools have strengthened themselves considerably and when the SWC meet comes around next May, it could be a lot tighter than many people think.

SMU picked up the Pouncey twins, who can both run a smooth 9.4 and that, Thomas said, will help SMU cut into the Ags points,

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Marvin Mills

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