THE BATTALION Page 11



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at when the senior left-hander rubber against the Raiders ock Saturday. nine conference contests left schedule, the Aggies are game of catch-up. Texas

10-4 in conference, trails eading Texas, 14-1, by 3¹/₂ oing into SWC action this

Longhorns will host the SMU gs and the Aggies make the ip west to face Tech. The -11 in conference play, d three games to the Univerouston last weekend.

h second-place Arkansas and left on its schedule, Texas cannot afford another loss in ining nine conference games ggies hope to have a chance at ference crown

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can't lose another game if we win conference," Coach Tom er said. "We have to play game like we're playing for the nt. We've got to win; there's

h the pitching depth that s has, we can't depend on some-o beat them. We have to win it

Marks brothers, seniors Ross hurmond, will start the first nes of the Tech series for the Ross, 6-3 on the year and 3-2 erence play, carries a 2.66 into Friday's game. Ross will be ed by Tech's Jamie Miller.

ss has been pitching as well as id last year (compiling a 10-3 d and a 2.46 ERA)," Chandler "The competition he's gone up st this year has been a lot er than it was last year.

lost a tough game to the Uniof Miami earlier in the year ost a 2-0 heartbreaker to Rice's Ramirez. His pitching hasn't all that bad."

stros have arly success

United Press International USTON — The Houston Asarly-season success may be h to make Bob Watson wish he pt his critical remarks to him-

ist year. ching — four shutouts, seven lete games and a 1.89 staff is the primary reason for a on the face of the veteran first n who asked early in 1978 traded to a contending ball-

in our clubhouse since 1972 we were at the top for awhile, said. "And our confidence is

throw another one," Thurmond said. No-hitters are few and far between. You never expect to throw a no-hitter, much less two of them.

There's a lot of luck involved. It was two years ago, against Tech

in Lubbock, that Thurmond began to make a name for himself in the Texas

Mark Thurmond

A&M record books. In the first game of the series, after Mark Ross de-veloped a blister on his finger, Thurmond came on in relief, pitched seven innings and gave up one earned run. Following the Tech series Thurmond was inserted into the

starting rotation and has been a member ever since. Since that win in Lubbock two years ago, Thurmond has compiled a 20-1 conference record, his only loss coming this season to the Baylor Bears. It's a loss he says he hasn't forgot-

"I couldn't wait to pitch after I lost to Baylor," Thurmond said. "I don't like that losing taste in my mouth. I needed to win again.

"I pitch better in hot weather and it's about my time of year. I'm start-ing to throw the ball better. The last two years I've finished strong. I pitch my best ball at the end of the sea

Coach Chandler hasn't decided on his starting pitcher for the third game of the series this weekend. What happens in the first two games will dictate who will start in the series finale.

"I won't know who the third starter will be until I see how Ross and Thurmond pitch," Chandler said. "If they can pitch complete games, then Johnny Pockrus will probably start the third game.

After having their problems at the plate earlier in the season, lately the Aggies have been picking up the clutch hit when they need it. Shelton McMath enters the Tech series as the leading hitter on the Texas A&M club, carrying a .341 average with 21 RBIs and five home runs on the year. Randy Woodruff is close behind with a .330 average.

'The team's shown some signs of

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happy with what he's done. The Red Raiders counter with adequate hitters as well. Outfielder

Larry Selby ranks second in the SWC in batting with a .415 average. "Down through the years the Deither the second that the second seco Raiders have always had a tough ball club," Chandler said. "Before the season they were picked to finish in the first division. But their pitching hasn't measured up like it should have. They just haven't been getting

Junior Mark Johnston will oppose Thurmond in Saturday's first game. Johnston leads the Tech staff in victories this season. Posting a 4-4 season record, he is 4-2 in conference play with a 3.09 ERA. Robert Bryant, 3-2 and 1-2, will pitch the

series' final game for Tech. "This is a must series for us," Thurmond said. "We need a sweep to keep the pressure on Texas. They have to lose or we don't have a chance.

'We just have to keep battling for everything we can get.

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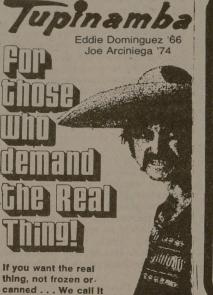
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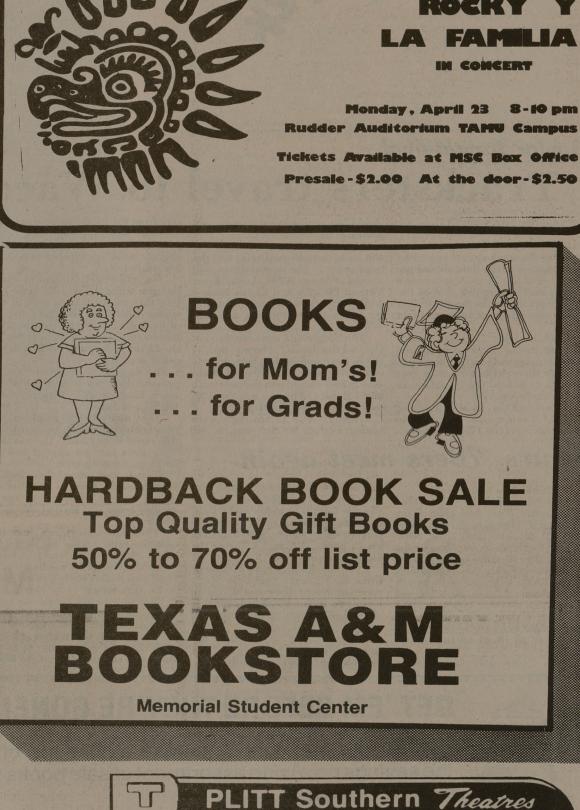
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now as it has ever been. Astros, 9-4, returned home Thursday to begin a weekend against Pittsburgh with a me lead in the National Western Division. J.R. and (3-0) and Ken Forsch (3-0) escheduled to pitch the first two against the Pirates today and

uts over Los Angeles by and Vern Ruhle this week d Houston to its first winning rip since September, 1977. ame home with a 4-3 record. lot of people probably thought fall apart after we lost our first ames of this trip in San Franbut this team doesn't quit,' aseman Enos Cabell said. eight of their 13 games, Housas taken an early lead.

hat's a big key," Cabell said. peed puts so much pressure e other guys early. Then our ers shut them down.

ston's record ties its best start ecorded. It was not until June, that the Astros faded. They not challenged for a pennant

y losing seasons caused Wat-10-year veteran, to ask Astros nt Tal Smith early last season raded. He was highly critical of am's attitude and he said he ed to play for a winner before

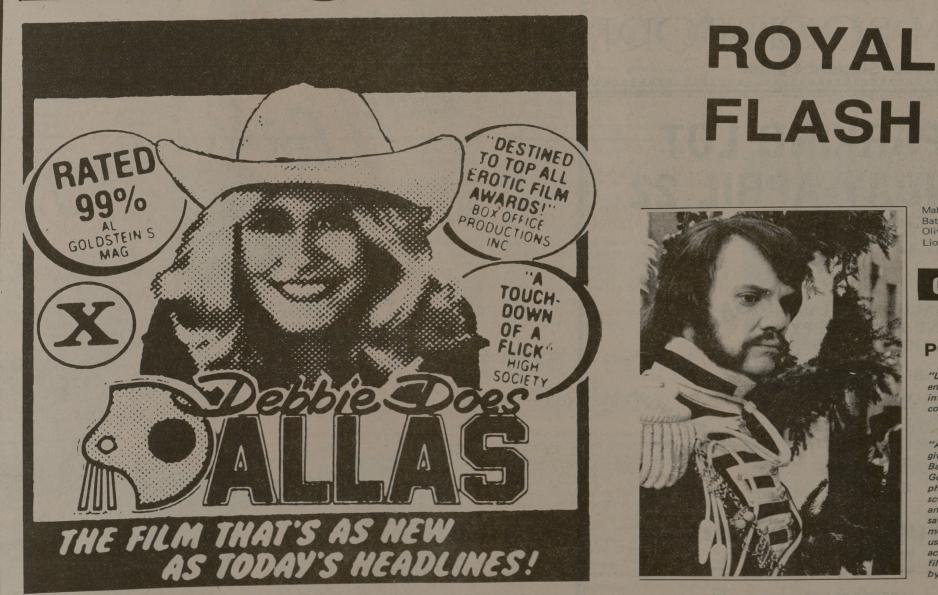
deal materialized despite is hard work to satisfy the dised slugger.

ore this season Watson and he give 100 percent to the Astros heless. However, he is hitting and there is sentiment among media members for Manager irdon to replace Watson with elder Jose Cruz in order get itting outfielder Jeff Leonard he lineup regularly.

nard, a rookie, is not the only hitting Astro. Leadoff batter Puhl (.333) is 13-for-30 on a Cedeno is batting .375 and Cruz (.282) shared the league with 14 RBI.

on said the attitude of the Aspleased him.

ub," he said. "And it's imporhat we maintain it, win or lose. s hope everyone thinks positive our club for a change.



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- Sylvia Miller British Film Institute

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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MIDNIGHTS Tickets go on sale at 6:30