

SWC baseball title on line in A&M-UT series

By KEVIN COFFEY
Sports Editor

A classic case of A&M in the spoiler's role, where the Aggs could not only ruin the season for the University of Texas but tote home all of the marbles in the process, unfolds on Clark Field in Austin Friday and Saturday.

For the Aggie baseballers there is no tomorrow. They can't lose another Southwest Conference contest this season if they hope to claim the championship.

The Ags, currently 16-5 in SWC

action are two full games behind the Longhorns' 18-3 mark. UT is an impressive 42-3 on the year and have won their last 53 games on this somewhat historic field.

Clark Field will come tumbling down after the series as Texas moves to an astroturf complex next year. Texas is hoping to go out with a bang.

Aggie coach Tom Chandler seems to be in the minority with his opinions of the cliff studded ball park. He likes it.

"I've always looked forward to playing there," said Chandler. "I feel it's a challenge to our players. We've had some good moments there are some bad ones. It's kinda sad it has to be torn down."

The bad moments included blowing the title in 1962. The good ones are rebounding to win the crown two years later. In 1966, the Ags won 2 of 3 to grab a

share of the title. Texas has dominated baseball more than any other sport. The Horns are working for their eighth straight top spot finish.

"Texas has outstanding pitching and a well balanced hitting attack," said Chandler. "They will be tough but we've had very spirited workouts this week."

Chandler is shaking up the A&M pitching rotation for the series.

Clint Thomas will start the 3 p. m. single game Friday. If Jim Juhl's relief talents are not needed Friday, the senior lefty will start Saturday's 1 p. m. contest. Perry Arthur will throw if Juhl hurls Friday.

David Lockett, impressive against Rice last weekend, will start the series finale.

Juhl, who saw action in all three Rice games, is ready for either a starting or relief role.

"I would love to start but our bullpen hasn't done the job this year so I feel I'm needed there," Juhl said while soaking his arm in ice after the Rice series. "I just want to go where I'm needed."

Aggie third baseman Jim Hacker, is leading the conference with a .474 average. He already holds school records for season and career walks, career runs scored and career doubles. The senior is just four short of the career RBI mark.

Jim Bratsen, still riding a hot hitting streak that began midway through conference play, has broken the SWC season RBI mark with 30. However, Tommy Crain of TCU is in hot pursuit. The Horned Frogs face SMU this weekend.

Aggie left fielder Paul Miller has broken the SWC record for runs scored with 29.

The lineup for the Aggies with season and SWC averages: Miller, lf (.384, .392); Tommy Hawthorne, dh (.394, .333); Hacker, 3b (.397, .474); Bratsen, 1b (.361, .375); Al Thurmond, cf (.365, .285); Mike Frazier, c (.326, .327); Bill Raymer, rf (.327, .316); Fred Russ, ss (.342, .311); Sandy Bate, 2b (.300, .279).

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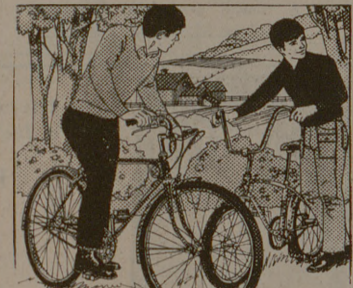


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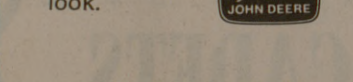
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AGGIE FIREMAN T. Juhl bears down against Rice last weekend. The ace reliever of the staff, Juhl may start against UT Saturday. (Photo by Steve Ueckert)

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