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# Ags try to bridle Ponies

By DERRICK GRUBBS

The Texas Aggies take a nine-game winning streak into Dallas this weekend as they battle the SMU Mustangs in a SWC series at Reveshion Park. The teams play a 7:30 p.m. contest Friday with a doubleheader slated for 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Ags, at 12-3, are currently in second place in the conference standings, a game and a half behind Arkansas. The Razorbacks are idle in league play this weekend so a sweep by A&M over the Ponies would move them into a tie with the Hogs for the league lead.

SMU took a 17-20 season record into a doubleheader with UT-Arlington Wednesday. They are tied with TCU for last place in the SWC with a 4-11 slate.

The Mustangs are a much improved club from the team that finished 1-22 in SWC play last year. They boast the league's top returning hitter in junior Gordon Ricossa, who batted .375 in 1977.

The rest of the SMU lineup with their season batting averages going into their Wednesday twinbill with UTA has senior Donnie Williams (.239) at second base, senior Mike Tarver (.300) at third base, sopho-

more Pat Garcia (.240) at shortstop, junior Danny Seed (.333) in leftfield, sophomore Larry Long (.320) in center, senior Mike Hughes (.277) in right, and senior Fla Strawn (.257) at catcher.

Seed was leading the team in hitting and ranks third in the SWC with a .375 league average going into play this weekend. Through 37 games, Seed had received 45 bases on balls accounting for an impressive 61 percent on-base-average. He also has eight stolen bases on the season.

Strawn leads the Ponies in RBI's with 26 and Garcia is the team leader in home runs with five.

Freshman Glenn Box (.202) could see action as the Ponies' designated hitter.

The pitching rotation SMU will use against A&M is unsettled but the likely candidate for Friday night's contest is junior Paul Glogowski who is 3-2 on the year with a 5.95 earned-run-average.

The other Mustang starters will come from junior John Janosko (1-3, 3.73), sophomore Kyle Hollister (1-4, 8.64) or Ricossa (0-3, 7.71). A lefthander, Ricossa splits time as a first baseman and as a pitcher, but a

bruised shin might keep him off the mound for the A&M series.

The top two relievers for SMU are junior Bruce Adams, a knuckleballer who has a 2-0 record and 4.70 ERA. The other bullpen ace is Larry Hughes, who has a 4-2 slate and 5.40 ERA. All four of his wins this season have come in relief.

The Aggies, 25-10 on the season, will counter with the same lineup that has carried them through sweeps of Rice, Baylor and TCU. That includes Robert Bonner (.341) at shortstop, Robert Verde (.260) at third base, Gary Bryant (.292) in right field, Kyle Hawthorne (.342) at first base, Mark Warriner (.265) or Rodney Hodde (.245) the designated hitter, Mike Hurdle (.318) in

centerfield, Tim Feickert (.269) in leftfield, Buster Turner (.258) at catcher, and Randy Woodruff (.286) at second base.

Hawthorne currently leads the team in hitting, RBI's (37), runs scored (32), home runs (13) and total bases (83). The Beaumont junior is leading the nation in home runs and already this year has broken the school records for season and career four-baggers. His season slugging percentage is an awesome .709.

The Aggies' pitching rotation will be the same also. Mark Ross (5-3, 3.56) will start Friday night's game with Mark Thurmond (8-0, 2.03) and David Pieczynski (4-3, 3.40) working Saturday's twinbill.

Ross has won his last five deci-

sions after getting off to a start. Thurmond is one of the nation's leaders in victories and the SWC with a 1.29 league ERA.

The Aggies currently hold game winning streak over SMU going back to the 1973 series. In that time, A&M has scored 12 runs to 36 for the Ponies and have shut them out six times.

The all-time series record, 31-2 in favor of A&M, who won 28 of the last 30 contests.

In last year's A&M-SMU College Station, the Aggies on three shutouts 4-0, 11-0. The win in the second game series marked Aggie coach Chandler's 400th career win at A&M.

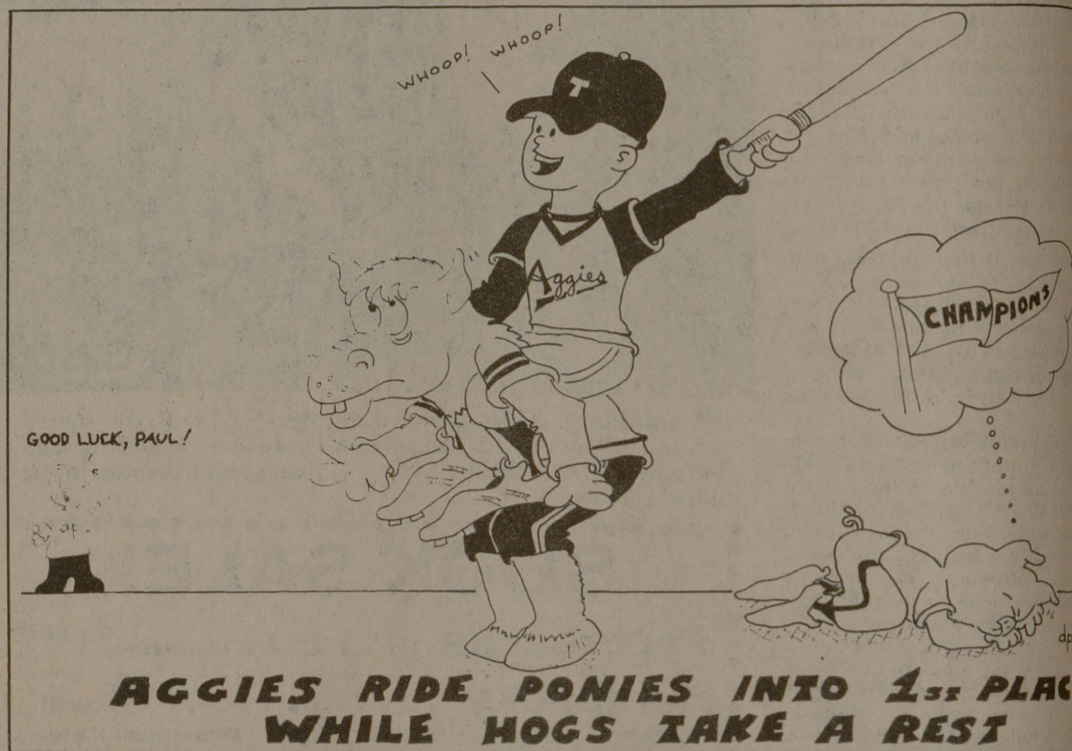
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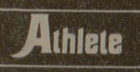
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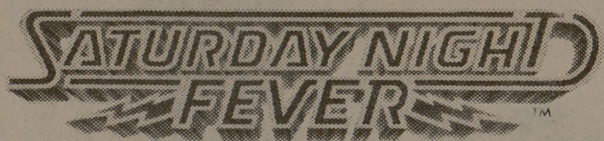
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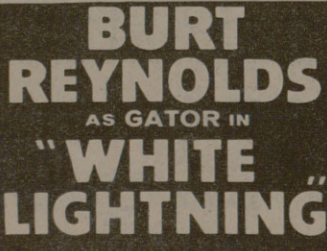
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