

Face Kansas City Royals Academy In Florida

'Baseball Mecca' Is Site For Aggies' Season Opener

By BILL HENRY
Battalion Sports Editor

"Buy me some peanuts and cracker jacks" and the Texas Aggies may hope they never get back.

Yes, it's baseball time again for coach Tom Chandler and his Aggies. This year, however, non-conference action will be a bit more glamorous.

A&M baseball begins its 1973 season Friday when the Aggies play the first of eight games, in a five-day trip, against the Kansas City Royal Baseball Academy

team in Sarasota, Fla. The teams will play double-headers Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. The Aggies, who flew from Houston early this morning and return after Tuesday's game, will be quartered at the Academy dormitory.

Aggie coach Tom Chandler will take 19 players on the trip along with a student manager and trainer. Making the trip will be outfielders Jim Atterbury, a junior from Corpus Christi; Jim Bratsen, sophomore from Lamarque; Gene Reinartz, senior

from New Braunfels; and Al Thurmond, sophomore from Spring Branch; infielders Paul Miller, junior from Houston Aldine; Sandy Bate, junior from Lufkin; Mike Schraeder, sophomore from Houston Sam Houston; Jim Hacker, junior from Temple; and John Woods, junior from Nacogdoches; catchers Mike Frazier, sophomore from Houston Elmore; and Tommy Hawthorne, sophomore from Beaumont Forest Park.

There will be eight pitchers on the traveling roster; four right-

handers and four lefthanders. The southpaws are Jackie Binks, junior from Beaumont Forest Park; Bobby Falcon, junior from Corpus Christi Ray; Jimmy Juhl, junior from Spring Branch; and Jim Wallace, junior from Corpus Christi King. The righthanders are Charlie Jenkins, senior from Fort Worth Arlington Heights; Bobby Wittkamp, sophomore from Houston Milby; Clint Thomas, freshman from Abilene; and David Lockett, freshman from Cleburne.

The student manager is Gary Chandler, and the trainer is Danny Walston.

The Academy is an innovation of Kansas City owner, Ewing

Kaufman, who sunk \$4 million into the pro baseball preparation center as he felt the minor leagues were not doing the job it should with young players.

A&M will be the first Southwest Conference team ever to play in Florida and the first such effort to merge the professional baseball people with the conference colleges.

"We should gain a lot from the experience of playing the Academy," Chandler said. "We'll have, I hope, ideal weather conditions while playing with the finest innovations in the game. We are truly happy to be able to play a team such as this during our non-conference schedule."

"The players are real enthusiastic and the chance to go to Florida improved the attitude of fall and pre-season drills for us."

The Academy stands 19-3 and is made up of 25 high school graduates the Royal's organization feel have the potential to become major league stars.

They are enrolled at Manatee Junior College across the street from the Academy, and attend classes on a regular basis while playing baseball year around.

During the summer months, when school is not in session, the players are sent to top Royal farm clubs then meet back in

Sarasota in the fall. After graduation a pro career is theirs.

The challenge for Chandler and his Aggies will be a tough one competing against a team that has played together as long as the Academy players. Especially in the season's opener.

"We're anxious to play," Chandler said. "It'll be good to see what our kids do under real game conditions after working out for as long as they have."

"The infield is working real well together but the outfield is somewhat a disappointment thus far. I'm pleased with our pitching and we've had no sore arms."

"The lack of good weather has really hurt us lately so this trip to Florida will be a real help."

The home opener for the Aggies will be next Thursday when they host the Iowa State Cyclones at Kyle Field at 1 p.m. for a double-header. Iowa State will also be the opponent for a double-header on Friday.

Major League Owners, Players Resume Talks

NEW YORK (AP)—Negotiations resumed today between baseball's owners and the Major League Players Association but the spring training exhibition game schedule has already been disrupted.

The Pittsburgh Pirates announced Wednesday that their three-game exhibition trip to Mexico City has been canceled and at least four other games—two apiece between the New York Mets and Boston Red Sox and Minnesota Twins and Detroit Tigers—will also be dropped.

An agreement between the players and owners calls for no exhibition games to be played until 10 days after teams report to training camp. If an agreement were reached today, the earliest players could report would be Friday. The 10-day period would then take teams to March 5 as the earliest date games could be played. The Mets-Red Sox and Tigers-Twins series were scheduled for March 3-4.

Tennis Action Here Friday

Texas A&M's tennis forces take on two outstanding opponents here this weekend. The Aggies will entertain Corpus Christi University Friday and Pan-American Saturday. Action starts at 1 p.m. both days at the varsity courts just south of Kyle Field.

Corpus Christi and the Aggies tied for second in the recent Pan-American tournament in Edinburg while the host school finished fifth. However, Pan-Am beat Corpus in a dual meet this year, 5-4.

The Aggies' top six players, in ranking order, are Dan Courson, Bill Hoover, Bill Wright, Lawton Park, Kermit Smith and Carter Lomax.

Two Recruits Sign With A&M

A defensive end and quarterback have been added to Texas A&M's recruiting list, making 35 newcomers on the Aggie list.

Latest to sign with the Aggies were Brad Burnett, a 6-2, 218-pound defensive end from Port Neches and David Walker, a 6-0, 175-pound quarterback from Sulphur, Louisiana.

Burnett averaged 15 tackles a game, recovered 22 fumbles in two seasons, made all-state and was on Texas Football's super squad.

Walker, 4A all-stater in Louisiana, completed 58 per cent of his passes for 1,857 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Earlier, Donnie Clemons of Houston Carver joined the Aggies. He is a 5-8, 175-pound running back with 4.5 speed for 40 yards. He gained 1,794 yards and scored 20 touchdowns last season.

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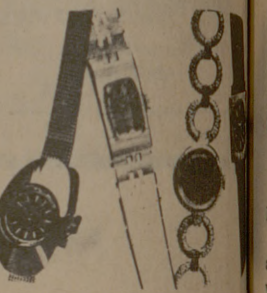
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