

sports

Ags go to Michigan for Mideast tourney

By DERRICK GRUBBS
Texas A&M has been granted the opportunity to win its honor. After embarrassing defeats at the hands of the Michigan Wolverines in baseball and football within the past year, the Aggies find themselves in a position to even the score a little.

The SWC champion Aggies and Big-10 champion Wolverines meet at 3 p.m. CDT Friday in Ann Arbor, Michigan in the first round of the 1978 NCAA Mideast Regional.

Mid-American Conference champ Eastern Michigan and Big-8 Tournament runner-up Missouri square off Friday at noon to kick off the three-day, double-elimination tournament.

A&M received the at-large bid to compete in the Mideast last Monday. This is the fourth straight year the Aggies have been in the NCAA playoffs, their first as a participant in the Mideast Regional. The past three years, A&M has received at-large bids to the Midwest Regional.

Michigan, due to its high ranking 8th in the nation according to Collegiate Baseball Magazine and the supposed home-field advantage, is likely considered the team to beat in the tourney.

The Wolves are 26-15 on the season and won the Big-10 title with a 13-3 mark. They are led by centerfielder Rick Leach, who was also quarterback of the Wolverine football team. Leach is hitting a lousy .430 on the season and copped the Big-10 batting championship with a .468 league average. The 6-1, 190-pound junior is currently on a hitting tear as he has hit for a .609 average through Michigan's last 15 games.

Left-hander Steve Howe will be the Wolverine's starting pitcher against the Aggies Friday afternoon. A sophomore, Howe is 9-2 on the year with a 1.80 ERA.

The rest of the Michigan lineup with their season batting averages has junior Jim Capoferi (.300) doing the catching, senior Dave Chapman (.293) at third base, senior Scott Anderson (.235) at second base, senior Bob Wasilewski (.230) at first base, senior Jim Berra (.212) at shortstop, sophomore Vic Ray (.284) in leftfield, Leach (.430) in centerfield, and senior Mike Parker (.212) in rightfield. The designated hitter is sophomore George Fousianes (.268), who is the team leader in RBI's with 27.

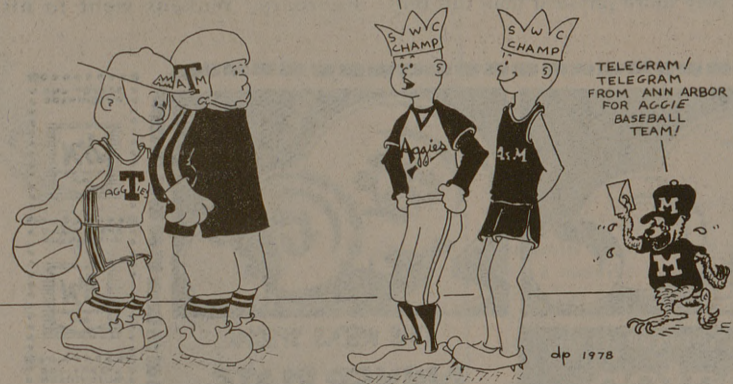
As a team, Michigan is hitting .266 on the year.

The other two teams in the Mideast Tourney, Eastern Michigan and Missouri, have also fielded strong teams this season although neither is ranked among the nation's top twenty.

Eastern Michigan brings a 35-25 season record into the playoffs while Missouri comes in at 35-16.

The Aggies are 37-14 on the year and boast a team batting average of

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.284. The leading hitter on the squad is still senior shortstop Robert Bonner, who will be playing in his fourth NCAA Regional this weekend.

The A&M starting lineup will remain the same as it has been the past few weeks. Coach Tom Chandler has not announced who his starting pitcher will be against Michigan but the candidates are juniors Mark Thurmond (12-1) and Mark Ross (10-3).

The tournament schedule for the Mideast Regional is as follows: The winners of the two Friday games play at noon Saturday with losers squaring off at 9 a.m. The winner of that morning game will play the loser of the noon game at 3 p.m.

Saturday. In the finals Sunday, the winners of the noon and 3 p.m. Saturday games meet for the championship. Should a second game be needed, it will be played at 3 p.m. Sunday.

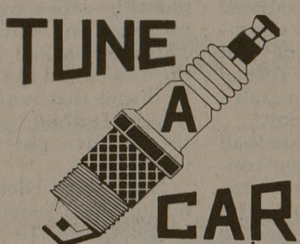
The winner of the Mideast Regional will join the winners of the seven other regionals at the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska June 2-10 to determine the National Champion of collegiate baseball. Baylor, SWC tournament champion, has already qualified for the World Series by winning the South Central Regional Monday night.

All of A&M's games from Ann Arbor this weekend will be broadcast live on Bryan radio station KAGC, 1510-AM.

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3rd base: Fritz Connally, Baylor;
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Fees for each session are payable to the Controller of Accounts, Fiscal Office, Coke Building.

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PLANS	FIRST SESSION
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