New season for four teams

Thurmond (12-0, 1.64) or junior

Houston in the regular season and

won his last nine decisions, how-

ing of the year last week against Lubbock Christian when he struck out nine and did not walk a batter.

Baylor has advantage

in hitting and power.

Arkansas has the most

team speed and a great

player in Tim Lollar,

who is double poison as

a pitcher and a hitter.

Houston has good over-

all speed and an excel-

lent front-line pitcher in

Billy Blum. — Coach

Senior shortstop Robert Bonner is

still leading the team in hitting at

.343 and brings a 12-game hitting streak into the SWC Tournament.

Sophomore centerfielder Mike Hurdle, after going 8-for-10 in a

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Chandler.

righthander Mark Ross (9-3, 2.67)

By DERRICK GRUBBS The Texas Aggies begin a new

After posting a 36-12 record ough regular season play, the WC champs will march into the ond annual Southwest Conferce post-season tournament hopto earn a berth as the host team the South Central NCAA Re-nal beginning May 19.

The Ags have yet to make it to the nuth Central tournament at ger Stadium in Arlington and, or the past three years, have had to tettle for an at-large bid to the Midnest Regional. After competing are years in the NCAA playoffs, and has not earned a trip to the billing World Series. ollege World Series.
"We have not fared well in the

yoffs the past few years," says gie coach Tom Chandler. "This ar we have approached it with a mewhat different attitude. Be-re, we have sandwiched our works between taking final exams. s year we have pushed back all workouts to 4:30 to give our yers the chance to concentrate on eir exams and on baseball at the per times.

We have not fared well in the playoffs the past few years. This year we have approached it one. By with a somewhat differraduats ent attitude. — Texas AUM baseball coach Tom Chandler.

he emphasis of the pre-mament workouts this week has on conditioning. Disch-Falk t, the home of the Texas Longas and site of the tourney, is asurfed and usually very humid.

ndler therefore feels it imperathat his players are in top physi-

sizing up the other three tourent teams, Chandler stresses a dimension surrounding the ble-elimination tourney that did exist during the regular season.
When it boils down to winning e games or losing two," the e coach reasoned, the team that have the least talent could win they just get one great game a pitcher and one or two clutch

assessing the other teams, I'd to say that Baylor has the adge in hitting and power. Arsas has the most team speed and reat player in Tim Lollar, who is le poison as a pitcher and a hit-Houston has good overall speed an excellent front-line pitcher in

e Houston Cougars will be M's opponent in the first round he tournament Friday night at 8. Houston finished fourth in the

HAVE A NICE SUMMER NATIONAL CHAMP TROPHY WHEN YOU GET BACK!

SWC with a 14-10 league record and come into Austin with a 28-19 sea-

The Coogs took two of the three games from A&M in the first SWC series of the year in 1978. Blum, a senior righthander who was fourth in the SWC in strikeouts, held A&M to just six hits in the opener, as Houston claimed a 6-2 win.

A&M came back to take the second game, 5-0, on a 3-hitter by Mark Thurmond. The Aggie de-fense broke down in the third game, allowing UH to come away with a

4-3 victory.

Blum will likely start against A&M Friday night in Austin. He is 10-2 on the season with a 2.42 ERA.

The Houston lineup with their 1978 season batting averages, will have junior Mark Alexander (.292) at third base, senior Gary Weiss (.296) at second base, junior Jay Beard (.341) in centerfield, junior Bobby Hollas (.283) at first base, senior Danny Lopez (.250) in right-field, junior Donnie Randell (.278) in leftfield, freshman Mike Breslin 258) the designated hitter, junior Jeff Copeland (.230) at catcher, and senior Steve Kovar (.301) at

Beard gave A&M trouble in the regular-season series, going 6-for-13 in the three games. The All-SWC candidate leads the team in hitting, RBI's (34) and homeruns (nine), and has also set school records this year in season at-bats, hits, and RBI's. He was fourth in the SWC in hitting this year with a .347 league average

Kovar, with 85 assists during league play, set a new SWC record.

A&M will go with basically the same lineup it has used for the past few weeks, with the possible exception of the lefthanded designated. hitter, where either junior Mark Warriner or freshman Rodney Hodde could get the nod.

Chandler has not announced his starting pitcher for Friday's game. It will either be junior lefty Mark

doubleheader against LCC last Friday, moved into the No. 2 spot with a .327 clip.

Junior first baseman Kyle Hawthorne still leads the team in homeruns (14), RBI's (48) and total bases

(101). He is hitting .323 on the year. Arkansas will meet Baylor in the other first-round contest Friday at 2

The Hogs bring a 31-11 season record into the tournament after finishing second to A&M in the

The Porkers boast one of the best pitcher-hitter combinations in the nation in senior Tim Lollar. The big lefthander, having recovered from a bruised shoulder suffered two weeks ago, led the SWC in hitting with a .423 average and was fourth in the SWC in pitching with a 2.28 league ERA.

Lollar will be Arkansas' starting pitcher against the Bears and comes in with a 9-2 season record. He also leads the team in homers with six and will serve as the DH when he's not on the mound.

The Razorbacks also have a strong Ross started the first game against All-SWC candidate in second baseman Johnny Ray, who hit .347 in SWC play to tie with Jay Beard for fourth. He also led the conference gave up 6 runs on 11 hits. He has ever, and had perhaps his best out- in hits with 34.

Baylor brings a 26-17-2 season record into the tournament. The Bears finished third in the SWC with 15-9 league record, and led the conference in eight offensive categories. Among those are team batting average (.307), homeruns (34, which set a new SWC record), runs (195), hits (242), doubles (49),

total bases (405), and RBI's (166). Burl Coker will be Baylor's starting pitcher against Arkansas. The senior lefty is 8-2 on the season with 1.98 ERA. He is also one of the Bears' top hitters, finishing fifth in the SWC with a .346 average. Coker also broke or tied five SWC records during the 1978 campaign.

Junior Shane Nolen is another Bear who doubles as a pitcher and

strong-hitting outfielder. He placed third in the SWC hitting race with a 374 average and tied for the conference lead in homers with six.

Baylor leftfielder Mike Johanson

led the league in ab-bats (100), total bases (61), RBI's (34) and doubles (10, which also tied a SWC record). In all, the 1978 Baylor Bears

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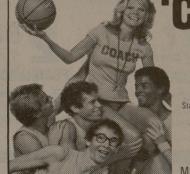
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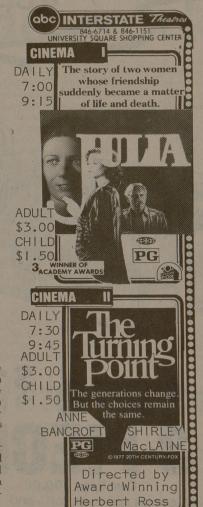


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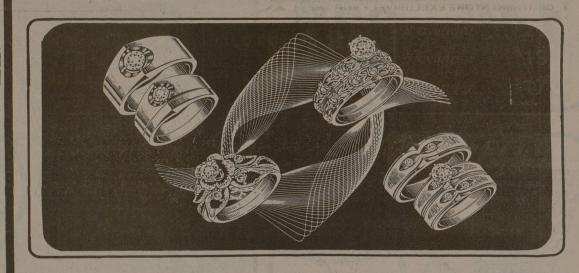
The losers of the first two games of the SWC tournament will play Saturday at 2 p.m. while the winners in those contests will meet at 8 p.m. Saturday.

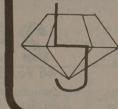
This year's Midwest will be at Johnson Stadium on the campus of Oral Roberts in Tulsa, Oklahoma. That regional is set for May 26-29.





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