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Plays today at 1

Baseball team whips St. Mary's

By PAT EDMONDSON
Battalion Staff Writer

The baseball team opened the 1976 season on a winning note as Clint Thomas and James "Hoot" Gibson turned in brilliant pitching performances to spark the Aggies to a double-header sweep of St. Mary's University.

Coach Tom Chandler's squad tagged Rattler hurlers for 16 hits in the 14-7 opener and David Lockett relieved Gibson late in the nightcap to preserve a 7-2 victory.

The Ags are 2-0 for the season while St. Mary's dropped to 1-3.

Prior to Friday, Chandler was concerned about his players getting wood on the ball. His worries were silenced though, as Aggie batters rapped out 24 hits in the twin-bill.

"I was pleasantly surprised at the number of hits," he said, "but it was a hitters' day. They were pitching into the teeth of the wind."

A&M pitcher Clint Thomas was

rudely greeted by a home run in the first inning. Shortstop Glynn Tschirhart promptly shelled a Thomas fastball over the left field wall.

"It kind of shook me up," Thomas said. "It was too early for something like that to happen."

"It was hard to keep the fastball down," he added. "The wind was blowing and he just got it up in the air."

Following Tschirhart's blast, the Aggies retaliated, taking advantage of Gary Fussell's erratic pitching. The Rattler hurler walked in one run and threw a wild pitch causing another and rightfielder Billy Raymer looped a single which gave the Farmers a 5-1 lead.

Raymer accounted for two hits in four trips to the plate, knocking in four runs.

Another standout was Robert Verde, a football player who earned a starting position in left field this

spring. Verde had three hits and two runs batted in for the afternoon.

"He has been a pleasant surprise," said Chandler. "He is an aggressive athlete and he really likes to play."

Fussell was lifted and A&M responded with hits by Raymer, Verde, Winston Whiddon, Randy Woodruff, Mark Thurmond, Scott Paschal, David Lockett, Kirk Campbell, and Bob Dulak adding to the Rattler dismay. The Ags nailed relievers John St. Eve and Al Devave for six additional runs.

Thomas pitched his prescribed five innings and was relieved by Alan Wilson. Wilson threw nearly flawless ball before a rash of infield errors allowed St. Mary's six runs.

"The infield was a little disappointing," said Chandler. "I think they had the first game jitters. But they gonna make good infielders."

Thomas got the win, scattering four hits and striking out four.

Wilson gave up two hits and fanned two hitters en route to his initial save of the season.

In the second game, St. Mary's opened with a fluke single which sailed inches over second baseman Tommy Larsen's head. The Rattlers again took the early lead as the next batter lashed a double to put them ahead, 1-0. St. Mary's added another run moments later on a wild pitch by Gibson.

The Aggies bounced back in their half of the inning as freshman Mark Thurmond belted a two-run homer following two walks. Hits by Tommy Larsen and Randy Blanchard created a 4-2 advantage.

"I'm not really a power hitter," he said. "I just try to get the bat on the ball. It was really exciting for me, and I was on cloud nine going around the bases."

Gibson quieted down in the second inning and threw admirably, allowing only two hits in the next four innings.

Alert base running by Larsen on a pop out advanced him to third and shortstop Robert Bonner stole second before Blanchard sent them across the plate on a single. This put the Aggies up 6-2.

Blanchard had a field day, going three for three with four runs batted in while scoring one himself.

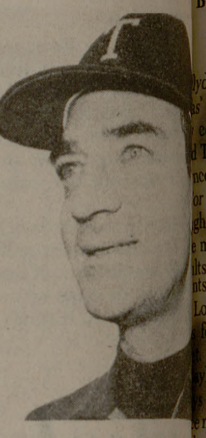
catcher John Biersner in the third inning.

Gibson got the win, giving up five runs on four hits. An All-Southwest Conference selection last year, Gibson walked two and struck out two.

As to his poor start Gibson explained, "It always takes me a couple of innings to get started. After that, I get in the groove and I'm okay."

During his appearance, Lockett notched a save by fanning two Rattlers and allowing a lone walk in the last inning.

Though the team looked impress-



Tom Chandler

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Faulkenberry leads Ags past Arkansas, Tulane

SANFORD RUSSO
Battalion Contributing Editor

Ronald Faulkenberry led the Aggie swim team to victory this weekend when they met Arkansas and Tulane in New Orleans.

Faulkenberry won both the three-meter and one-meter diving events. He gained his career high point total with a 240.90 in the one-meter event.

"Ron is throwing (performing with good form) his dives real consistently," said Skip Cox, assistant swimming and diving coach. Cox expects Faulkenberry to qualify for Nationals.

"He hasn't made the (total performance rating) ... Lang, Cox, but it's coming soon. Ron will finish in the top ... Conference meet."

Since diving provides point-receiving events, ... nnis Fosdick has chosen ... diving squad light. There ... kenberry is the only diver ... this year on the 18-man ... squad.

Most of the points to win ... ference meet are accumulated ... 17 swimming events. Fosdick ... his team are trying to make ... eback after a sixth place ... year.

There was plenty of excitement ... the swimming side of the ... team entered the last ... 400-yard freestyle relay ... Led ... take the event or lose the ... his ...

The swimmers who earned a put ... seven-point win for the ... of Tex ... Don Reeser, Jim Yates, Erik ... 34 th ... son and Chris Shipp.

"They made a good ... in the ... swimming all out when ... dead tired," said Fosdick. ... the surp ... whole team showed the ... fight back and show a lot ... despite the large number ... who were sick.

Freshman Bruce Hoak ... to the personal best ... 20 1/2 ... to 11:11.83 in the 1000-yard ... Coach Bo ... event. This makes the ... Mike F ... 10:12.5 set by Doug ... the 60-ya ... is Floyd ...

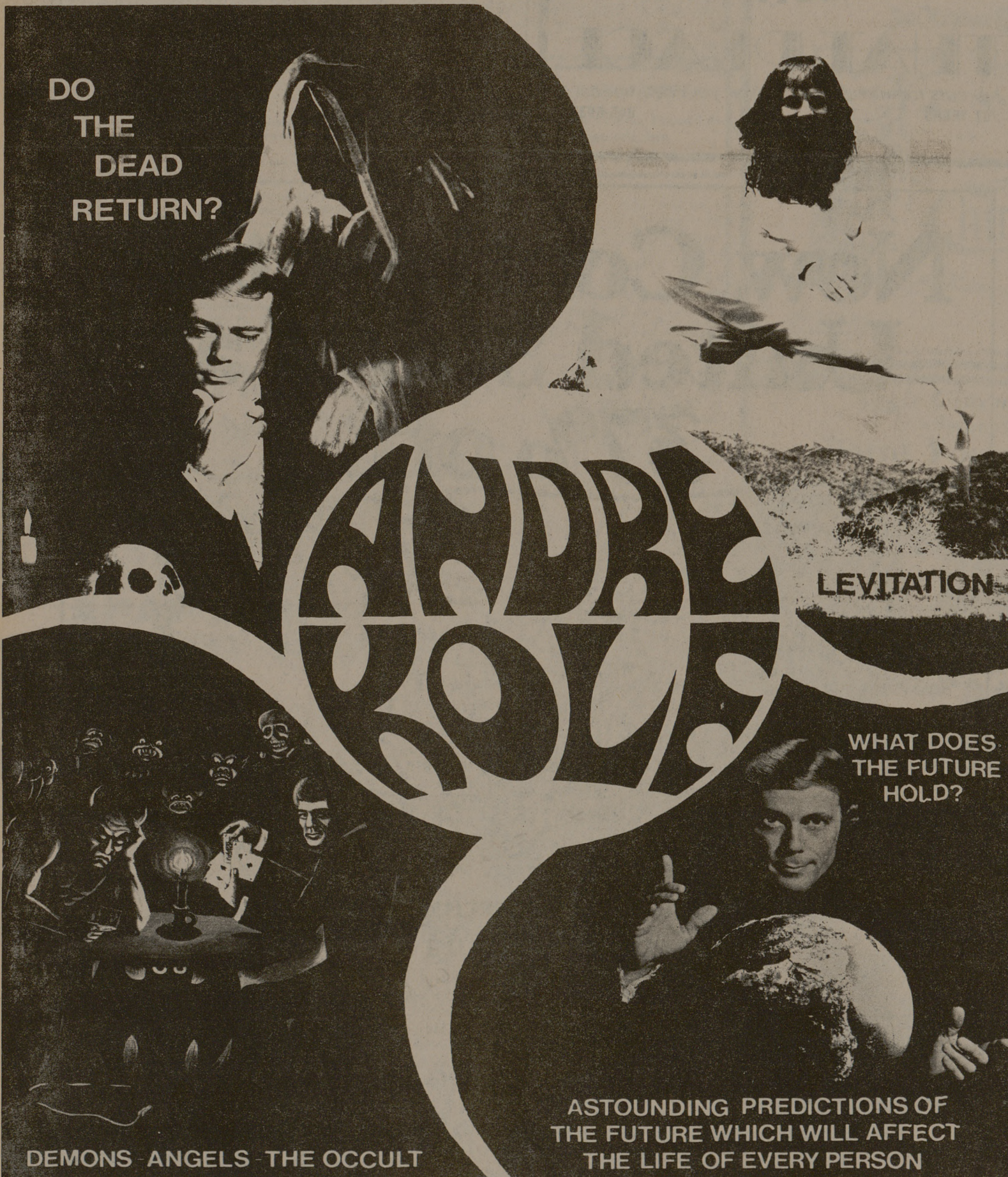
"Hoak is a good example ... advantages of a walk-on ... said Fosdick. He added ... Southwest Conference ... squad ruling could possi ... damper on this because ... the number of meets the ... can swim in and make ... Other top personal times ... turned in by freshmen ... and Erik Rasmuson. ... swam a :48.68 in the 100- ... tyle and Ship swam a :48. ... same event.

The meet last weekend ... of the season as the men's ... pares to begin tapering for ... ference meet March 4-6.

The meet last weekend ... of the season as the men's ... pares to begin taper for the ... ence meet March 4-6.

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