

Sports

Championship finds home in Aggieland

By STEVE MARTAINDALE
Texas A&M's baseball team, with vast amount of help from Arkansas, capped up its first Southwest Conference championship since 1964 this weekend.

The Aggies took a three-game sweep from the University of Houston Friday and Saturday by scores of 4-1, 7-1 and 3-0 and sat back to listen for news from Fayetteville, Ark. It came late Sunday night, announcing a 1-0 win for the Razorbacks over the University of Texas Longhorns.

A&M's record is now 18-4 in WC play while second-place Texas is 16-5 with three games remaining against the Longhorns. The championship is determined by won-loss percentage. Texas A&M's stands at .818 and the best Texas can hope for, by sweeping the tough Baylor Bears this weekend, is a .792 percentage.

This is also the first time in 13 years that Texas has not had a portion of the SWC crown. In 1966, A&M, Texas, Baylor and Texas Christian tied for the championship. The win is the third for Aggie coach Tom Chandler. In addition to his '64 win, he won the conference his first year at A&M in 1959.

A&M, Texas, Baylor and Arkansas will compete in Austin May 20 and 22-23. The tournament winner gets an invitation to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's national tournament. Chandler said, however, that he understood the conference champion was protected and would automatically get a bid.

The opening game of the Houston series was the tightest. Mark Ross was credited with the pitching win for the Aggies, allowing only five hits in the 2-1 win. Junior Robert Bonner had the big hit for the Aggies. He opened the series with his first at-bat. On the third pitch of the game from eventual losing pitcher Jeff Simons, the Aggie shortstop hit it over the center field fence. Though Bonner is leading the Aggies in conference hitting average, and most other hitting categories, it was only his second home run of the year.

In the third inning, Bonner got a double and second baseman Buddy Grobe brought him in with another double. In the bottom half of that inning, the Cougars scored their one run to end the game's scoring early.

Winston Whiddon led the hitting for the Aggies with three hits in four at-bats. Bonner went 3-for-5 and Grobe 2-for-4.

Hurdle had the only other A&M hit, also a double. The Aggies outscored Houston 9-5.

Ross and Simons both pitched all nine innings for their respective teams. Simons struck out eight

Aggie batters while Ross struck out three. Both walked two.

Ross has a 10-2 record, 6-1 in conference. Simons' record is 6-3.

The Aggies picked up their second win Saturday with 14 hits. Six players had two hits each as A&M finished with a 7-1 win.

Mark Thurmond gained the pitching win, allowing eight hits.

Mike Hurdle, the Aggies' leading batter, and Shelton McMath had two hits in three at-bats to lead the Aggies. Grobe, Whiddon and Bob

Dulak each went 2-for-4 and Bonner went 2-for-5.

A&M opened the scoring in the first inning when Kyle Hawthorne doubled in Hurdle, who got on with a single. Houston followed in the bottom of the first with a single and a walk and another single to tie the score at one.

Dulak, the designated hitter, and Whiddon, singled in the second inning. Dulak scored on a wild pickoff throw and Whiddon crossed home plate on a ground out by Buster Turner.

The Aggies held the 3-1 lead until the fifth inning when Bonner and Grobe both singled and Hurdle doubled both in. In the sixth, the Aggies closed out the scoring with three singles from Whiddon, McMath and Bonner, scoring the first two.

With the win, Thurmond's record is now 10-0, 6-0 in conference.

In the nightcap, David Pieczynski pitched a four-hit, 3-0 win for the Aggies.

First baseman Hawthorne

provided the batting show, getting three hits in three at-bats and knocking in all three runs.

Pieczynski struck out five batters in the game. The fifth strikeout tied the school's record of 146 strikeouts in a conference season, set in 1970.

The game remained scoreless until the sixth inning. There Grobe led off with a single, was bunted to second by Hurdle and went to third on a wild pitch. Hawthorne scored the senior second baseman with a sacrifice fly.

In the eighth, Grobe and Hurdle both walked and Hawthorne knocked in the two final scores with a double.

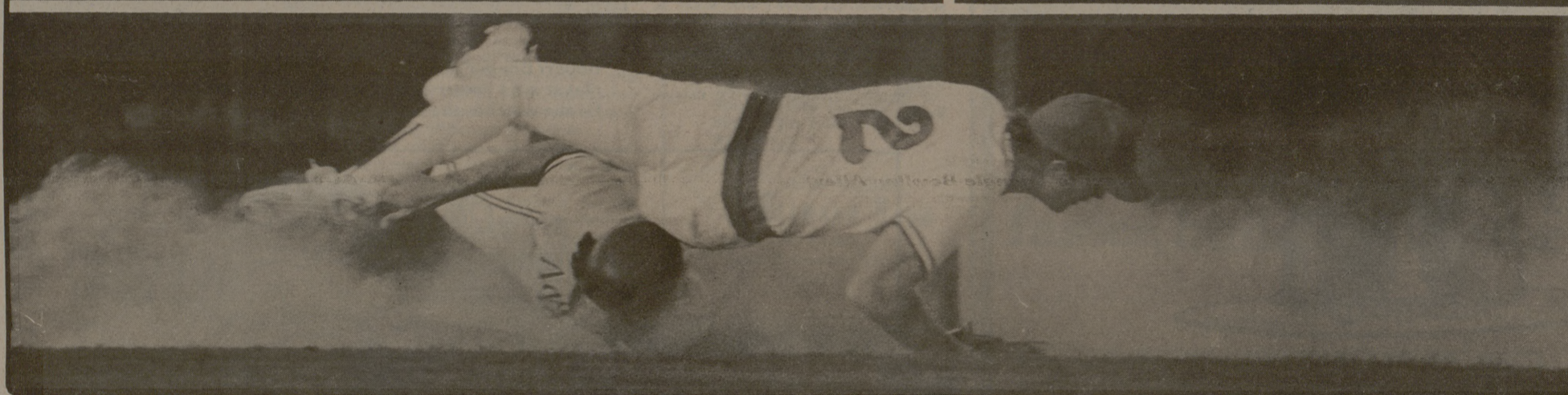
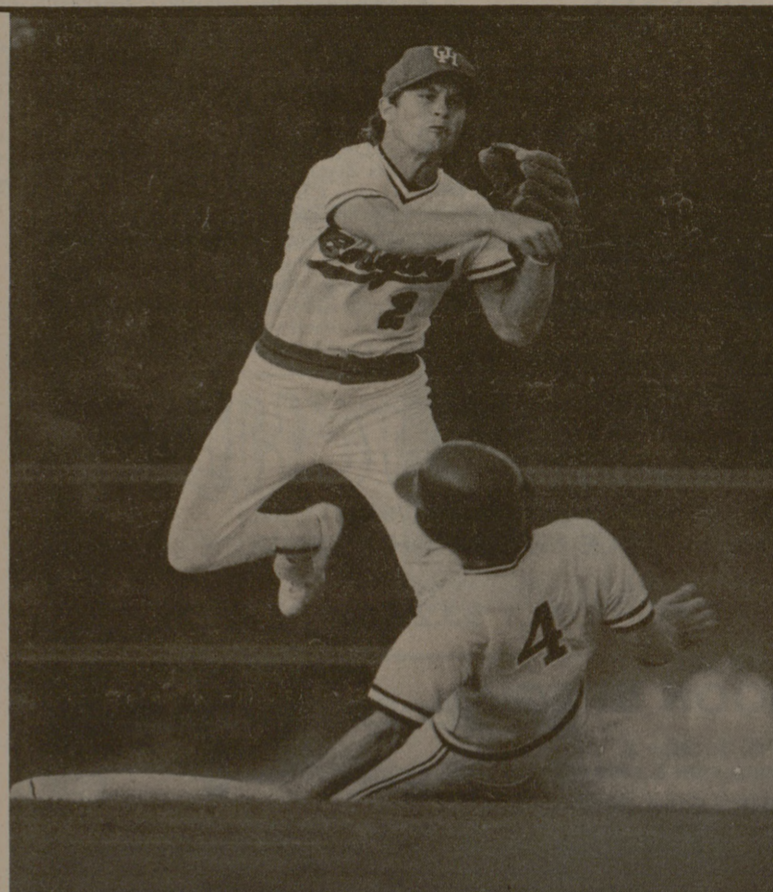
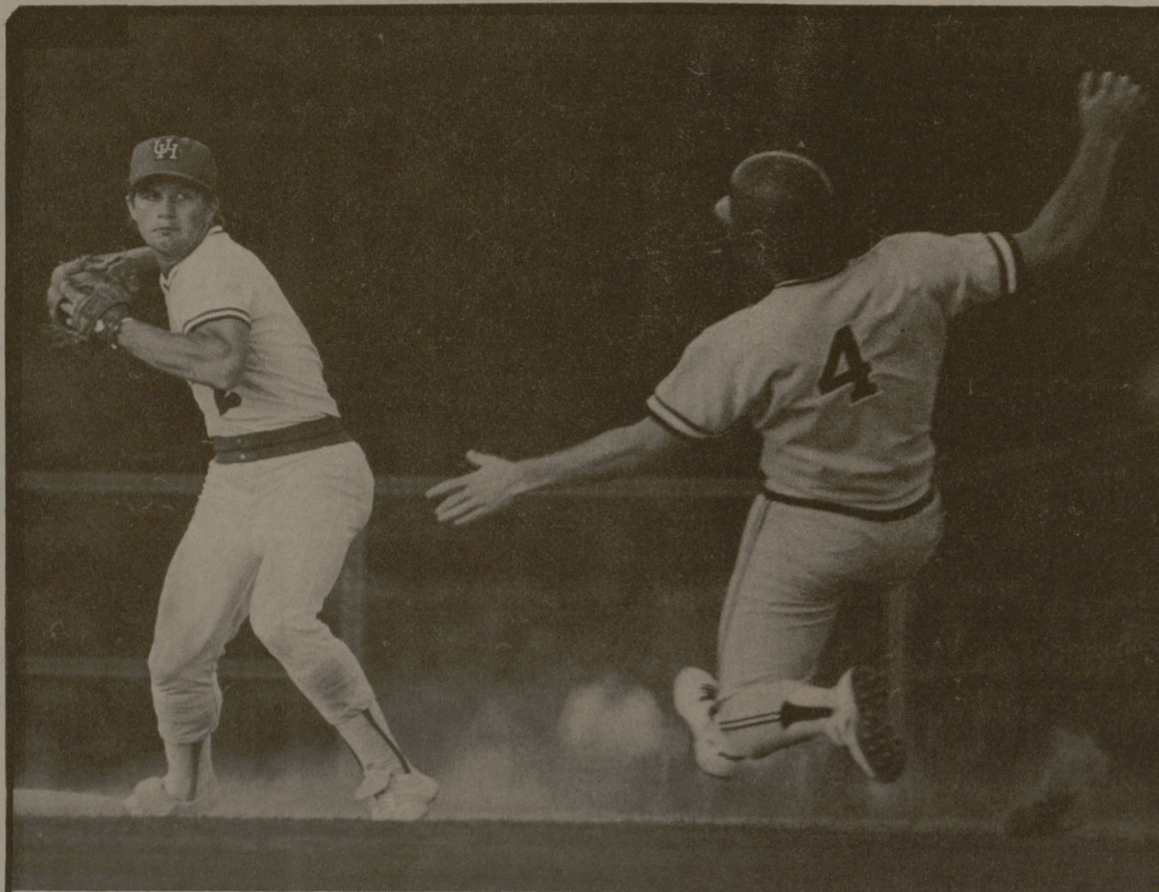
Texas' game in Arkansas was rained out Saturday and postponed until Sunday.

The Razorbacks' lone run was unearned, gained after Arvis Harper struck out, but reached first base on a passed ball. He scored on two Arkansas singles.

The conference championship is the eighth unshared title for the Ag-

gies. They have shared the crown on three other occasions in its 63 years of existence. Texas has won it 46 times. The other conference teams account for only three championships.

This will mark the third consecutive year for the Aggies to enter the NCAA national tournament. Two years ago, Texas went on to win the national championship. Last year the Aggies were defeated in regional play by Arizona, the eventual national champs.



Aggies take SWC crown

Aggie shortstop, Harry Francis, slides into Houston's second baseman, breaking up a double play. A&M won the game, 3-0, completing a three game sweep with the Cougars. Arkansas then defeated Texas 1-0, insuring A&M of the SWC crown.

Swimmers compete in superstars

By GLEN JOHNSON
Two women on the Texas A&M swim team and water polo team are going beyond the regular swimming season to try to become "superstars."

Debbie Starr, a co-captain for the swim team, and Cindy Hallaran entered a series of sports events

sponsored by the Texas A&M intramural department. The series is called Superstars, fashioned after the television program of the same name, and includes bowling, softball throw, the 100-yard dash, a 100-yard swim, tennis, weight lifting, basketball freethrow and an obstacle course.

So far, Starr has taken first place in bowling with 395 points, first place in the 100-yard swim and second place in weight lifting, pressing 100 pounds, or 80 per cent of her weight.

Hallaran placed second in the 100-yard swim and third place in weight lifting, pressing 110 pounds.

As the final event, the obstacle course will be run Thursday in G. Rolie White Coliseum on the Texas A&M campus. The games started April 11 and will last until Thursday, April 28, when the "superstars" will be chosen according to their total points earned. Winners will be named in women's and men's divisions.

Starr and Hallaran entered the games simply for fun, but found that the experience offered more than that.

"It offers those in organized sports a chance to get a taste of someone else's sport," Starr said.

"You find out that you may be better at another sport than you think, and it is a break from the regular season," she said.

Many members of organized sports don't get many chances to play athletic games other than the ones they specialize in, Starr said. "Cindy and I plan to go bowling more often now."

Anyone who has a sponsor can enter Superstars. This year there are six contestants in the women's division including Starr and Hallaran. They represent such groups as the Corps of Cadets, Mosher Hall and merchants in the area around the Texas A&M campus.

Neither Hallaran nor Starr practiced much for Superstars this year, but they plan to get an early start for next year's games by running more than usual and brushing up on their tennis skills, Starr said.

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