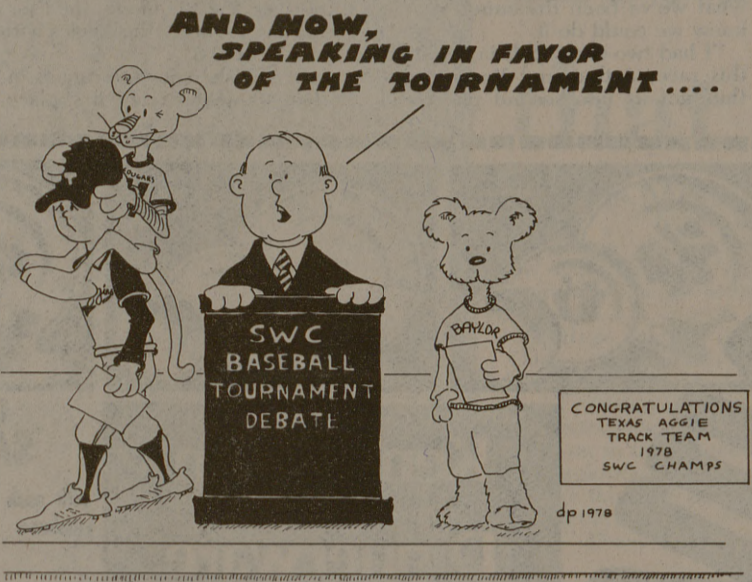


sports

# Baylor wins tourney; Ags get invitation

**BY DERRICK GRUBBS**  
For the second straight year, the SWC champion Texas Aggies have failed to advance to the South Central Regional in Arlington by being eliminated in three games at the SWC Tournament in Austin.  
The Ags will, however, compete in the NCAA playoffs at another regional to be announced next Monday.  
By winning the SWC round-robin championship, A&M earned the right to receive an at-large bid while Baylor will represent the league for the second year in a row at the South Central. The Bears disposed of their tourney opponents in three straight games to successfully defend their tournament crown.  
The Aggies lost to Houston 8-6 last Friday night in first round action, defeated Arkansas 5-0 Saturday and were turned back by the Cougars again Sunday 17-10.  
But A&M coach Tom Chandler received the at-large bid Monday from the NCAA to take part in either the Far West, Rocky Mountain, Midwest or Mideast regional. Since many of the other conferences around the nation are still competing for league championships, it is yet to be determined where the Aggies will go.  
There are eight regionals, only one of which will be played this weekend, that being the South Central where Baylor is competing. The other seven will begin May 26.  
The only other definite site is for the Midwest Regional that will be played in Tulsa, Okla. hosted by Oral Roberts University.  
A&M must spend the next few days regrouping after their disappointing outcome in Austin last weekend.  
In Friday's contest against Houston, Aggie ace Mark Thurmond's "Midas Touch" produced only lead as he was shelled for seven runs on five hits in the first inning and had



to be relieved after the Cougar order had batted around once.  
Thurmond, who suffered his first loss of the season after 12 straight wins, could not offer a definite explanation for his demise in the first inning.  
"I didn't feel like I was throwing any differently than I had all year," said the junior lefty. "Houston just made contact and the hits fell into the right spots for them."  
A&M got a strong performance from Mark Ross the next afternoon, however, as the Ags claimed a 5-0 win over Arkansas.  
"My arm didn't feel real good but I think that's what makes me a better pitcher," said Ross after Saturday's win. "I couldn't overpower the hitters so I relied on my slider and got them to hit the ball on the ground."  
A&M was given another shot at Houston Sunday after the Cougars lost to Baylor Saturday night.  
The Aggies seemed to have all the "intangibles" working for them: revenge motive, momentum after shutting out Arkansas the day before, wanting to prove they could come back after losing the first game of the tournament.  
But A&M still lost 17-10.  
"Naturally we're very disappointed about not doing better in the tournament," said Chandler after Sunday's loss to the Cougars. "Our pitching just fell apart. We hit the ball good but still made too many mistakes."  
"I think there may have been somewhat of a let-down on our team," the Aggie boss added. "We feel we've already proven ourselves by winning the regular-season championship. In a tournament like this, you will usually find that the champion will not win because they come in with nothing to gain and everything to lose."  
Perhaps first baseman Kyle Hawthorne said it best.  
"We wanted to go to Arlington. That's where the SWC champion is supposed to go."

## Four Ags are named all-tourney

**By DERRICK GRUBBS**  
Four Aggies were named to the All-Tournament team at the second SWC Post-Season Classic played in Austin last weekend.  
Junior pitcher Mark Ross was selected for his performance against Arkansas in the second round game of the tournament. Ross went the distance in shutting out the Hogs on a 6-hitter 5-0. He walked two, struck out three and allowed just one Arkansas baserunner to reach third base.  
Senior Robert Bonner was named All-Tournament shortstop. Bonner got six hits in the three tourney games A&M played and also had nine assists. Bonner now has 68 hits on the season, breaking his own school record of 64 set in 1976.  
Junior rightfielder Gary Bryant was also selected. Bryant had six hits in the three games, including two doubles and a triple. He had three RBIs in the Aggies' first round game against Houston, and played superb defense throughout the tournament.  
The other Aggie named was catcher Buster Turner. Besides playing solid defense, the junior from Texarkana had a pair of triples that sparked a comeback effort by the A&M in the Sunday loss to Houston.

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