

# Aggie baseball team hosts St. Mary's

By DERRICK GRUBBS

The Texas A&M baseball team gets back into action after a week lay-off when they host St. Mary's of San Antonio Tuesday in a 1 p.m. doubleheader at Travis Park in Bryan.

The games were originally scheduled to be played at A&M's new Olsen Field, but construction

delays forced the game site to be changed.

"We hope to be in the stadium by this weekend when we play Houston," said A&M coach Tom Chandler. "The field itself will be ready, but the fans will have to bear with us on some of the other areas. The parking lot will still be hard-

surfaced and the scoreboard and public address will likely not be in operation yet."

Although the UH series would be the first games to be played in the new stadium, the dedication ceremonies aren't until March 21 when A&M hosts USC in a doubleheader.

A&M and St. Mary's have had a regular rivalry going the past few years as they have played each other four times in each of the past four seasons. The two teams have squared off 24 times since 1971 with A&M leading the series 20-4.

The Rattlers finished 24-15 in 1977, splitting their series with the Aggies at two wins apiece.

St. Mary's returns a good nucleus and are still one of the outstanding college baseball teams," says Chandler. "They are a well-rounded club with a veteran coach in Elmer Kosub. They defeated Texas on opening day and are on their way to having another good season."

The Rattlers come to Aggieland with a 2-6 season record, having split their opening series with the Longhorns, lost a pair to Baylor and split with Texas Tech last Friday.

A&M brings a 5-1 record in against St. Mary's, having won three from LSU and two from McNeese State.

"We've been plagued by the flu bug the past week," said Chandler. "So far so good, though our pitching

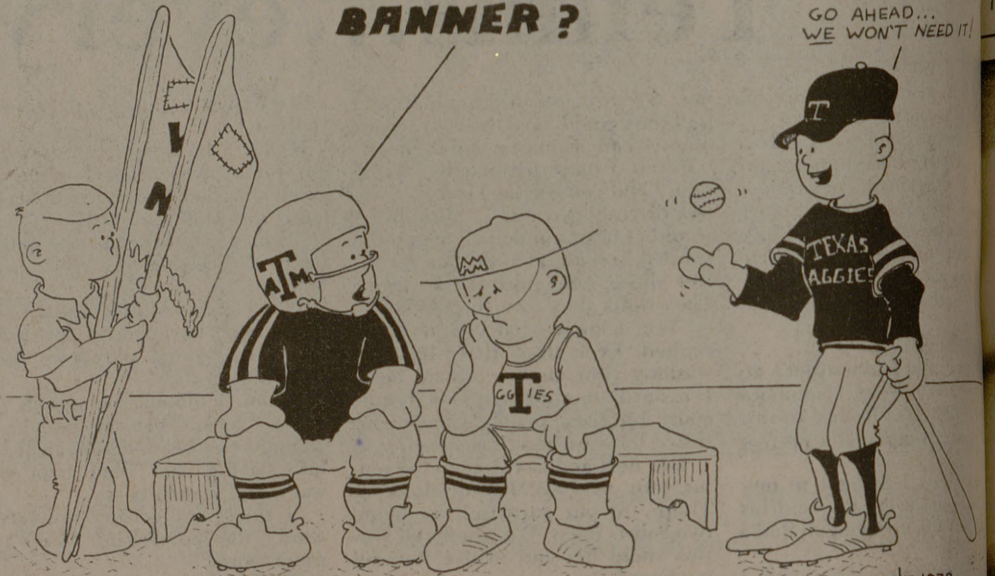
has been solid and our hitting is coming along. We've also played good defense through our first six games. We went the entire LSU series without committing an error. We've left too many men on base, but once we get our batting order set, I think that'll be remedied."

The lineup Chandler will field against St. Mary's with their 1978 batting averages will have Robert Bonner (.348) at shortstop, Mark Warriner (.333) at third base, Mike Hurdle (.300) in centerfield, Kyle Hawthorne (.421) at first base, Robert Verde (.158) in leftfield, either Tim Feickert (.400) or Rodney Hodde (.200) at second base.

The starting pitchers for the doubleheader will likely be Mark Ross (0-0) and Mark Thurmond (1-0), with David Pieczynski and Jim McWilliams also slated to see action.

Following the Houston series this weekend, the Aggies were scheduled to host Oklahoma City March 6-7, but the series has been postponed by mutual agreement with a make-up date to be set later.

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## Texas leads golf match, Ags seventh

Donna Avery shot the day's low round — a 76 — to help propel the University of Texas into a three-stroke lead over SMU after the second round of the 54-hole Texas A&M's Women's Intercollegiate golf tournament Monday.

Texas has a 36-hole total of 635 to SMU's 638. Cathy Bertram shot a 78 while Cindy Lincoln and Lori Huxhold both had 81s for Texas.

Oklahoma State is third at 656, followed by Lamar 658, Florida 667, Houston Baptist 676, Texas A&M 677, TCU 693, Oklahoma State and Cindy Lincoln of Texas share third place at 155.

Despite her team's dropping out of the lead, Mary Beth Murphy of SMU posted her second straight 77 over the par-70 university course to take a two-shot lead in the individual race at 154. Cathy Bertram of Texas is 137 while Lynn Cooke of Lamar, Alicia Ogrin of Oklahoma State and Cindy Lincoln of Texas share third place at 155.

First-day leader Brenda Lunsford of Oklahoma State, who fired a 75 Sunday, skied to an 85 and is six strokes off the pace at 160.

The final 18-hole round will get under way at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

## A team without a home

By MARK PATTERSON

Battalion Sports Staff  
The team without a home. That's what the A&M baseball players are starting to be called.

The home field advantage won't be a benefit for the Aggies until late in the 1978 baseball season when their new home, C. E. "Pat" Olsen Field, will be ready for occupation. The new stadium was scheduled

to be completed in time for the Aggies' first game of the season, but numerous complications have delayed its completion.

"Most of the problems we've encountered have been caused by the weather this winter," said Wally Groff, assistant athletic director for business affairs. "It's been unusually wet and the work has suffered from it. If we would have had a normal

winter it would have been finished.

"But we're still a long way from getting finished. All the work we can get done depends on the weather. And I hate to say that if it keeps raining it could be months until we're finished."

Delays in the delivery of the aluminum for the seats and railings also caused problems in the stadium's completion.

"Now that we've got all the supplies we've begun the finishing process," said Groff. "We ought to have the roof finished Tuesday and the seats will be through soon if we don't get rained out."

The ones who are suffering the most from the inconvenience of a half-finished field is the baseball team. They've been forced to play their home games at a high school field, Travis Park, in Bryan.

So coach Chandler is hoping to play Houston in the new field this weekend, but Groff seems to think otherwise.

"The infield might be ready to play on this weekend, but the stands and facilities will never be ready," said Groff. "And the field will only be ready if a lot of work is put into it

between now and then. The

haven't been cut yet and the

ers mound is so soft that it

on one side the other side

"And the facilities that have

completed include the rest

the concession stands, the

rooms, the sidewalks, the

lot and of course the seats. It's

ble that the stadium could be

for the team, but not for the

tators."

With the formal dedica

scheduled for March 21, Groff

that date as the probable

the first game to be played

new facility.

"If we're lucky, the Seaside

game will be the first game

the new field," said Groff.

Olsen and some other

will be down for the official

tion ceremony. So we're

for completion by then."

"But the field won't be

pletely finished until sometime

summer. We just have to

week at a time and see

progress."

"We feel sure we'll get

games this season, but just

still hard to say."

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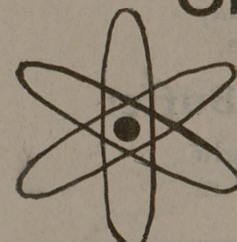
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