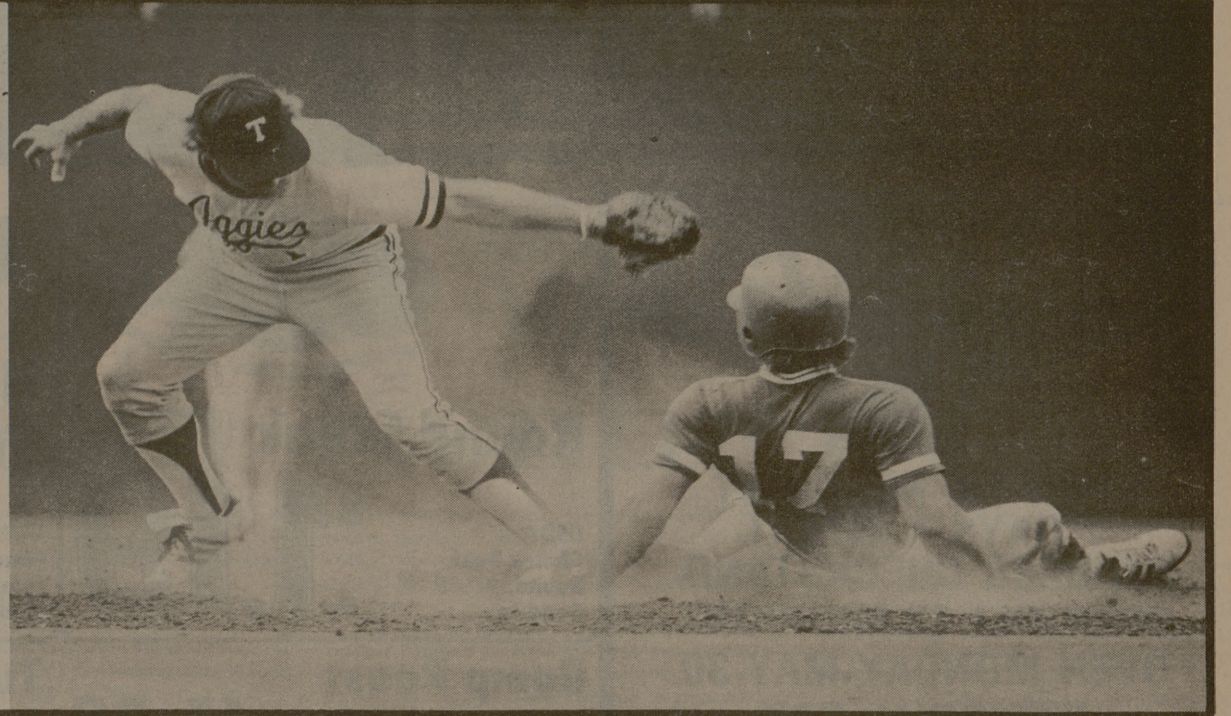
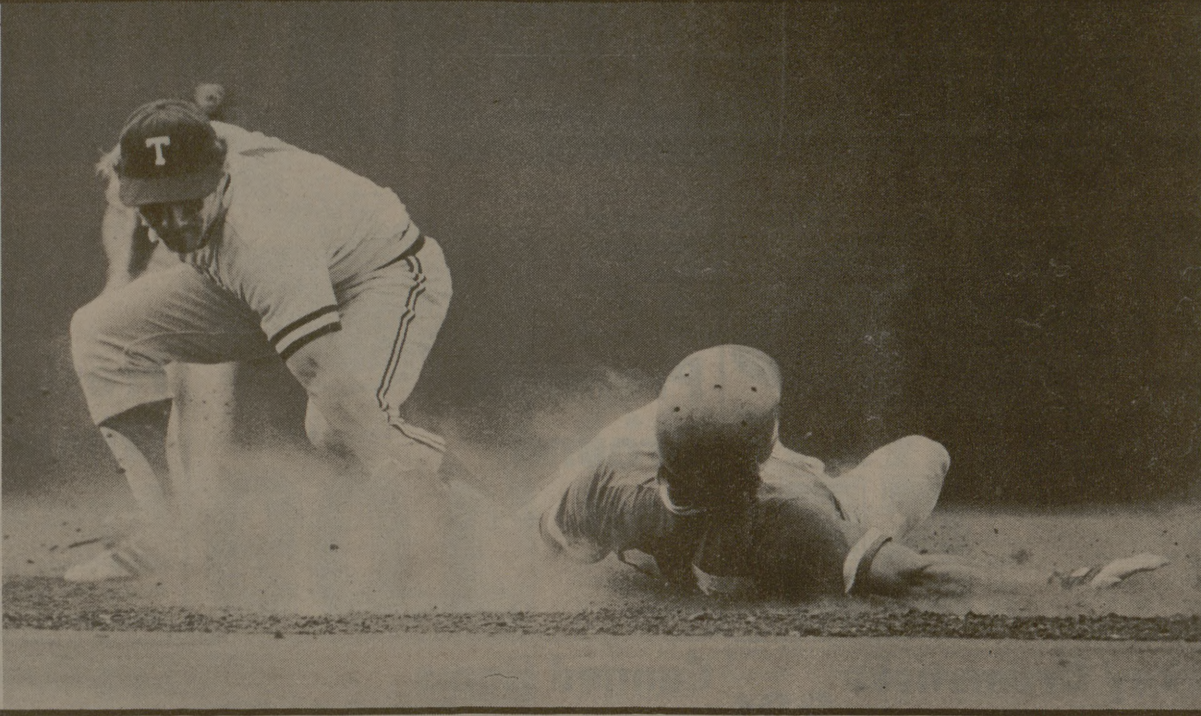


Texas A&M second baseman Buddy Grobe gets the tag down too late on Longhorn Charles Proske as Proske gets one of six Texas steals off the Aggies. Although the Aggies got 15 hits, the Longhorns eliminated A&M from Southwest Conference tournament with a 9-5 victory. The Horns lost to Baylor to give the tournament crown to Baylor. Both Baylor and A&M begin NCAA playoffs this weekend.

Photo by Pat O'Malley



## In Midwest Regional

# Baseballers face Southern Illinois

By PAUL MCGRATH  
Battalion Sports Editor

The Texas A&M baseball team begins its second round of the tournament-hopping Friday as they face Southern Illinois in the Midwest Regional.

All games will be played at the 40 lb. university of Oklahoma field in Norman as the hosting Sooners (36-1) will be matched against Michigan.

Coach Tom Chandler's Southwest Conference champions received a bid to the tournament Monday, slating their first game against the Missouri Valley champs. In the Big Eight crown, the runner-up Michigan was the runner-up in the Big Ten Conference.

"We haven't had any opportunity to check Southern Illinois out," said Assistant Coach Jim Sampson. "We probably know more about Oklahoma than any of the others."

The Aggies are now 37-14 after taking a win and two losses in the SWC tournament. The Salukis are 5-10.

Southern Illinois comes in with some impressive statistics. They are third in the nation in team defense but have a disappointing team batting average of only .293. Disappointing, that is, because they batted .355 as a team last year.

George Vukovich (.376) and Craig Robinson (.359) are Southern Il-

linois' top hitters and also lead the team in runs batted in. Vukovich has pilfered 29 bases during the season—nine more than the entire A&M team.

Saluki Coach Itchy Jones will have a solid pitching staff pitted against the free-swinging Aggies. Jim Kessler (7-0) and Kevin Waldrop (7-2) are the stalwarts, while reliever Dewey Robinson (5-2) is heavily depended upon to squelch rallies. Robinson has eight saves to his credit.

Southern Illinois is yet to name a starter for Friday's game. The Aggies will go with Mark Ross (11-3), who also pitched the first game for A&M in the SWC tourney. Ross defeated Arkansas 5-2 on five hits and pitched in relief of David Pieczynski against Texas, allowing two runs on three hits.

Many people claim the first annual SWC tournament to be an overwhelming success—most of them being Baylor supporters as the Bears won three straight to win the tournament and a playoff berth in Arlington. Baylor made it four in a row over the Longhorns by defeating Texas twice, 3-2 and 7-0. In between those two victories was a 2-1 win over the Aggies.

A&M, carrying a .302 team batting average, outhit every team they played, but was plagued by a failure to deliver in clutch situations. The Aggies left 31 men on base in their three tournament games, while

stranding 14 in the 9-5 loss to Texas.

"It was just one of those days," Sampson said of the Texas game, which saw A&M outhit the Horns, 15-10. "When we got a man on second it seemed we would hit line drives to an outfielder or hit balls so hard the man couldn't score. We were behind and had to play conservatively."

The Aggies filled the bases four times in the tournament, twice with no outs, and managed only to obtain two runs.

Sampson added, "There were two innings (against Texas) where we got three hits in an inning and didn't score. That's rare in baseball."

The Aggies also suffered from a lack of speed on the bases compared to their opponent's ability to seemingly run at will. Eight bases were stolen off the Aggies, including six by Texas. Not a single enemy baserunner was thrown out.

Aggie catcher Buster Turner was not completely at fault as he was hit on his throwing arm by a foul ball in the Baylor game. The A&M pitchers did a poor job of keeping the runners at first base, often allowing the baserunner to get a good running start.

The tournament was highly competitive and was as close as had been expected. Baylor took a pair of one-run victories and while the Aggies were eliminated from the tourney, they were only outscored 13-11 in their three games.

"A lot of things could have gone either way," Sampson said. "A lot of Baylor's hits were six inches either way."

"Any club can get hot all at once and get momentum. They win a few games and that gives them confidence and they can take control of a short tournament with this one. They get in and get hot and it's all over before you know it."

Like the SWC tourney, the Midwest Regional will be a double elimination. Momentum will indeed be a key as Sampson inferred. The Aggies were definitely off their regular season pace as they batted only .274 as a team in Austin last weekend.

Texas A&M first baseman Kyle Hawthorne and third baseman Winston Whiddon were the only two Aggies named to the SWC all-tournament team.

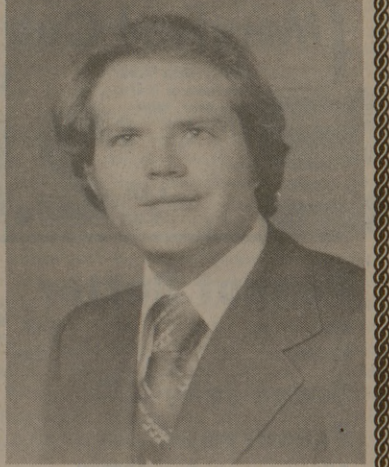
Baylor, going to the National Collegiate Athletic Association playoffs for the first time since 1948, had three players named. Texas did not receive a playoff bid and will not go into the playoffs for the first time in 12 years.

The Aggies will play Southern Illinois in the second game Friday at 4 p.m. All of the games will be played in the afternoon as the Oklahoma ballpark has no lights.

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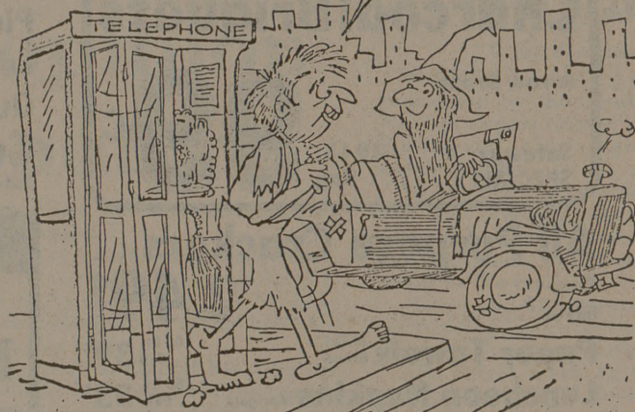
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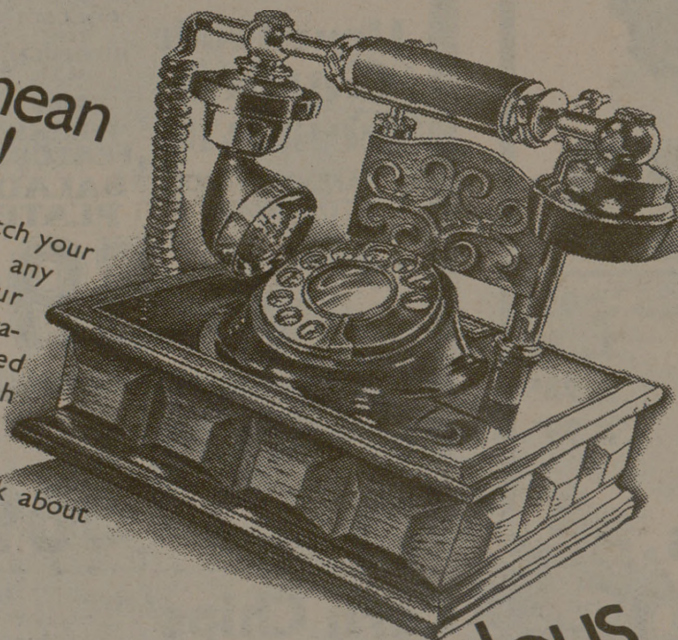
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## Aggs march on Georgia for Southeastern meet

The 31st Southeastern Intercollegiate Golf Tournament gets underway today in Athens, Ga. with the University of Georgia and the University of Houston cited as favorites in the team race.

Texas A&M Golf Coach Bob Ellis, named the Coach of the Year in the Southwest Conference, will have a five-man squad competing. The Aggies placed second at the Southwest Conference tournament behind Houston and were tenth in the team standings at the Southeastern Intercollegiate last year.

The Aggies will be led by all-SWC performers Monte Schauer, Bobby Baker and Dave Ogrin. Schauer placed fifth in the individual standings at the SWC tourney. Doug Ward, Tim Carlton and Jerry Orebaugh round out the rest of A&M's roster.

The tourney matches the winner of the Southeastern Conference, Georgia, against the Southwest Conference winner, Houston. The Bulldogs won the tournament last year while the Cougars were runner-up.

The Bulldogs, playing on their home course are led by Chip Beck, the individual winner in Athens last year with a 209 on the par 72, 749-yard course. Georgia also has Joe Walter and Jim Becker to contend with, as it was this pair which led Georgia to the SEC crown.

Houston is led by SWC individual champ David Ishii. Coach Dave Williams' Cougars will also have Ed Fiori and John Stark in the thick of the race for individual honors.

Rob Jackson-led Indiana and North Carolina are also expected to be amongst the top contenders for the team title. Jackson tied Beck for the individual crown last year, but lost in a playoff.

TCU is the only other SWC school in the 25 team field. The Horned Frogs of Coach Mel Thomas, who tied Ellis for Coach of the Year honors, are led by Bobby Baugh and Bill Murchison.

The tournament, sponsored by Rolex-Chrysler, will be concluded on Friday.



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