

# Aggies defeat No. 1 ranked Longhorns . . . twice

By STEVE MARTAINDALE  
"It feels great. Good isn't the word for it."

The man who said that just happened to be Robert Verde, left fielder for the Texas A&M baseball team. But he wasn't the only Aggie that felt great Saturday as A&M closed out Kyle Field's baseball history with two consecutive wins over the University of Texas.

The losses for the Longhorns were only the second and third they have suffered this season and places their No. 1 national ranking in jeopardy. But what the Aggies are

most interested in is the condition of the Southwest Conference battle for supremacy.

Friday, Texas beat A&M 12-5 but the Ags returned Saturday to win 1-0 and 8-5.

Verde also had a special reason for feeling so great after the first win for he singled in the game's only run in the final inning.

With one out and runners on first and third, Verde was facing Texas pitcher Tony Brizzolara, who had two strikes on the Beaumont junior.

On the following pitch, Verde lined a one-hopper to the cen-

terfielder, scoring Harry Francis from third and ending the game.

"He threw me a slider," Verde said. "He'd been getting me on it all day and he just got this one a little too far over the plate."

Francis was running for Bob Dulak, who reached first base on an error. Dulak hit a sharp ground over the pitcher's mound. Brizzolara got just the tip of his glove on the ball, probably keeping it from being a clean base hit. Second baseman Andre Robertson chased the ball down and hurried a throw to first

but it hit the dirt, allowing Dulak to arrive safely at first base.

Third baseman Winston Whiddon sacrificed Francis to second base with a bunt down the third base line. Shelton McMath, right fielder, hit a single to move Francis, a Bryan product, to third.

Mark Thurmond was the main man responsible for keeping the Longhorns from scoring for the first time this season. The sophomore pitcher from Spring Branch held Texas to only three hits while walking four batters and striking out 11. Only three balls, two of them

hits, even got to the outfield from the 'Horn batters. The shutout lowered Thurmond's league-leading earn-run average to 0.51.

In the second game Saturday, A&M took the 8-5 win off the boost of two three-run homers from first baseman Kyle Hawthorne.

The Aggies had a 1-0 lead in the third inning after pitcher David Piccynski had put out the first nine batters from Texas, five by strikeouts. Robert Bonner reach first on a single and Buddy Grobe followed with another single. Mike Hurdle

grounded out to the shortstop, leaving runners on second and third with two outs, bringing Hawthorne to bat.

Hawthorne, at 6'2" and 205 lbs. and the biggest Aggie on the field, posted the first pitch from Kem Wright over the right-center fence.

Texas followed in the fourth inning to score a run and stacked on four more in the top of the seventh inning.

Behind, 5-4, the Aggies opened their side of the seventh inning with a double from Grobe and a walk from Hurdle. With the two on and no outs, Hawthorne got hold of the second pitch, this time with Brizzolara on the mound, and hit it to the same spot in the same hard, line drive fashion, putting the Aggies in the lead for good.

"He's got a short, compact swing," Aggie coach Tom Chandler said after the game. "Seldom does one that chokes up that much hit that strong."

It's not that uncommon for Hawthorne, however, for the two homers moved him into the lead in the team race with eight this season.

The school record for an Aggie is nine, set in 1961 by Barber. Mike Hurdle and Turner are also in the top seven homers.

Turner let a record slip from his hand in the first game. He had gotten a hit off Brizzolara in the first game, but would have made 19 consecutive games with a base hit, a school record held by Robertson.

Turner, however, struck twice and popped out one game. He also got no hits in one game, never getting a hit in a game with the ball.

The catcher made up for his lack of hitting in the series and throwing only one attempted steal by the Longhorns.

The Aggies will next play Oklahoma State in Tulsa, Okla., meeting Oklahoma State on Friday and Saturday. Later, they will be in Houston for the University of Houston's weekend in Austin and Baylor.

Texas plays Houston at the weekend in Austin and Baylor.

## Aggie loses to Jimmy Connors

By JEANNE GRAHAM

He lost to Jimmy Connors, but Texas A&M ranks him number one.

Charles Emley, senior from San Antonio, leads the Texas A&M University tennis team this spring.

Only 5'7" and 145 lbs., Emley is a three-year letterman at A&M. He was Southwest Conference (SWC) doubles finalist in 1975, and finalist in the No. 1 singles tourney in the SWC last year.

"I was brought up playing tennis," the 22-year-old Emley said. At age six, his father was teaching him

the game. "Dad really pushed hard," Emley continued, "but if he hadn't, I never would have done so well."

Emley won his first tournament at the age of eight and was ranked first in the state two years later. He held the No. 1 title until he was 16.

Furthermore, he was ranked fourth in the nation in the 12-and-under division, and 2nd in national doubles competition in the 14-and-under division.

At San Antonio Lee High school, Emley was all-city and all-district

for four years, and all-regional and all-state for two years. He won the McFarland Award his senior year for scholastic, sportsmanship, and leadership qualities.

"Gottfried is the best I've ever played, outside of Jimmy Connors," Emley said. "I lost to both." Being the best in his division, he met and competed against top players.

When he wasn't playing competition during the summers before college, Emley was teaching at T-Bar-M Tennis Center outside of San Antonio.

Emley knew A&M Coach Richard Barker in high school and decided to come to A&M for that reason. "I hated the thought of A&M, but I wanted to play under Barker," Emley said. "Of course, now I love it."

"We practice 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours a day, and we haven't had a weekend off yet this semester," said Emley, speaking of the A&M team.

A Physical Education major, Emley said he takes 13 hours a semester to keep up with tennis and grades both. "We probably miss about one third of the semester playing tournaments," he explained.

"With the new courts being built, the team should really improve next year," Emley said. "Better facilities will bring better players."

"We appreciate the people who do come out," Emley said of the somewhat sparse attendance by

A&M students at the tournaments. "It's hard because there's no place to sit out there, and it gets muddy when it rains."

"We take a lot of abuse from Longhorns when we play TU in Austin, though, and it would be nice if the Aggies were out supporting us when we played them here."

Emley, with his brown, curly hair is unmistakable on the court. But he says he'll never play competitive tennis for a living.

"For one thing, I'm not good enough," Emley said, "and for another, competitive tennis becomes a job, and it ceases to be fun to me."

After he graduates in December 1977, Emley plans to teach for several years at Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio, then perhaps own and run a tennis center of his own.

## Marathon scheduled

The Texas A&M Marathon, the first of what is expected to be an annual running here of the classic event of 26 miles and 385 yards, is set for Saturday, April 30.

Half-marathon and quarter-marathon events will be offered in conjunction with the full marathon.

It all begins at 8 a.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum under the joint sponsorship of the Texas A&M Chapter of Phi Epsilon Kappa, honor society for physical education and health studies; the Texas A&M Aerobics Club, and the Brazos Valley Joggers Club.

Participation is open to anyone, regardless of affiliation with Texas A&M University, but organizers of the event emphasize that only well-conditioned runners should attempt the long events.

Offering of the marathon here this year was prompted by the formation of the first marathon class in Texas A&M's Health and Physical Education Department. The marathon will serve as the "final examination" for students enrolled in the class organized by Dr. George Jessup, associate professor.

The marathon will include the following age divisions for men: 20 and under; 21-30; 31-40; 41-50 and 51 and over. Women will compete in a separate division. Slightly varying age divisions have been established for the half and quarter marathons.

The events will be run over flat concrete and asphalt surfaces with aid stations along the course.

All registered participants will receive commemorative T-shirts, and special recognition will be afforded persons finishing in the top three places in each category.

The entry fee of \$4 (\$5 after April 26, including the morning of the

event) includes a barbeque lunch and a commemorative T-shirt.

Additional information may be obtained from Bill Gregory, instructor in the Health and Physical Education Department, at 845-6841 (office) or 779-2035 (home).

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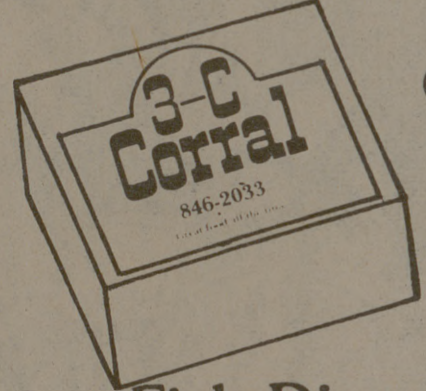
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