

Wait for NCAA berth

# Ags sweep series

By PAT EDMONDSON

Superlative pitching performance by Clint Thomas, James Gibson, and David Lockett led to a probable at-large playoff berth as the Texas Aggies finished the conference play whipping Arkansas 3-1, and 7-5.

The squad ended the 1976 season with a 15-6 Southwest Conference runner-up to champion Texas. Horns took two of three games at Texas Tech in nabbing their SWC crown in 63 Years of competition.

The Aggies set a new school record by winning their 33rd game of the year. The previous season total 32 victories.

"We had a great season," said

Coach Tom Chandler. "Our team has such tremendous leadership. A&M must now wait for a bid from the NCAA to advance to post-season action."

"We are fairly certain to get an NCAA bid," said Chandler. "It looks like we will be playing in the Midwest NCAA Finals or the Rocky Mountain Finals," he added.

Last year the Cadets played in the Midwest NCAA Finals and narrowly lost out to the University of Oklahoma.

The pitching trio of Thomas, Gibson and Lockett has a combined won-lost record of 30-6 this year.

"The pitching has just been outstanding the last two series," said Chandler.

The Ags went into the Arkansas series needing a pair of wins to lock up the second place spot.

"The boys really came through," said Chandler. "There has been great pressure on them the last two weeks," he added, "and they came through in flying colors."

Chandler is planning to schedule some practice games in preparation for the May 27-29 playoffs. St. Mary's University, Lamar University, and Pan American University are listed as possible candidates. Lamar and Pan American will play in the NCAA Finals in Arlington later this month.

The College World Series will be held June 11 in Omaha, Neb.

# Coaches swamp A&M for Robertson's secrets

Associated Press

They come like scientists to view the creation that Melvin Robertson hath wrought.

Some go away not totally understanding or agreeing with his defensive philosophies at Texas A&M University.

Others — such as three professional teams which Robertson asks to go unnamed — have tried to hire him away from the school which owned the finest defense in the country last year.

"The money offers have been attractive and it's flattering but I still like working with the kids," says Robertson. "I like the enthusiasm in college football."

The 48-year-old Robertson, a former quarterback at West Texas State University, has been swamped by college and pro coaches during Texas A&M's spring football practice.

Some of the colleges visiting have included Stanford, Southern California, Tennessee, Arizona, Oklahoma State, Wyoming, Lamar University, Ventura College Calif., Augusta College N.D., and Utah State.

The Aggies, who led the nation in total defense and were No. 1 against the rush, field a basic 4-3 alignment which Robertson says "I believe will be the upcoming trend in collegiate football. A lot of people believe that is the best defense against option football rather than having a noseguard over the center."

It's hard to argue with Texas A&M's 1975 statistics. The Aggies allowed only three runs over 17 yards. On 166 possessions, the opposition failed to make a first down 115 times. A&M opponents averaged punting nine times a game and the Aggies defense averaged capturing two turnovers per contest.

"We play a calculated, gambling type of defense," says Robertson. "The key is our linebackers. Our

linebackers made as many sacks as our linemen last year."

Texas A&M had two All-American linebackers, Ed Simonini and Garth Ten Napel, last year but Robertson says he has a middle linebacker, Robert Jackson, who "is the best I've coached in 25 years. Just wait until you see him go."

Robertson coached seven years as an assistant under Bill Yeoman at the University of Houston.

"We were 2-8, 2-8, during the those first two years but our defense still averaged 12th nationally over the seven year period I was there," says Robertson.

The Aggies were second nationally on defense in 1974.

Robertson is one of the few defensive coaches in the country who has his own television show.

"I think Larry Laceywell at Oklahoma and Jimmy Johnson at Arkansas are the only other ones who have shows," says Robertson. "We had the Southern Cal coaches on the other night. I think it helps show the fans that defense is just as big a cheese game as offense."

Why do coaches make the pilgrimage to A&M to put Robertson's defense under the microscope?

"They are amazed the way our kids crowd the football," says Robertson. "Our theory is to make the big play. That takes enthusiasm, and of course, calculated gambles."

Robertson studies film until his eyeballs roll so he can trigger the proper gamble at the right time.

His idea of a vacation "Oh, I take some time off in June and just putter around the house and watch film," he says. "I take Jimmie (his wife) out to eat every now and then to keep her happy."

And Robertson is happy with the defense he has coming back in 1976. "We could be absolutely super," says Robertson. "Interest in its traditions is invited to come."

# Emley claims finals gained with confidence

By DEBBIE KRENEK

Confidence... and a little luck. That's what Charles Emley claims led him to the finals of the Southwest Conference tennis tournament Saturday.

His luck came when the conference was rearranged so that players with about the same capabilities competed against each other. Emley, the No. 1 player for the Texas Aggies, played tennis players of his own standing from other colleges.

"I had to play people that had beat me earlier. Once you beat somebody you don't have too much respect for that person. I think the people I played were looking ahead to the next match because they figured they could beat me," Emley said.

The confidence came when he was on the court, Emley said.

"You have to go back to practice and try to duplicate what you accomplished there. You have to keep

telling yourself to make the person work and don't give him any easy points," Emley said.

"I didn't get nervous because usually you don't unless you've been winning all season. When you've been losing, one more doesn't make that much difference so you're relatively calm," Emley said.

Emley comes from a family of tennis players and started playing when he was 6 years old. His father, who played tennis in high school, taught him the basics of the sport and he began lessons when he was 10.

"I took up tennis because I was too small for football and I liked it so well I stuck with it," Emley said.

He began competing in the 12 and under division of tournaments when he was seven.

"The division was composed mainly of 11 and 12-year-olds so at first I got beat left and right because I was so small. After a while I began to win my games," Emley said.

Emley was on the tennis team at Robert E. Lee high school in San Antonio. He won district four years there and advanced to state in his junior and senior years.

During the summer, Emley gives tennis lessons at a San Antonio country club. A junior P.E. major at A&M, Emley plans to become a teaching pro when he graduates.

Emley says he doesn't mind playing in front of an audience at tennis tournaments.

"One of the most embarrassing things that ever happened to me was at the University of Texas tournament. I walked over to the net to pick up a ball and the cable on the net broke. The fans sure gave me trouble about that one especially since I was an Aggie," Emley said.

Emley practices two and a half hours a day. However, he says he stays away from the tennis courts on the weekends.

# Amazing Dr. J. leads N.Y. Nets over Nuggets

Associated Press

Second shots, rhythm and Julius Erving, not necessarily in that order, led the New York Nets to command, and now at least, of the American Basketball Association championship playoffs.

"Now you can add Nets' momentum to that list of problems the regular-season champion Denver Nuggets must solve Tuesday night in the second game of the series.

"We must do a better job on Julius," said Larry Brown, the Nets' coach, as he tried to analyze what went wrong in Saturday night's 120-118 Net victory that gave New York a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

It was an understatement.

"When the rhythm got going, I just kept it up," said Dr. J., who scored 45 points, including 1 of the Nets' last 11 and the last two on a

15-foot baseline jumper at the buzzer.

He tried 36 shots from the field and the free-throw line, scoring on 28. He had 12 rebounds and four assists. And as important as anything else, he forced Bobby Jones, the Denver forward who's acknowledged among the best defensive players in the ABA, into six fouls. Jones' substitute, Gus Gerard, and center Dan Issel, who helped in guarding Erving, each had five fouls.

In addition, he was almost unstoppable under the Nets' offensive boards. In a span of four minutes of the final quarter, he rebounded four shots into the basket.

"I started out trying to play an inside game, posting up with my back to the basket, 15 feet and in," Erving said. "I had some success with it, and

they had some people in foul trouble."

After the game he had played, Erving said he was concerned about a possible overtime when 7-foot-11 Nugget rookie Marvin Webster stuffed a rebound with four seconds to go to tie the score. "I thought about it for a split second, and obviously they were negative thoughts," Erving said. "If we had to play five more minutes, I would have just had to reach back for more."

Kevin Loughery, the Nets coach, was worried before the game about the effects on his team of a layoff of more than one week after its semifinal series victory over San Antonio.

The Nuggets came into the series three days after winning the seventh game of their semifinals against Kentucky.

# Former player dies in crash

OKLAHOMA CITY — Funeral services are pending here today for Ed Gray, a tackle for the University of Oklahoma football team in 1956, who was killed late Wednesday in a truck crash near here. He was 43.

Gray was driving east on U.S. 60 when a truck jack-knifed, crossed the median and the two vehicles slammed together head-on, authorities said.

Gray was an All-Big Seven player in 1955-56, the years Oklahoma won national football championships. He started every game his sophomore through senior years and after graduation played in the Canadian Football League.

Survivors include his widow, Peggy; a son, Greg, a freshman at the University of Texas at El Paso; a son, Kevin, and a daughter, Teresa.

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