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After two near misses Aggie baseballers try to change past

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

First baseman Butch Ghutzman, 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 Reinartz 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 Burne and Clint Thomas of Lene Cooper are the new mound men.

Other recruits are Panola catcher-outfielder Larrycliffe and San Jacinto JC baseman Paul Miller.

One of the highlights of baseball is the Diamond Dugout the A&M batgirls. Picked an outstanding team of bat among colleges and universities in the nation last spring, they help keep equipment in order, retrieve foul balls, and handle the public address and score operation chores during games.

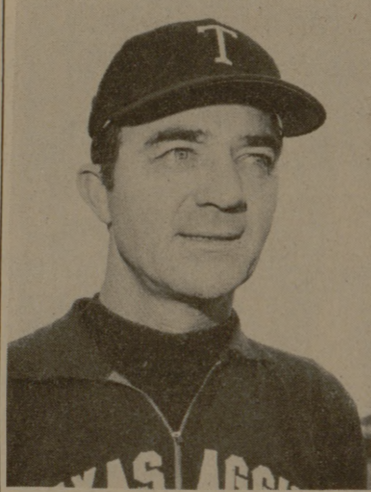
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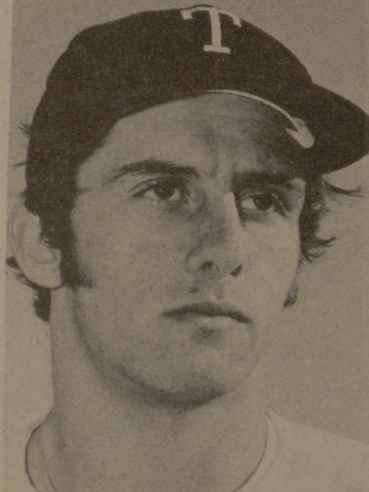
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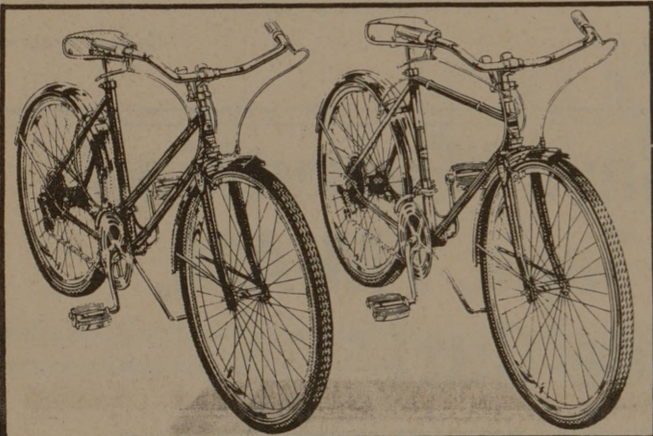
Tom Chandler



Jim Hacker



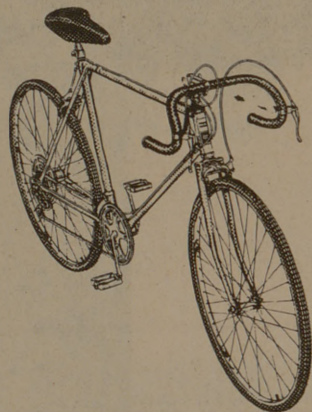
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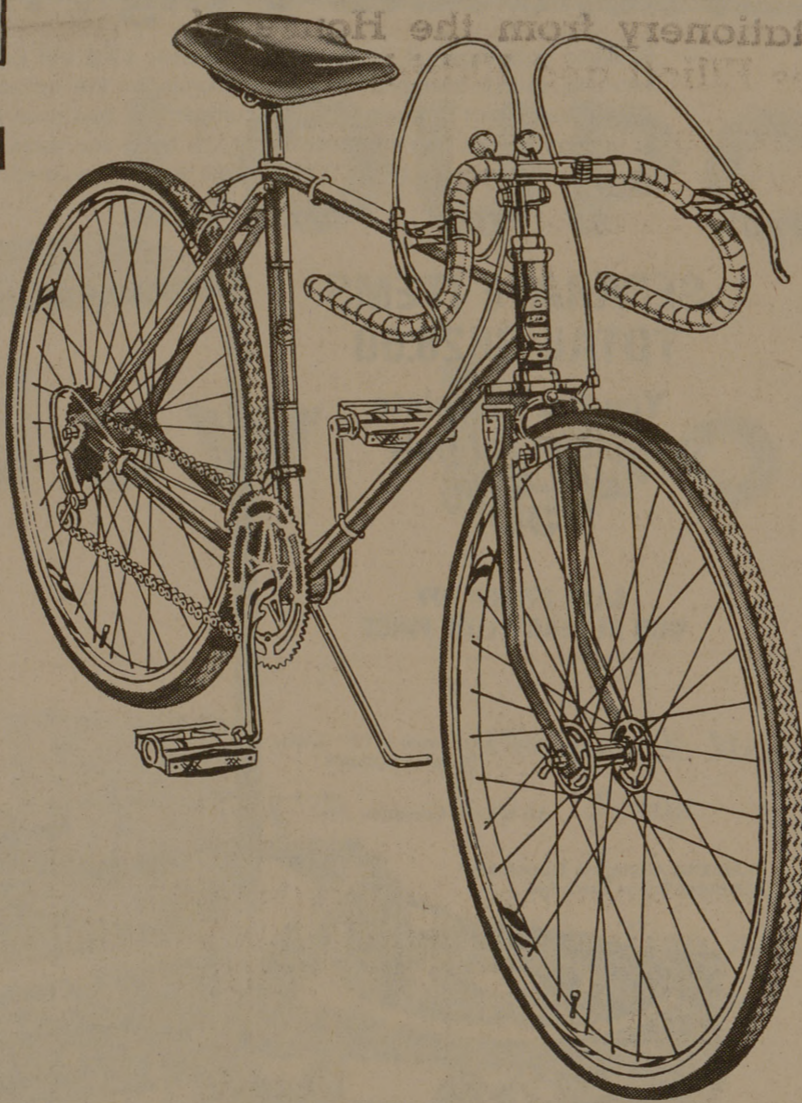
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Netters face tough season

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

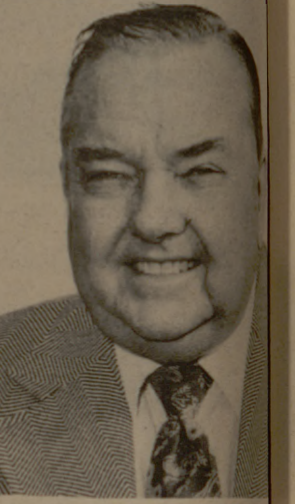
The Aggies finished second in the league tournament after coming in fourth in the round-robin action of dual matches which preceded the conference meet. Three of four singles players advanced in the tourney, and only eventual champion Southern Methodist did better with all four

winning first-round matches. Both schools sent their two doubles teams past initial matches.

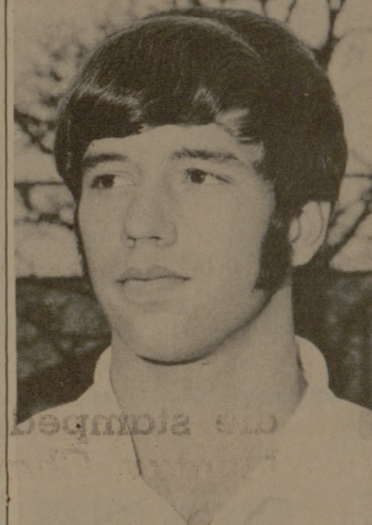
The best part of last season's results is that one of those doubles teams returns intact and one member of the other is back for his sophomore season. Dan Courson, a junior, and Billy Hoover, a sophomore, were defeated in the quarterfinals, but they get another shot at the title this season. Dickie Fikes has graduated, but his partner, Bill Wright, is back again.

Courson was the only underclassman to advance in singles play, but he returns to a squad which features five seniors.

The other top players for the coming season should be Lawton Park, Jere Mills, Mike Mills and Kermit Smith.



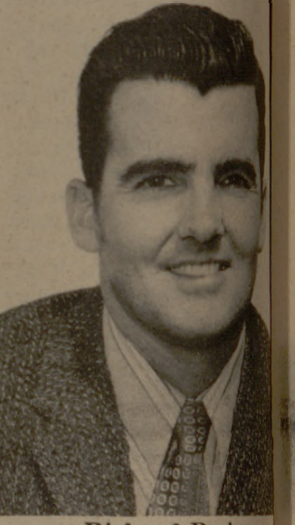
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Billy Hoover



Bill Wright



Richard Barker

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