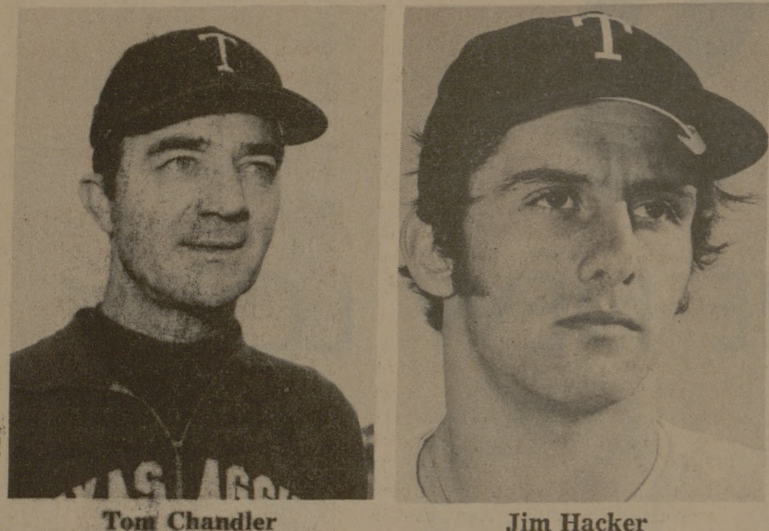


Aggie baseballers hope to change the past



Tom Chandler

Jim Hacker

The past two years, the A&M baseball team has had the chance to win the Southwest Conference title, only to see the University of Texas take the crown.

However, those last two Aggie squads rank first and second in most wins in a single season in school history.

Graduation sliced off a sizeable portion of baseball players, and Coach Tom Chandler is faced with an unpredictable year. Gone is All-American R. J. Englert, who hit safely in all but five of the games he played last year, in addition to hitting over .300 three consecutive years. Gone, too, is the ace pitching duo of Bruce Katt and Charlie Kelley, both key figures the past three sea-

sons. Another loss was three-fourths of a good infield.

First baseman Butch Gutzman, second baseman Jim Langford and shortstop Carroll all played out their eligibility. The only full-time starter returning off the 1972 squad is Jim Hacker, the third baseman.

Hacker, a junior from Temple, was the first round draft choice of the Boston Red Sox, and he established himself as one of the most consistent players on the team a year ago.

Other returnees looked to for help will be outfielder-second baseman Sandy Bate, shortstop Mike Schraeder, outfielder Jim Atterbury, catchers Tommy Hawthorne and Mike Frazier, outfielder Gene Reinarz and first baseman John Woods.

The pitching staff will be led by Jackie Binks, Steve Janda and Charlie Jenkins, with help coming from Mike Reaves, Bobby Wittkamp, Jim Wallace, Josh Garrett and Ben Sims.

Additional mound strength will be provided by four of the seven players signed by A&M thus far. Junior college hurlers Bobby Falcon of Panola and Jimmy Juhl of San Jacinto, and high school pitchers David Lockett of Cleburne and Clint Thomas of Abilene Cooper are the new Aggie

mound men.

Other recruits are Panola JC catcher-outfielder Larry Ratcliffe and San Jacinto JC first baseman Paul Miller. Also, football signee David Bialis of Houston Bellaire will forego spring

training in favor of baseball. Bialis was a high school catcher who led his team to the state finals.

One of the highlights of Aggie baseball is the Diamond Darlings, the A&M batgirls. Picked as the outstanding team of batgirls

among colleges and in the nation last spring, help keep equipment in retrieve foul balls, and the public address and operation chores during games.

A&M tennis team is strong

Experience and potential keynote the Aggie tennis team which Coach Omar Smith will field this year, and A&M netters face a



Omar Smith

mean schedule—again.

Smith and his assistant, Richard Barker, have seen their charges face such powers as Corpus Christi, Trinity, St. Edward's, Michigan, Oklahoma and West Texas State, but the success A&M had in the Southwest Conference last year makes it all worthwhile.

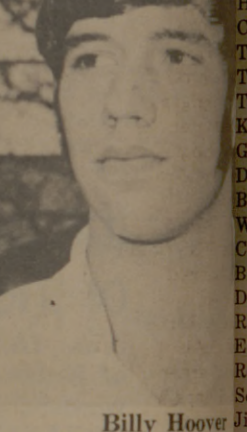
The Aggies finished second in the league tournament after coming in fourth in the round-robin action of dual matches which preceded the conference meet. Three of four singles players advanced in the tourney, and only eventual champion Southern Methodist did better with all four winning first-round matches. Both schools sent their two doubles teams past initial matches.

The best part of last season's results is that one of those doubles teams returns intact and one member of the other is back for his sophomore season. Dan Cour-

son, a junior, and Billy Hoover, a sophomore, were defeated in quarterfinals, but the other shot at the title son. Dickie Fikes has returned but his partner, Bill Wood, is back again.

Courson was the classman to advance to play, but he returns to which features five returning players.

The other top player coming season should be Mark Park, Jere Mills, Mike Kermit Smith.



Billy Hoover

Golf squad rebuilding; lose trio to graduation

The A&M golf team faces somewhat of a rebuilding situation this year after losing three lettermen to graduation, but with golf having the winning reputation here, things should look good when competition begins.

Steve Veriato, Tom Gilbert and Tom Shelton have played out their eligibility, but Coach Henry Ransom always seems to come up with replacements for the talented people who depart each season.

In 1960, Ransom took over the coaching duties at A&M, and immediately guided Aggie golfers to four consecutive Southwest Conference championships. Three years later another was added, and the team took the title again in 1969.

Last season, Texas returned to

SWC golf competition, and the likes of Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite did everyone in as the Longhorns took the league crown. A&M placed fourth, and three members of that five-man squad return for action this year.

Tom Johnson, Randy Tickner and Clay Dozier finished 11th, 21st and 24th respectively at the SWC meet. Among the others expected to challenge for places on the team this time around are Wayne Batten, Paul Dieckert, Bill

Schmidt, Ed Pennington, Al Pryor and Charles White.

Places on the team are determined by ten rough 18-hole matches. This tough competition brings out the best in the golfers and gets them in condition for intercollegiate play.

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