

Return solid nucleus from last year's squad

Baseball season almost here; Ags optimistic

By ROBERT CESSNA Staff Sports Writer
The sound of horsehide (or cowhide) meeting wood is almost

upon us. The 1975 edition of the Aggie baseball team has begun spring training on Monday. And on Feb.

18 the Ags host Sam Houston in a doubleheader beginning at 1:00 p.m.

"The weather has affected us," Coach Tom Chandler said. Due to the inclement weather the pitchers have been running and throwing on the astroturf. While the hitters have a batting cage and pitching machine

to get work in on their hitting, Chandler said.

"We return a good nucleus of last year's team," Chandler said. Last year's squad posted a fine 33-13 long with a 17-6 record in Southwest Conference play. The team finished the season ranked as the 15th best in the nation as ranked by the National Collegiate Baseball Publication. They were ranked fourth best until serious injuries hit Mike Schraeder and John Woods.

The team returns many top hitters who helped compose a .342 team hitting average last year. This was the second best mark in the nation.

The added help in pitching is hoped to bolster the staff. Clint Thomas and David Lockett, both righthanders, are returning to head Chandler's fireman. Kirk Campbell and James Gibson are two newcomers who hope to see action.

Campbell is a righthander from Blinn Junior College while Gibson is a southpaw from Bee County Junior College. Both players were

highly sought after before coming to A&M.

Chandler also has a fine group of players coming back at other key positions:

catcher-Tommy Hawthorne and Michael Frazier
first baseman-Jim Bratsen
second base-Mike Schraeder
shortstop-Fred Russ
outfielders-Billy Raymer, Al

Thurmond, Craig Hodges

Three newcomers are also expected to help the squad are Robert Bonner, Tommy Larsen and Don James.

Bonner is a third baseman who was drafted by the Montreal Expos out of high school. While at King High School in Corpus Christi he was one if not the top player in Texas.

Larsen is another infielder who can play second, third, or shortstop at Milby High School.

While James is an outfielder at Yawpai Junior College in Arizona. With these individuals Chandler should be headed for another fine season. One of the former products is lefty Doug Rader, the Dodgers who appeared in the 1974 World Series.

Batt sports

Game to be televised

Ags expect Arkansas to play deliberate game

By DAVID WALKER Staff Sports Writer
In his weekly press conference Wednesday Texas A&M basketball coach Shelby Metcalf said that he expects a "very deliberate" game

Saturday when his league leading Aggies travel to Fayetteville to face the Arkansas Razorbacks in the Southwest Conference T.V. Game of the Week.

"It's going to be a very tough basketball game," Metcalf said. "I expect Arkansas to play very deliberate like they did against Texas. Our best bet is to get out front and stay there. It will be difficult to control the tempo of the game. They'll be doing everything they can to slow down the game and we'll be doing everything we can to accelerate it."

Metcalf's Aggies currently lead the SWC with a 5-0 mark, one game ahead of the Razorbacks who, like the Aggies sometimes employ the "four corner" passing game.

"We probably have more depth than Arkansas but depth won't be a factor Saturday like it has been. There will be five TV timeouts that will stop the game and keep them from getting tired," Metcalf added.

In assessing his teams performance against SMU last Tuesday night Metcalf said, "I thought we played better against Tech and Texas but over all I thought we had a good game."

"Our depth and defense finally took its toll and they just finally got tired," Metcalf said. "It looks like a three team race now with Tech, Arkansas, and us."

Metcalf didn't point out any one individual for having a good game against SMU. "We play as a team and as I've said before, this is a very unselfish group of men."

The Aggies return to G. Rollie White to play Baylor Tuesday night and then have a return match with the Razorbacks Saturday, also in

College Station. Metcalf was asked if he thought playing the Razorbacks twice in one week would be an advantage to either team. "Whoever wins the first game will have the advantage in the second game."

Metcalf remarked that it was still early in the season to talk about championships. "Our two big things are to keep our mental attitude and to stay healthy. If we can do that we will be all right."

The Aggie-Razorback game can be seen in the Bryan-College Station area on KCEN-TV. Game time is 2:00 p.m. with Frank Fallon and Dan Spika doing the play-by-play for TVS.

Netters go to Edinburg for tourney

Coach Richard Barker takes four of his top tennis players to Edinburg today to compete in the Pan American tourney Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. A&M's top four ranked players will make the trip.

The 16th ranked Ags will be led by Bill Wright, Bill Hoover, Mark Silberman, and Charles Emley.

The Ags return to Pan American on the 21st for a match followed by a match in San Antonio the next day with Trinity.

The Ags will travel to Corpus Christi the following weekend, Feb. 27, 28 to compete in the Corpus Christi tournament.

Bowlers take lead in league

Led by Ray Scott's 190 average, the A&M Bowling Team is now in front of the Texas Intercollegiate Bowling Conference. The Ags now lead second place Houston by four games.

The Ags will bowl against UH in the first round of the A&M TIBC meet which will be held at the University of Houston bowling lanes on Saturday. The two leaders meet at 9:00.

A&M won the TIBC meet held last weekend in San Marcos and hosted by Southwest Texas State. The Ags led with a 7-2 record.

Other top Aggie bowlers are Hal Vorland 186, Mitch Smith 181, John Chappuis 180, Larry Galvin 189 and Bill Bollinger 176.

Tony Kirk, instructor, said, "We have a good chance of being invited to a colossal tournament in Dayton, Ohio. They invite the top 12 men's teams, the top 12 women's teams and the top commercial and military teams. This is the big time, TV and everything."



Catcher Mike Frazier in batting practice.

S P R I N G


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Thursday
February 6
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