

Sports

Horns, Aggies clash in first of three-game series

By STEVE MARTAINDALE

Of the past 12 Southwest Conference baseball seasons, the University of Texas has won or shared every title.

Of those 12 seasons, Texas A&M University has placed second or tied for first seven times, but has not won an outright championship since 1964.

If either of these patterns change this year, it may happen this

weekend when Texas visits the Aggies for a three-game series.

The series, beginning at 3 p.m. today, will be the last on A&M's existing field, which will be replaced by a \$2 million, 5,000-seat stadium next spring. The two teams will meet again Saturday for a doubleheader at 1 p.m.

A&M brings a 13-3 SWC record into the series with a pair of losses to Texas Tech and one to Baylor. Texas has an 11-1 record—its one loss going to Rice. With its 3-2 win, Rice

broke a 34 game Longhorn winning streak, a collegiate record. The Aggies have a 30-10 season record while the Horns stand at 39-1.

The conference championship is decided by winning percentage making the biggest statistic the "loss" column. Texas has a two-game lead.

The Aggies will also have two records on the line this series. The next A&M home run will break a 16-year-old record of 37, and if catcher Buster Turner can hit safely in all three games, he will break the 19-game streak established last year by shortstop Robert Bonner.

The Aggie baseballers have had more than the customary amount of difficulty in breaking the home run record.

Twice in the past two series the record-breaking hit has sailed over the fence, but has not yet entered the record books.

When Baylor visited A&M, freshman center fielder Mike Hurdle hit what appeared to be an in-the-park double. After the play, however, fans in the outfield said the hit cleared the fence, bounced off a trailer and back into the field where it was played by the right fielder.

Last weekend the Aggies went to Houston and Friday took a 4-3 win over Rice without a home run. Saturday the Aggies had taken a 4-0 lead, aided by a Turner homer (extending his hitting streak to 18 games) only to have a fourth-inning rainstorm wipe the slate clean, as if the game had never been played.

After the series, A&M will lack only a visit to Houston to wrap up its conference play. Texas will host Houston and visit Arkansas and Baylor while finishing SWC play.

Last season, Texas won two of three games when the Aggies visited

Austin. The Longhorns won by scores of 3-0 and 8-2 while A&M took one 2-0 win.

Leading Texas in hitting is right fielder Jerry Jones, who brings a .383 average into the game. Turner leads the Aggies with a .355 norm.

Teamwise, the Aggies have the upper hand in batting with a .309 average. Texas is hitting .295.

Longhorn coach Cliff Gustafson will choose his starting pitchers from righthanders Tony Brizzolara (with a 7-0 record), Kem Wright (7-0), Don Kainer (9-1) and lefthander Bob Heuck (7-0).

Aggie coach Tom Chandler is expected to go with righthander Mark Ross (7-1) on Friday, lefthander Mark Thurmond (8-0) and righthander David Pieczynski (5-1) on Saturday.

Sophomore John Pockrus could also see plenty of action. As a relief

pitcher with a team-leading 0.51 earned run average, he has had six saves.

The probable batting order for Texas with their batting averages in parentheses is rightfielder Jerry Jones (.383), designated hitter Scott Soden (.336), third baseman Rocky Thompson (.358), first baseman Mickey Reichenbach (.286), left fielder Wendell Hibbett (.330), center fielder Charles Proske (.254), second baseman Ted Wendlandt (.242) and Andre Robertson (.276).

catcher Bobby Kearney (.330) and shortstop Steve Day (.263).

The probable lineup for A&M shortstop Robert Bonner (.300), and baseman (.316), centerfielder Mike Hurdle (.349), first baseman Kyle Hawthorne (.331), designated hitter Robert Verde (.209), right fielder Shelton McMath (.255) and catcher Buster Turner (.255).

A large crowd is expected for the series and portable bleachers will be moved in. A&M students will be admitted free of charge with a student ID. Adults will be 50 cents for \$1 and children for 50 cents.

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MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Intense heat fails to slow Ag spring training workouts

By NATHAN HINES

Heat radiated off the Astro turf and the sun showed no mercy while the Aggies went through spring training this week. Temperatures reached the upper 80s and the team went through its hottest week of workouts since spring training started.

But the sun did not stop the Ags. Plenty was accomplished this week, Coach Emory Bellard said.

Kevin Monk, one of three returning defensive starters, said that the defense has improved steadily since training started.

"All of the younger players have the desire and the ability to play top notch defense, but they only lack experience," Monk said. "These players, after a couple of games, will probably look like they are four-year lettermen. I have confidence in our defense."

The defense suffered a setback

Tuesday when Gerald Galloway, freshman defensive tackle, broke his leg.

"Gerald was a real fine ball player, and he could help the team," Bellard said. "He got pinched in between three people, and that bent his leg back and broke both bones in his lower leg."

The only serious injuries we have are Zach Guthrie and Gerald Galloway," A&M's team trainer Billy Pritchard said. "But we have a lot of minor injuries like cuts, scratches,

bruises, and Astro-turf burns along with some muscle strains. These injuries are not serious and most of the players are playing full speed with them.

"Most of the team will 'suck up' a small injury like this and never let it slow them down," Pritchard said.

The Ags have practice today, then an intersquad scrimmage tomorrow morning. This scrimmage, along with all of the practices, is open to the public.

CORRECTION

The \$1.08 per lb. of the following item was stated incorrectly in Wednesday's, Battalion. The correct price should be:

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