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Series starts tomorrow

Aggies, Horns, Bears, Hogs vie for tournament honors

By PAUL MCGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

In the spring of 1964, Lyndon B. Johnson was struggling with the responsibilities of an unexpected presidency, the nation still mourned the death of John F. Kennedy and Vietnam was just beginning to make the front pages.

It also marked the last time the University of Texas failed to win, or tie for, the Southwest Conference baseball crown.

For 12 years, the Longhorns dominated the league, winning or sharing every baseball title. Thirteen proved unlucky once again as Texas A&M captured its first undisputed championship since 1964.

Normally, the season would be over and the conference winner, as well as one or two other contenders, would receive national playoff berths.

Not so, this year. For the first time, the conference will conduct a post-season tourney for the top four finishers in league play.

The Longhorns, like the Houston Astros used to, can now say, "We're not out of it." Thus, Texas' first non-title winning year in over a decade came at the right time.

The double elimination tournament will get underway at 5 p.m. Thursday, with the Aggies of Coach Tom Chandler going against Arkansas, the league's fourth place team. Austin's Disch-Falk Field will be the site of all tournament games.

At 8 p.m., Texas, the league runner-up, and Baylor, the third place team, are paired against one another.

The two losers will face each other on Friday at 3 p.m. and the two winners will play at 7:30. There will be no games on Saturday.

On Sunday, the winner of Friday's first game will play the loser of the second game at 3 p.m. Then, the winner of that game will face the unbeaten team at 7:30 p.m.

Should the unbeaten team lose, then the final tournament game will be played on Monday at 7:30 p.m. to determine the tournament winner.

The tournament winner will advance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association South Central regional playoffs in Arlington. Lamar University is the only other school which has been named to the South Central regional thus far.

The Aggies will receive a playoff berth whether they win the tourney or not. However, it is not yet known which regional the Aggies will play in if they do not win the SWC tourney.

The Aggies got a taste of what the

South Central Regional will be like as they split a scrimmage doubleheader with the Lamar Cardinals Monday, winning 8-7 and losing the nightcap 12-5.

Chandler is expected to go with sophomore Mark Ross against the

Ross is 10-2 on the year and 6-1 in conference play and owns an earned run average of 2.31 for the season.

The Razorbacks are expected to start Tim Lollar, sporting a 6-1 season record. Lollar pitched well against A&M in a losing effort, going five and one-third innings and four runs on five hits while striking out five.

The Aggies, 36-12 overall and 18-4 in the SWC, are ranked seventh in the nation. The Aggies feature a strong hitting attack with first baseman Kyle Hawthorne, shortstop Robert Bonner, second baseman Buddy Grobe, centerfielder Mike Hurdle and outfielder Robert Verde.

Arkansas, 33-16 on the year and 14-10 in the SWC counters with a top-flight pitching staff which knotted 13 shutouts during the season and maintained a team earned run average of 2.72.

The Razorbacks are good in the field, owning a team fielding percentage of .951.

Outfielder Arvis Harper is the top Arkansas hitter with a batting average of .307 while outfielder Marc Brumble is second with a .275 average and leads the team with six home runs. The Arkansas team batting average is .246.

In addition to sweeping the Hogs, the Aggies took two of three from Baylor and won one of three games with the Longhorns. The Bears won two of three from Texas.

Arkansas lost three straight to Baylor and won one of three games with the Longhorns. The Bears won two of three from Texas.

However, the hosting Longhorns have not lost but once on their home field all season.

Chandler will take his team to Austin today to get re-acquainted with the surroundings before beginning play tomorrow.

Tickets for the tournament may be purchased at the stadium for \$2 per day general admission and \$3 per day for reserved seats.



The Texas A&M Aggies (36-12) will go against the Arkansas Razorbacks (33-16) to open the first annual Southwest Conference post-season baseball tournament. The game will start at 5 p.m. tomorrow at Austin's Disch-Falk Field. The conference-winning Aggies will probably start pitcher Mark Ross (10-2) while the Razorbacks are expected to go with Tim Lollar. The winner of the four-day tournament will advance to the NCAA South Central regional playoffs in Arlington.

Razorbacks tomorrow. The Aggies swept a three-game series with Arkansas in February, shutting out the Hogs in two of the three contests.

Ross, a hefty righthander, blanked the Razorbacks 6-0 on seven hits while striking out 11 batters.

SPECIAL NOTICE

OPTIONAL BOARD PLAN

Summer students may dine on the board plan during the first session of summer school at Texas A&M University. Each board student may dine three meals each day except Sunday evening if the seven day plan is elected, and three meals each day, Monday through Friday, if the five day plan is preferred. Each meal is served in the Commons.

Fees for each session are payable to the Controller of Accounts, Fiscal Office, Coke Building.

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