# erBaseballers open with St. Mary's

By PAT EDMONDSON

**Battalion Sports Writer** v as a vide pring training is drawing to a 7, 1974, and Coach Tom Chandler's hall team is undergoing final aration for Friday's season openoubleheader against St. Mary's luding De

she iden nferno. rday, were moved up one day as to conflict with the A&M-ansas basketball game. The shall game will begin at 1 p.m.

St. Mary's is much improved," Chandler. "This is probably the am they've had in years." e to losses from last year's n, Chandler has had to deal with ith them inexperienced group of players e or be la

God pt," he said, "and a little educa-and experience in a hurry." hitting department is Chanad to 's main concern as only three rs return from last year's

e toni econd in the nation in hitting, ast year the team average was

practice and scrimmages, the es have done poorly with the

turning for A&M will be Kirk d for the a .385 batting average. pbell, who will start at first base, o an effective relief pitcher. second base duties will be by Buddy Grobe, a transfer Temple Junior College. Grobe

Il tie it igning date on and a roves good or Ags' team

usly signed Southwest Conceletters of intent with the Ageturned national letters to A&M yesterday, said assistant

right, recruiting coordination irector of public relations for thletic department, said that White, a quarterback from Fort h Carter, did not sign Wednes-White is reportedly receiving from Ohio State and North

fight also said that the Aggies have high hopes of landing blue lineman Zach Guthrie. Guthrie posedly has narrowed his choices M. Tennessee State and abling and will make his decing visitation to all three. SWC letter commits the boy to ool in that conference," said "and he then cannot go to er school in that conference. ut he is still free to sign on the al signing date with a school de the conference," he added.

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Pushing for his spot will by Randy Woodruff, a freshman from Texar-

Sophomore Richard Bonner, who was drafted by the Montreal Expos out of high school, will begin his second year at shortstop for the Ags. Bonner has also been troubled by injuries in the past. Freshman Scott Paschal, who wields a good glove, will challenge Bonner for the posi-

this spring but is expected to start. Winston Whiddon, a junior college transfer from Panola. Whiddon was the leading hitter last year in the Panola league.
Tommy Larsen, a utility intielder,

will fill in a vacancy somewhere in

The catching situation appears questionable with two players contending for starting roles. John Biersner and Buster Turner are expected to share equal time behind

those easy shots good, the outcome of the matches would have been dif-

chance to win the Southland Confer-

Texas. The matches begin at 1:30.

### Netters defeated, 5-4

The Texas Aggie tennis team suf-fered its second defeat of the season "but we just missed too many easy Wednesday at the hands of the University of Southwestern Louisiana

The loss brings the Aggies' over-all record to 3-2.

The Aggies were able to win only two of the six singles matches, but managed to come back and win the 1974," said Chandler, "we final two doubles matches.

In the first singles match, Charles st year the team average was I'm afraid we will be weaker Lomax 7-6, 7-5. In the second match, the Aggies' Mike Moss lost to Bill Shine 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Tom Courson gave A&M its first victory in the ngles matches when he defeated Mark Schulz 6-0, 6-1. Mark Silbermpbell, last year's leading hitter man lost to Julian Hine 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 while Mark Parker was defeated by Steve Kohler 6-4, 6-1. John Kirwan gave A&M its only other singles victory by defeating Harry Barton

In the doubles matches, A&M's No. 1 team of Emley and Moss lost to Lomax and Shine 6-3, 6-2. Courson-Kirwan defeated Schulz-Kohler 7-6, 6-1 and Parker-Silberman beat Hine-Barton 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to give A&M its two victories in the doubles matches.
"Southwestern has a very good

The outfield will consist of Billy Raymer, Mark Thurmond, and Robert Verde. Raymer is a power hitter who was an all-SWC selection last year. Thurmond, who steps into the uniform of departed brother Al, was an outstanding schoolboy hitter and pitcher last year at Houston Spring Branch.

Verde came to A&M on a football scholarship and has joined the team

as a walk-on. Richard Crabtree and Craig

Hodges, both returning squadmen, will also see action in the outfield. The designated hitter role will be filled by Randy Blanchard, who enrolled at A&M at mid-term after "but we just missed too many easy shots. All of the matches were close and if we could have made some of

playing last season at Hill Junior College. Bob Dulak, a freshman, will serve sparingly in the same role.

One bright spot is the return of all of last year's starting pitchers.

James "Hoot" Gibson, Clint Thomas, and David Lockett won 28 games between them and have pergames between them and have per-

formed competitively this spring

Southwestern defeated Baylor earlier in the week 7-2 and according to Coach Barker USL has a good said Chandler. Gibson was all-SWC last season ence championship.

"The season is still young," Coach
Barker said, "and I'm sure we're
going to get better as the season proand Thomas earned the same honor as a sophomore. Chandler said that Alan Wilson is improving and will also be in the starting rotation. Other hurlers include Mark Ross, David Mocio, Rick Gorzyski, and Thur-The Aggies' next action will be Friday afternoon against Southwest

As to the Aggies' conference title chances Chandler said, "If you finish ahead of Texas, then you'll win the conference." He said that TCU is balanced and appears a strong contender with the Aggies right behind.

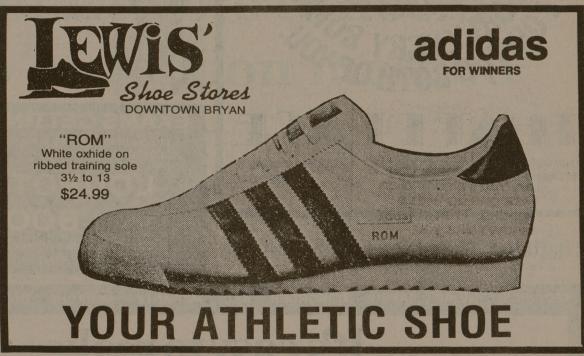
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Though the squad is basically young, Chandler is enthusiastic. "I'm pleased with the people I recruited," he said. "We tried to blend in a little youth with some experi-

He added, "There will be room for improvement, but these kids really want to work hard to give A&M a good baseball program.









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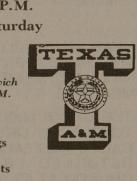
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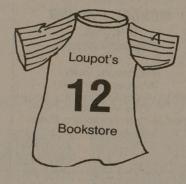
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