

Ags bag six chips

Linemen, linebackers dominate

It was open season on blue chippers Tuesday, and the Texas Aggies wound up bagging six of the highly prized schoolboy gridders.

The Southwest Conference signing began at 8 a.m., and by noon the

Aggies had written commitments from 29 players. The majority of the recruits were linemen and linebackers, and a few additions were made in the positions of quarterback, wide receiver, tight end and defensive

back. Leading the pack was Bryan High's All-American seatback Curtis Dickey. The 6-2, 200 lb. senior was sought after by every major college and university in the nation. Dickey

verbally committed to A&M last month and Head Coach Emory Ballard was on hand at his home early Monday morning during the signing. After glancing at Dickey's signature, Ballard enthusiastically replied, "I'll probably never be a millionaire, but right now I think I know how one feels."

Other top players bound for Aggie land include three linemen, a linebacker, and a running back. The big men are Paul Hagerty, 6-4, 255, from Corpus Christi Carroll; Thomas Gregory, 6-5, 255, from Conroe and Gerald Galloway, 6-3, 250, from Andrews.

The blue chip linebacker signed is Frank Lemons, 6-2, 215 from Pampa. His older brother, Billy, is presently an offensive guard at A&M. Also included in the elite collection is David Brothers, a 6-0, 212 lb. running back from Seguin.

"This is an outstanding group, with quality at every position," said Ballard. "Overall, this could be as

fine a group as we've ever signed at A&M."

Three other hopefuls, Zach Guthrie, a 6-6, 258 lb. lineman from Tyler John Tyler; Ed Guthrie, a 6-1, 215 lb. running back out of Marietta, Ga. and John Adams, a 6-2, 210 lb. linebacker from DeRidder, La., have not signed Southwest Conference letters as yet. Zach Guthrie is interested in visiting Tennessee State and Grambling, while Ed Guthrie still has his sights on Penn State and Notre Dame. Adams has signed a letter of intent with Louisiana State, but may sign with A&M at a later date.

— Pat Edmondson

Fems lose first home game, fall to Longhorns 43-42

Rita Swindell's free throw with 30 seconds remaining put the game away for the Texas Longhorns as the A&M women's basketball team lost a 43-42 heartbreaker.

It was the Aggies' first defeat at home. Their record now stands at 7-4 for the season.

A&M started the game a bit cold as Texas built a quick 9-4 lead. But the Ags soon gathered momentum, consistently getting in perfect scoring

position under the basket, and mounted a 20-11 lead. The Ags' defense kept the Longhorns scoreless for an incredible ten minutes. At halftime, the Aggies were on top, 22-15.

Not until about eight minutes remained in the game did the Longhorns manage to even the score. Both teams traded the lead back and forth, ending up in a 42-42 deadlock with just seconds remaining. Then

came Swindell's free throw that secured the win for Texas.

Cissy Auclair led the scoring for the Aggies, getting 15 points while Sally Morrise scored nine.

Tomorrow the Aggies will head to Waco to compete in a three-day tournament hosted by Baylor. The Ags will begin play against Texas Lutheran College tomorrow night at 6 p.m.

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Chandler's crew starts conditioning

By PAT EDMONDSON
Battalion Staff Writer

In the midst of basketball and track, the cracking tune of bat against ball can already be heard at the A&M baseball field.

Coach Tom Chandler's crew has been conditioning and going through drills the past two weeks in preparation for their season opener against St. Mary's University Feb. 21.

"We're looking forward to another great season," said Chandler, "although we will be very young and inexperienced."

With such standouts as Tommy Hawthorne, Jim Bratsen, Mike Schraeder, Mike Frazier and Al Thurmond lost to graduation, the vacancies will have to be filled with new material. Only three starters return from a 31-8 club which gained national ranking and reached the NCAA Midwest Finals.

"The last three years have just been tremendous," added Chandler. "This will be somewhat of a rebuilding year."

Returning this season are shortstop Robert Bonner, first baseman Kirk Campbell and outfielder Billy Raymer.

The pitching department looks strong as all of last year's fireballers return. That list includes All-SWC veteran James "Hoot" Gibson, Clint Thomas, David Lockett, Kirk Campbell and Alan Wilson.

Returning squadmen who are probable starters are outfielders Ricky Crabtree and Craig Hodges, second baseman Tommy Larsen and catcher John Biersner.

Chandler also recruited two players from junior colleges to help fill the gaps. They are third baseman Winston Whiddon from Panola Junior College and Buddy Grobe, a second baseman who spent last season at Temple Junior College.

Pitcher-outfielder Mark Thurmond, catchers Buster Turner and Marc Ashley, first baseman Bob Dilac, second baseman Randy Woodruff and shortstop Scott Pascual are freshmen in contention for starting positions.

Pitchers Mark Ross, Rick Gorzyski, and Del Leatherwood will be pushing for a spot in the starting rotation.

The 1976 schedule is composed of 18 home games and nine visits to opposing universities.

The Ags will compete in the Alamo City Bicentennial Tournament in San Antonio, March 14-17.

"The boys have been working hard," said Chandler. "We are very optimistic."

SWC standings

Team	Record	Games Out
Texas A&M	8-1	
Texas Tech	8-2	1-2
SMU	8-3	1
Baylor	6-5	3
TCU	5-5	3 1/2
Arkansas	5-6	4
Houston	4-5	4
Texas	2-8	6 1/2
Rice	0-11	9

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