

BLAKE SCHWARZ

Register pays compliment

Coach Sees improvement in TAMU's front foursome

By MIKE BRUTON
Sports Editor

"We're better at the front four than we were last year." Defensive line coach Paul Register paid quite a compliment to the Texas A&M defensive front wall when he made that statement in a Battalion interview yesterday. It's awfully hard to be better than Warren Trahan, Ted Lamp, Paul Hulin and Don Long, considering that they anchored the line of the Aggie defense that finished second only to powerful Notre Dame nationally in 1974.

One possible reason why that front four was so good could have been the four young men who played behind them and sometimes in front. Tank Marshall, Blake Schwarz, Edgar Fields and Jimmy Dean saw plenty of action in 1974, with Fields and Schwarz starting part-time. These four players are big, agile, mobile and tough as they come.

Register said he is very pleased to be able to coach that kind of talent, but he mentioned one aspect that

may prove to be the Achilles Heel for the defensive linemen next year. Depth. "As far as the starters are concerned, we'll be a little bit better. The only difference is depth," the defensive line strategist said. Register also said substitutions won't be as free as they were last season unless the second-teamers or incoming freshmen come through.

But if the starters stay healthy next year, there'll be many teams who'll have trouble offensively against the Aggies. The starting front wall averages 241 pounds a man and is equally adept at shutting out the run as rushing the passer.

Fields, 6-3 and 240, has excellent range and the speed to make the plays outside from his defensive tackle position. He is extremely mobile and carries his huge frame 40 yards in 4.8 seconds. Many scribes have dubbed him as a candidate for All-America in the upcoming season. Fields is a fierce pass rusher and TCU quarterback Greg Cook will agree with that. The Horned Frog signal-caller spent the

whole afternoon dodging and running from Fields, not always successfully, when A&M played TCU last fall.

Besides being fleet of feet and mobile, the big junior is a terror when it comes to digging the cleats into the turf to protect the middle. Register commented on Fields' inside game with a smile on his face. "They couldn't block him last spring," he said, referring to the A&M starting offensive linemen. If the Aggie offensive line couldn't block him, there aren't many other people in this country who can.

The other man in the middle will be Dean (6-5, 253) who has been a solid performer for the past two sea-

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Aaron slaps homer; Ryan admits mistake

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Nolan Ryan admitted he made more than a few mistakes Saturday, and the foremost was trying to slip a 2-0 curveball past the revived Hank Aaron.

Aaron, on a tear of 10 hits in 23 times at bat after a miserable season's start, parked Ryan's curve high into the left field bleachers for the go-ahead run in the third inning and the Milwaukee Brewers held on for a 6-4 victory over baseball's hottest pitcher and his California Angels' teammates before a national television audience.

"I was just geared for anything hard and he threw me a hard curve," Aaron said of his seventh homer of the year and No. 740 of his career, which broke a 2-2 tie. "Ryan was just as fast as usual,"

Aaron said. "He even had a better breaking ball than the last time we saw him. We didn't hit him hard — nobody can hit him hard — but we got some timely hits."

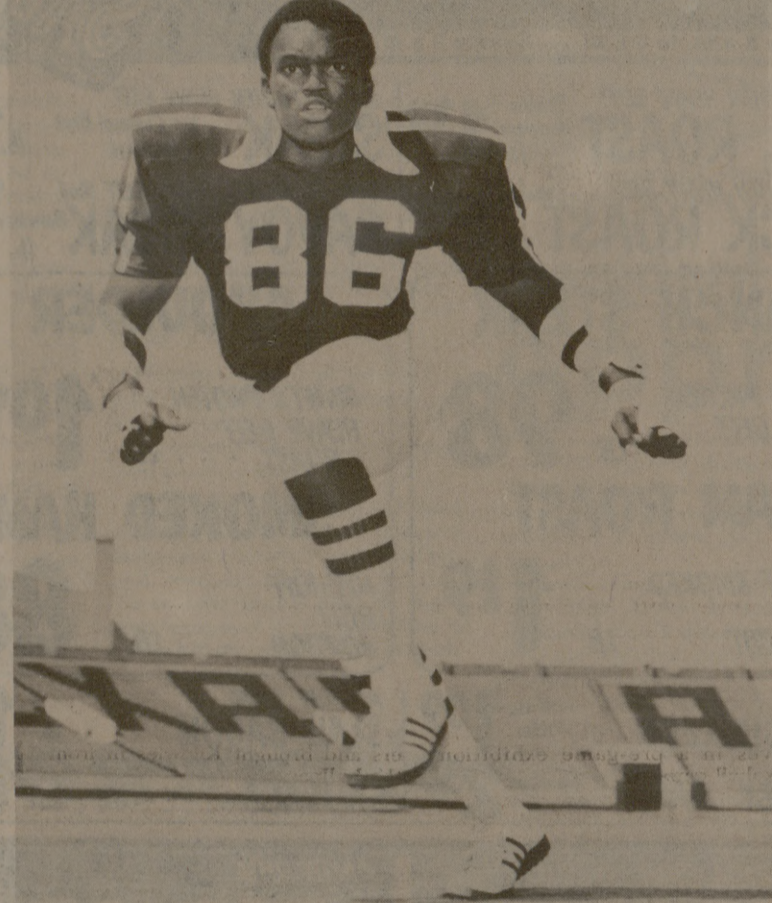
"We didn't play well as a team and I didn't pitch well," said Ryan, who still fanned 12 Brewers to increase his major league leading strikeout total to 119.

"Anytime you get Aaron 2-0 and give him a ball he can pull, it's a mistake," he said.

A sacrifice fly by Gorman Thomas gave the Brewers a 4-2 lead in the fourth after Darrell Porter walked and raced to third on an error by Jerry Remy.

Sixto Lezcano doubled to start the fifth and scored the decisive run on a single by George Scott. After an infield hit by Aaron and a walk filled the bases, Pedro Garcia's sacrifice fly made it 6-2.

Ryan shares the major league record of four no-hitters with Sandy Koufax — and lost a shot at a fifth no-hitter June 6 when Aaron singled off him with two outs in the sixth inning.



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