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A&M's Diamond Darlings, recently named All-Americans by "Collegiate Baseball" magazine, include, back row, left to right, Reenie Turk, Susan Cummings, Merrill Mitchell, Holly Cannon, Linda Todd, Gwen Flynt and Penny Ball, and, front row, left to right, Pam Schiefelbein, Beth Cunningham, Becky Upham, Kathy Wolfe and Mina Akins.

Diamond Darlings are all-American

A&M's batgirls, the Diamond Darlings, have won All-American honors by being named the top entrants in a contest initiated and sponsored by "Collegiate Baseball," the official publication of the American Association of College Baseball Coaches.

The contest was held on a nation-wide basis, with winners being named in the college-university, junior college and high school divisions.

"The Darlings won the award for not only their attractive members, but also for their service and loyalty to their team," Lou Pavlovich said in announcing the award to Aggie baseball coach Tom Chandler.

Pavlovich also mentioned that part of the decision was based on an impressive nominating letter written by Jim Butler, assistant sports information director for the A&M athletic department.

At the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska, this week, Chandler will be presented with a plaque for the school, commemorating the honor. Each of the twelve batgirls will receive a trophy, given by Hillerich & Bradsby Co. Yardley of London will provide lipstick and nail polish for each of the Diamond Darlings.

Other winners in the contest judged by "Collegiate Baseball" staff members, were Myrtle High School, Charlotte, N. Carolina, in the high school division, and Meramec Community College, St. Louis, Missouri, the junior college competition.

The Diamond Darlings just finished their first year at A&M, with the batgirl program stemming from the Iowa group. Chandler initiated the activity here, being the first so in the Southwest Conference. Baylor was the only other school in the league with batgirls, being chosen from the applicants. Sixty-five Aggie girls applied for the first year available at A&M.

The Diamond Darlings have made several road trips with them at their own expense, and worked at all the Aggie games this season. They have been scheduled to perform four doubleheaders, but their popularity and professional appearance at their first appearance by Chandler to expand the program beyond the original plan.

In their first season, the girls were under the direction of Joe Hughes, a freshman leader. Holly Cannon, a sophomore from College Station, served as captain of the Diamond Darlings.

Bryan umpire Fred Hodge to officiate at college series

Fred Hodge, a veteran of many years of baseball officiating, has been chosen to be an umpire at the College World Series, June 9-17, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Bryan man is a former A&M baseball standout and the uncle of Billy Hodge, an Aggie star now with the San Diego Padres organization.

Hodge will represent Region VI, District VI, having been chosen by the college coaches in that area. Kal Segrist, the baseball coach at Texas Tech, is the chairman of that committee.

Hodge was an Aggie baseball player under M. G. Karow and played with the Philadelphia

Phillies organization in Texas, Plainview and Cedar New Mexico. He played from 1950-54 as a shortstop.

He got into umpiring in his first calling local games. He has been working Southwest Conference games for five years.

Hodge has worked four years through 1970. In addition, he has umpired the NCAA Regionals this year, which include Pan American, Texas and Oklahoma, and the NAIA regional between Sam Houston and St. Edward's of Texas.

Hodge is presently serving as president of the Brazos Valley Umpires Association.

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OSU hires Pug Gabrel to be offensive coordinator

Oklahoma State has announced that Pug Gabrel, who was in his second year at A&M, would be joining their football coaching staff as offensive coordinator.

Gabrel, who coached the offensive line in his first season here under Gene Stallings, was kept on the staff by Emory Ballard to work with the defensive ends.

Previous coaching experience for the 43-year-old Gabrel includes four years as head coach at El Paso Austin High School, and stints as offensive coach at New Mexico Southern Methodist, Northern Louisiana State and Oklahoma State.

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