

sports

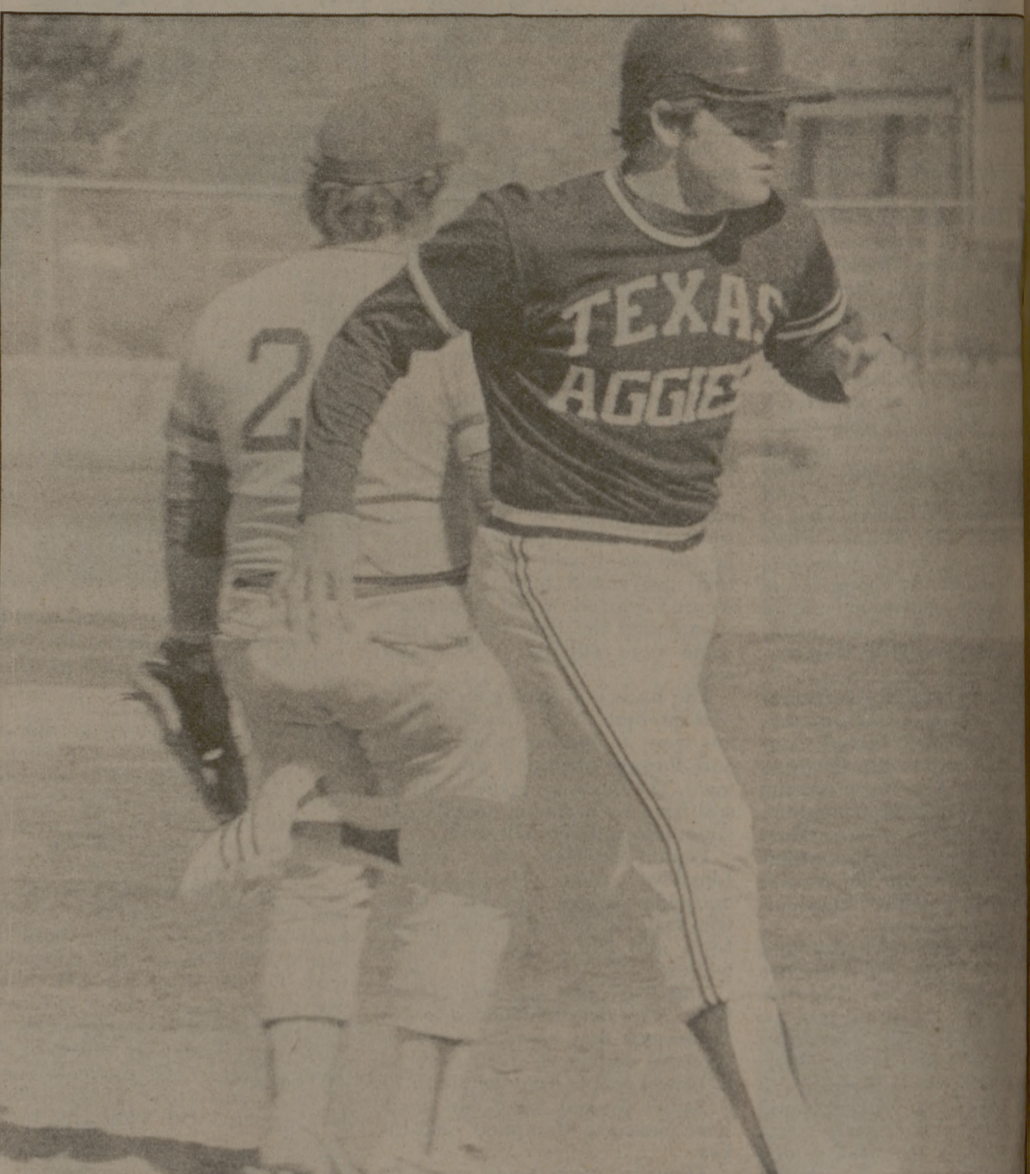
# Ags split doubleheader with St. Mary's

By DERRICK GRUBBS  
It was another case of double identity for Texas A&M Tuesday afternoon at Travis Park as the Aggies split a doubleheader with St. Mary's University.  
A&M collected only three hits in losing the first game 2-1 before exploding for 12 hits and four home runs in winning the nightcap 15-1.  
The combined pitching efforts of Conrad Perez and Danny Heep held the Ags scoreless until the seventh inning when first baseman Kyle Hawthorne belted a solo homer to narrow the margin to one run. The Rattlers had taken a 2-0 lead with a pair of single markers in the second and sixth innings.  
Losing pitcher Mark Ross went the first five frames for A&M, giving up only two hits and one run before being relieved in the sixth by John Pockrus. Pockrus also yielded only two hits, both of them coming in the sixth when St. Mary's scored the

eventual winning run.  
Perez got the win for the visitors, bringing his season record to 1-0 while Ross drops to 0-1 on the year.  
Heep was credited with a save for the Battlers and was also their leading hitter going 2-for-3, including a double in the sixth which drove home the winning run.  
Hawthorne also went 2-for-3 for the Aggies.  
The second game was a complete turnaround as A&M jumped out to a 13-1 lead after only three innings. They scored four runs in the first inning, three in the second on solo home runs by Hawthorne, second baseman Steve Robinson and third baseman Mark Warriner and six in the third inning. The big blow in the third frame was Hawthorne's third home run of the day, giving him five for the young 1978 season.  
The Aggies took advantage of a St. Mary's error, to push across two unearned runs in the fifth inning to

round out the scoring.  
Besides Hawthorne, who was 4-for-5 with four RBI's for the afternoon, freshman Rodney Hodde had a good second game, going 2-for-3 with three RBI's.  
Hawthorne, who is already threatening the A&M record for homers in a season (9, Byron Barner, 1961), is somewhat surprised by his good early season start.  
"Tuesday is the first really good day we've had to play," said the Beaumont junior. "I've changed my stance at the plate a little this past week and I'm stepping into the ball more. Against St. Mary's I was watching the ball a lot better."  
Hawthorne is leading the team in hitting with a .500 average and already has 29 total bases through just the first eight games.  
Junior lefthander Mark Thurmond

went the first four innings for the Aggies and got the win, running his season record to 2-0. He got outstanding relief help from senior David Pieczynski, who pitched the final three innings, giving up only one hit and striking out six.  
Lance Carrington was pegged with the loss for the Battlers, putting him at 1-1 on the year.  
St. Mary's has now played doubleheaders against four SWC teams and are 3-5 for the season.  
A&M will take its 6-2 season record into SWC play this weekend when they host the University of Houston. The games are scheduled to be the first played in A&M's new Olsen Field, depending on the progress of the construction. If the games are not played there, the series will be moved to Travis Park.



Battalion photo by Dick... Kyle Hawthorne has had an excellent start for the Aggie baseball team. The junior from Beaumont had three homers yesterday and raised his batting average to .500 for the year. A&M split a doubleheader with St. Mary's yesterday afternoon.

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