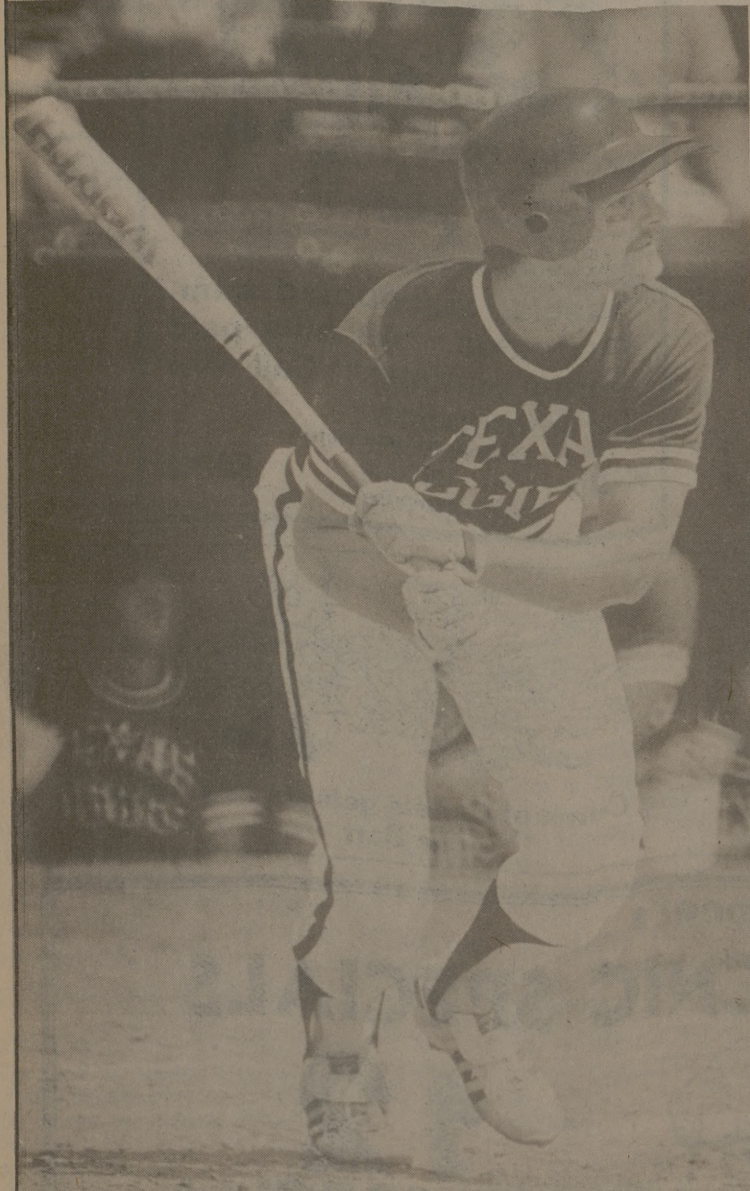


# Season comes to a close



By DERRICK GRUBBS

As is usually the case when a season comes to an abrupt close, the coaches, players, and fans look back and feel it was a long season—yet it still ended too soon. That was the feeling of the Texas A&M baseball team after they lost to Michigan in the finals of the NCAA Midwest Regional this past weekend.

The 55-game schedule for A&M extended from February 17 until May 28 and over that period they compiled a 39-16 season record, won their second straight Southwest Conference championship and set 24 team and individual records.

Although a strong nucleus will be returning for the 1979 campaign, the Aggies lose five seniors who contributed heavily to the success of the A&M baseball program.

Shortstop Robert Bonner, over the past four years, has been one of the most consistent performers Texas A&M has had in any sport. He leaves A&M holding 12 season and career school records. Through

the past three seasons, he has broken his own record for season at-bats three times, and has also topped his own record for hits in a season.

In 1978, Bonner broke six season and career marks and had the best year of his career, leading the team in hitting (.343), hits (73), runs (44) and doubles (15). He also had 107 total bases in 1978, just two short of the record set by Kyle Hawthorne this year.

Robert Verde is another departing senior who, although did not leave his mark in the Aggie record books, will be hard to replace because of the leadership he provided in his three years.

A clutch player and tough competitor, Verde played half of the 1977 season with an injured knee that required surgery immediately after the season. This year he moved from leftfield to third base and throughout the season excelled at a position he had not played since junior high.

Outfielder Tim Feickert put in two solid years as an Aggie and was another of those players who had to step in at the midpoint of the season and do the job after injuries began to plague the A&M squad.

A&M will also lose two good pitchers in David Pieczynski and Jim McWilliams. Pieczynski, although having experienced control problems during the regular season, came on strong at the Midwest Regional and pitched well in both games against tournament champion Michigan.

McWilliams had an outstanding season as a reliever in 1978, posting the lowest ERA on the Aggie staff at 1.42.

Both Pieczynski and McWilliams put in time as starters during the 1977 and 1978 SWC championship drives.

"These five guys have meant a great deal to Texas A&M and to me," says A&M coach Tom Chandler. "I'm just so pleased to have had the opportunity to work with them. They've helped us establish a great tradition of baseball at Texas A&M and I know that they are leaving a lot to those upcoming juniors and sophomores in the way of winning spirit and that competitive drive."

One of the final orders of business for the 1978 Aggie baseball team was their voting for team honors. For the second straight year, Robert Verde was voted team captain. Robert Bonner and junior pitcher Mark Thurmond shared the Most Valuable Player award. Tim Feickert and sophomore second baseman Randy Woodruff were co-reipients of the Wally Moon Award that goes to the most improved player on the squad.

Perhaps the best indication of what it is like for a senior who has just played in his last game was exhibited by Robert Verde. Two hours after the A&M team had arrived back at the hotel in Ann Arbor after the final loss to Michigan last weekend, Verde was still walking from room to room talking with his teammates — in full uniform.



The Texas Aggies concluded the longest season in Texas A&M history in Michigan last weekend at the Midwest Regional Tournament. Gary Bryant (above left) takes a swing at a pitch during tournament action. Second baseman Randy Woodruff (above) completes a double despite interference from a Michigan baserunner. Senior Robert Verde (left) accepts congratulations from his teammates after scoring the Aggies' sole run in opening round play against Michigan.

Battalion photos by Pat O'Malley

# Bullets tie series in overtime win at the Kingdom

United Press International  
SEATTLE — Charles Johnson scored six points in overtime and led Washington in a second-half comeback as the Bullets beat the Seattle SuperSonics 120-116 Tuesday night to even their NBA championship playoff series at two games each. The game was played before 39,457 fans in the Seattle Kingdom, the largest crowd ever to see a single NBA game.

With the score tied at 106-106 after regulation time, Johnson got the Bullets off quickly in the five-minute overtime, with a fast-break layup, a short jump shot and a long jump shot. The Sonics were unable to overtake the Bullets the rest of the way, although Johnson gave them an opportunity when he missed two free throws with 17 seconds remaining and the Bullets ahead 116-114.

But the rebound of the second missed shot bounced long and was grabbed by Washington's Tom Henderson. Henderson was quickly fouled, and he made both of his free throws. Wally Walker scored a layup with six seconds remaining and Henderson closed out the scoring with two more free throws.

The fifth game of the series will be played in Seattle Friday. The Sonics had hoped to wrap up the championship in that game after splitting two in Washington. But Seattle blew a 15-point lead at the 2:22 mark of the third period, as the Bullets staged a rally reminiscent of the first game when the Sonics came from 19 points behind late in the third period for the victory.

Friday's game will be at the Sonics' regular home, the 14,098-seat Seattle Coliseum.

Seattle will play all its games in the Kingdom next season but Tuesday's contest was a makeshift affair resulting from the Coliseum being booked for a mobile home show when the Sonics gave up potential playoff dates after their dis-

mal 5-17 beginning this season. The Kingdom crowd exceeded the previous NBA playoff attendance of 21,561 in 1976 in Cleveland and also the single game record of 35,738 this season in New Orleans dome. The crowd, however, short of the 41,163 drawn to the Astrodome for an NBA All-Star game in 1969.

Seattle jumped ahead in the first quarter and led 25-23 at the end of the first quarter.

The Sonics stretched their lead to 30-27 late in the half as Webster blocked two consecutive Bullets shots and Fred Brown scored eight straight points. Seattle retaliated with six points to take a 56-48 halftime lead.

In the third period, the Sonics scored 11 points, but Seattle's 15-point margin proved to be the difference. The game well in hand, Seattle led 87-78 at the end of the third quarter when the Bullets caught them off guard with a 103-101 lead.

The Bullets then held the lead until 14 when Brown scored a 20-foot jumper to make it 106-106. That became the score at the end of regulation after Dennis Johnson blocked Dandridge's potential game-winning shot.

Dandridge led seven double figure scorers with 20 points. Hayes scored 20, Grevey 17, Wes Unseld, Charles Johnson 14 and Henderson 12 each. Dennis Johnson led Seattle with 33 points. Gus Williams scored 20 — including 19 in the second half — and Brown 18.

# Twins shut out Texas

United Press International  
ARLINGTON — Geoff Zahn and Mike Marshall combined to outduel Ferguson Jenkins Tuesday night and give the Minnesota Twins only their second shutout victory of the year, 2-0 over the Texas Rangers.

Zahn, 5-2, had runners on second and third in the first inning but

worked his way out of that jam and did not allow a runner past the rest of the night. Marshall started the ninth and preserved the shutout for Zahn, who gave up hits and struck out five.

Minnesota's Hosken Pineda scored a run in the opening of the inning with a sacrifice bunt, but he was moved to third on a double by Adams and scored on a double by Rich Chiles.

Chiles singled to start the advanced on a sacrifice and Minnesota's second run came on Cabbage's single. Jenkins lasted 7 1-3 innings, but strikeouts gave him a career 2,488 and moved him in place on the all-time list ahead of Don Drysdale.

# Cedeno hurt

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Houston Astros center fielder Cesar Cedeno cut his right hand in a dugout accident Tuesday night and was taken to Methodist Hospital for treatment.

A teammate said Cedeno waved his right fist over his head as he came to the dugout in the eighth inning of Tuesday night's game and the top of his hand accidentally contacted the jagged roof of the dugout.

## YOU DECIDE

On June 3, Texas voters will elect one of two men as the Democratic candidate for Railroad Commissioner:

**Jerry Sadler**, 70, is a twice-defeated former Land Commissioner. Here's what three of the state's leading newspapers have to say about him:

**The Austin American-Statesman:** "Voters deserve to know whom they will be choosing between in the runoff June 3. Poerner is not a household name; Sadler is. But Sadler has a sorry record in state government. He is the only person ever censured by the Texas House of Representatives (for failure to cooperate with an investigation). He became notorious for attempting to choke then-State Rep. Jake Johnson. He was defeated at the polls in 1970 and lost to Jon Newton in a race for Railroad Commissioner in 1976. And now he's back again."

**The Dallas Times Herald:** "Sadler has made Texas government a universal target of ridicule and derision."

**The San Angelo Standard Times:** "Under Sadler, the Railroad Commission just might become the laughing stock he once made of the General Land Office."

IS THERE REALLY ANY CHOICE?

The Railroad Commission regulates the oil, gas and transportation industries in Texas. Our energy and utility rate problems demand vigorous and responsible leadership. We need John Poerner to fight for Texas and protect what is rightfully ours.

**John Poerner**, 45, is a respected businessman and rancher. John Poerner was elected to three successive terms in the Texas House before being named Executive Director of the Governor's Committee on Aging and Director, Education Resources of Texas.

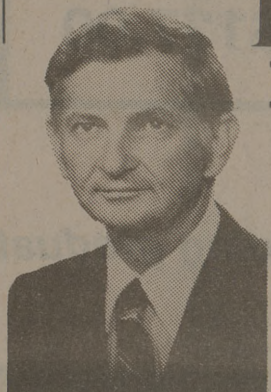
His honors include being named "Citizen of the Year" in his hometown of Hondo, receiving a "Distinguished Legislator" award from the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, and being named to the "Agriculture Hall of Fame" at Southwest Texas State University.

He was recently appointed to the Railroad Commission by the Governor.

"Poerner is a solid, competent individual with a record of 10 years of dedicated public service," says the *Houston Chronicle*. "(We urge) his election."

**JOHN POERNER**  
Texas Railroad Commission

VOTE June 3 in the Democratic Primary Runoff



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## Jr. Olympians register now

Registration for the Junior Track and Field competition will begin today and last day, announced James G. Douglas, coach at A&M Consolidated.

Anyone between the ages of 17 may participate. Registration will be held in the A&M Consolidated Middle School gym from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. There is a \$7 entry fee.

"This is a nationwide phenomenon," Giese said. "We have had over 300 participants last year and the number is growing every year."

Competition starts June 17 and lasts until July 12.

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