# Astros visit Aggieland to play Chandler's crew

as the Houston Astros stop in College Station to play the Texas Aggies on their way to their season opener

Tickets for the 1:30 p.m. contest at Olsen Field have been on sale since Monday and any remaining tickets will go on sale at the staduim Wednesday prior to the game.

Prices are \$3 for non-students and \$1.50 for students.

The Astros finished the 1977 campaign with an even 81-81 mark and came in third in the National League's Western Division.

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Injuries have plagued Houston

Major league baseball comes to Texas A&M Wednesday afternoon as the Houston Astros store is a somewhat through its spring training period, but the front-line starters should all be ready to go be a somewhat through its spring training work against A&M will be second-year man Floyd Bannister who are the second-year man Floyd Bann

In all probability, Aggie fans will see the same linup Astro manager Bill Virdon plans to use against the Reds Thursday.

That list will include, with their 1977 season batting averages, Bob Watson (.289) at first base, Art Howe (.264) at second base, Enos Cabell (.282) at third base, Roger Metzger (.186) at shortstop, Terry Puhl (.301) in leftfield, Cesar Cedeno (.279) in centerfield, Jose Cruz (.299) in rightfield, and Joe

Ferguson (.257) at catcher. The starting pitcher scheduled to

Bergman, who was acquired from terfield, Tim Feickert (.263) in the New York Yankees in a trade that sent Cliff Johnson to the Big Apple last June; Denny Walling, who played in six games and hit .286

A&M coach Tom Chandler plans

The Aggies, currently 22-10 on the season and in second place in the SWC standings, will use primarily the same lineup they fielded in their last two SWC series against

That order will include Robert year man Floyd Bannister, who was Bonner (.339) at shortstop, Robert 8-9 for the Astros last year with a 4.03 ERA.

Other players who have had good springs and will likely see action Wednesday are first baseman Dave

Verde (.266) at shirts by tobel (.266) at third base, Gary Bryant (.294) in rightfield, Kyle Hawthorne (.324) at first base, Mark Warriner (.317) the designated hitter, Mike Hurdle (.317) in cen-

for Houston last year, will likely to use five pitchers during the nine-play some in the outfield; and inning contest. Starting will be play some in the outfield; and Jimmy Sexton, who came to the Astros from Seattle in a trade last December, will see some duty at shortstop.

Mark Thurmond (7-0, 2.13 ERA) who will work the first two innings. Following him will be David Pieczynski (3-3 3.33), Mark Ross (4-3, 3.63) and Jim McWilliams (2-1, 3.11) all of whom are slated to pitch

John Pockrus (3-1, 3.00) is scheduled to hurl the final inning for



A&M shortstop Robert Bonner tries to complete the second half of a double play. But Rice second baseman Kenny Baldwin

had other ideas. The junior from San Anto broke up Bonner's attempt. The Aggies the pros from Houston today at 1:30.

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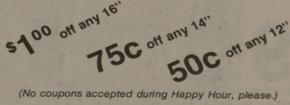
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### Is three better than two

Since 1915, all Southwest Conference basketball games have been called by two league officials. Three officials, however, were used in a conference game Feb. 15. The response was positive, and the addi-tion of a third official will be a major topic of discussion at the league's annual spring meeting in late April.

The death of two officials in a

Feb. 10 plane crash resulted in an assignment mix-up from the SWC office and three officials were assigned to cover the Texas A&M-TCU game Feb. 15.

"We had to make a substitution," said Dan Spika, SWC Supervisor of Officials. "In order to make all parties happy, we decided to appoint three men to the game."

Allen Winter, Robert Straface

and Arlan Straub were the officials who called the game, which was won by Texas A&M 88-72 at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The use of three basketball officials has been successful in other major college conferences. The Big 10 Conference introduced a third official in non-conference games in 1967. Three officials were used for the first time in the Atlantic Coast Conference this year. The South-eastern and Metro conferences will use three in league games next sea-

"I just don't believe two men can provide the coverage necessary in today's basketball," said Herm Rohrig, supervisor of officials for the Big 10 Conference. "There are so many screens set away from the ball. Three men are almost a neces-

April 3, 4, 5

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tor in the addition of a third official.

"In 1967, when we voted to add another official, it was the athletic directors' concern for the safety of the players," he said. "They stationed a man on the baseline and worked the remainder of the court with two officials. This was because of the concern for injury on a quick outlet or quick turnover

The next year, Rohrig said, the additional man was moved up to the division line to make calls. In 1969, the league decided to allow him to make calls over the entire court, as he does now.

With three men," Rohrig added, you get coverage on all sidelines."
"I think it's the next significant thing for the sport of basketball, said Spika, from his SWC office "We are 100 percent for it," he added. "It's nothing new. It's something the conference (SWC) has been looking at for a long time.

Winters pinpointed another plus. "There's such a variety of officials in every league," he said, "that it allows a younger official to get more experience working with the older ones." Winters added that it was not confusing working with an extra official; that at one time or another, all members of the crew had prior experience with two other men.

"You're not crowded or running and trying to get somewhere con-stantly," Winters said. "With two," you're constantly moving to try and get in position, whereas with three, you're already there."
Texas A&M's Shelby Metcalf voi-

ced the opinion of both the player

"I think it's worth taking a longer look at," he said. "Most of the players thought it went real smooth. I think it has a tendency to make the players play under more control because psychologically they know lot more than one baske they're under closer surveillance.

doesn't help the quality of

The fan might suspect a in the number of fouls of game using three officials, Metcalf quickly discoun

"The Big 10 found that if fewer fouls called with three than there are with two,"
"They're (officials) in a bet tion to see a call and there much guessing on the part

The process by which t games is a formal one. The will voice their feelings a recommendations to the nine representaives of the Council. The council will the Five of the nine conference constitutes a majority.

'It's something that the visors of officials in all the who constantly critique an films see as necessary for coverage," Winters said.

Rohrig, who became su officials for the Big 10 Confe 1968, feels a change is need behalf of the officials.

"My concern is to get the cials nationwide," he said happens, is that when they work two-and three-mail they have to be thinking moves, not instinct. One comes national, they won't be making thinking move

be making instinctive move Rohrig also mentioned a that he feels has kept var

ferences from adding a thir The main concern in o high school is the extra volved," he said. "But," "we like to say by having this official on the court that lessen the need for security few security guards will a

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