

Sports

Aggies ready for Cougars

By STEVE MARTAINDALE
Battalion Staff

The University of Houston's baseball team gave Texas A&M's Aggies the Southwest Conference lead earlier this week by defeating the University of Texas.

Now the Aggies must sweep Houston of a three-game series this weekend to have a good chance to keep that lead through the final stretch of SWC play.

The series in Houston will be the last regularly scheduled games for both teams. A&M has a 15-4 conference record and Houston has a 12-8-1 mark.

Texas, defending a nine-year streak of conference championships, will take a 14-4 record into their series in the hills of Arkansas.

What may prove the fatal blow to the Aggies in their attempt at the conference crown is the day's rain in Houston April 2, striking out a two-game series with Rice University.

Providing rain does not mess up the remaining schedule, A&M needs more than a series sweep in Houston. The Aggies will have an ear turned toward Arkansas, hoping to hear of a Longhorn loss. Texas

also must visit Baylor next weekend before finishing its season.

Should Texas not have any games rained out and wins all six, the Longhorns will have the conference championship sewed up.

Aggie Coach Tom Chandler won't be greeted by strange faces in Houston. Assisting Cougar coach Rolan Walton will be Butch Ghutzman, captain of the 1972 Aggie baseball team under Chandler.

The game in Houston will feature the two top hitting teams in the conference. Houston is leading with a .308 average while the Aggies are hitting .303.

Freshman center fielder Mike Hurdle will carry the Aggies' best individual batting average into the series. He is hitting .350 for the year but only .299 in conference.

Junior shortstop Robert Bonner is leading the team in conference batting with a .346 norm. He is also leading the team in at-bats (170), runs (34), doubles (12), triples (4), stolen bases (7) and the least strikeouts (7). In league play, he leads those columns and also leads with 27 hits.

A&M will bring into the game the pitcher with the nation's top win-loss record. Mark Thurmond, with a 9-0 season record and 5-0 in conference, is expected to start in Saturday's 1 p.m. game. He also has a

1.02 earned run average, and a 0.51 in conference.

Mark Ross (9-2 with a 2.46 ERA) will start in the opener at 3 p.m. Friday. David Pieczynski (5-1, 3.30) will start the Saturday evening game.

Thurmond, who pitched a three-hit shutout against Texas, is expected to face Houston's Billy Blum, who pitched a five-hit shutout against the Longhorns earlier this week.

The probable starters for Texas A&M, followed by their season and conference batting averages are: catcher Buster Turner, .331, .297; first baseman Kyle Hawthorne, .314, .313; second baseman Buddy Grobe, .320, .269; third baseman Winston Whiddon, .289, .308; shortstop Robert Bonner, .288, .346; left fielder Robert Verde, .256, .273; center fielder Mike Hurdle, .350, .299; right fielder Shelton McMath, .278, .275 and either Tim Feickert (.284, .291) or Bob Dulak (.375, .500).

Should A&M sweep the series, they will set a new record of conference wins. The Aggies won 17 games in both 1974 and '75.

Bonner is only two doubles and one triple away from tying school records in those departments. Kyle Hawthorne, who blasted two home runs against Texas, is one short of a

record there. He has hit Hurdle and Turner both seven.

The Aggie pitchers stand a chance of setting another team record. They are 10 strikeouts short of tying the record of 146 in conference.

Caddies needed for News Media Golf Tournament

Student volunteers will have opportunity to earn some spare money this Friday at the University golf course.

Approximately 100 caddies will be needed for the annual Texas A&M News Media Golf Tournament. In the past, local college and high school students are urged to volunteer as caddies for the tournament.

All golfers, who include men's personalities and coaches, will have their caddies — \$5-10 or more — the end of the day's round.

Caddies can sign up now in the golf course clubhouse. Males and females may register.

Caddies must be at the golf course by 10:30 a.m. Friday. Play will begin with a shotgun start (foursomes on 18 tees) at 11 a.m. and end around 3:30 p.m.

Tennis playoffs add more teams

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — This year's World Team Tennis playoffs now include more teams and player bonus pool of \$60,000. WTT Commissioner Butch Buchholz announced today.

"The change will create more interest in our division races," Buchholz said. "It will make better, more exciting tennis, more teams will remain in the attention longer."

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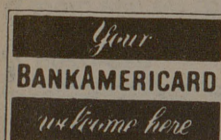
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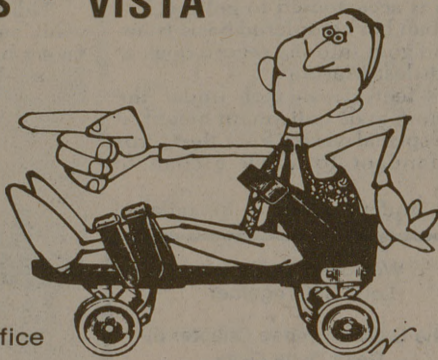
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INTERVIEWING SENIORS/GRADS:
Placement Office
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INFORMATION TABLE:
Student Center

Permanent - Campus Office
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Have you heard of Moebius?

Moebius is the first student literary magazine at A&M in over 20 years. Aggie students put together its 64 pages from stories, poems, photography and art submitted by Aggie students.

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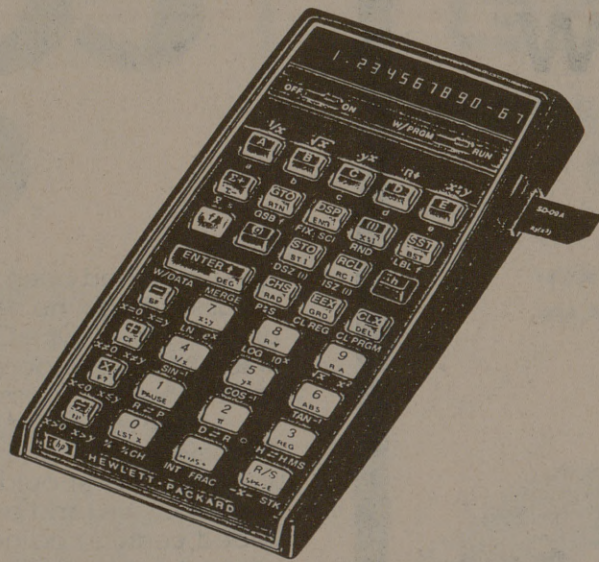
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