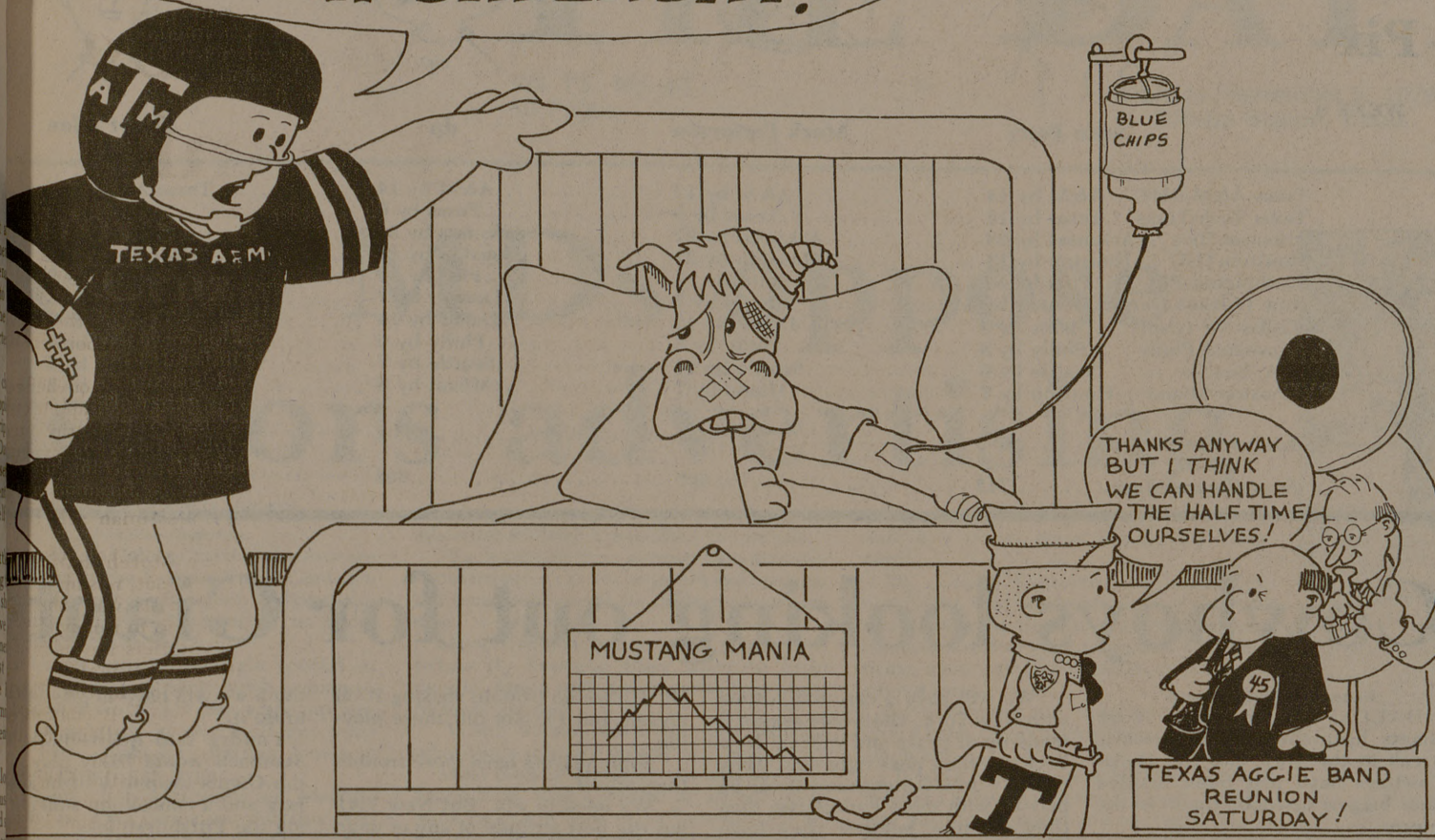


**WHY DON'T I JUST PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY ON SATURDAY!**

dp 1979



# Aggies battle battered Mustangs

By MARK PATTERSON  
Battalion Sports Staff

Invest a dollar and buy a program the Texas A&M-SMU game today because it will be a dollar spent. If you don't, you won't be able to recognize the SMU Mustangs without some help. The Mustangs limp into Kyle Ford for a battle between two of the top quarterbacks in the Southwest Conference Saturday. ABC-TV will air the game regionally, with the kickoff scheduled for 11:50 a.m. SMU is a shell of the team that was the season. The Mustangs have been devastated by injuries, losing five starters for the season. 10 members of the team have missed at least one game this year. The most notable of the casualties on the All-America quarterback Mike Ford was injured in the Mustangs' second game of the year against TCU and is out for the season with a knee injury. Before he was hurt, the Mustangs were 2-0 on the year. Since his injury, SMU is 0-3 in conference play.

Coach Ron Meyer replaced Ford with sophomore Jim Bob Taylor. Taylor came on to hit 47 percent of his passes for 312 yards and four touchdowns before going down with hand and thigh injuries against Texas last week. Freshman Mike Fisher inherited the quarterback job and will be the starting quarterback against the Aggies Saturday. Taylor will be back-up. "Any time you lose and are on a bad streak, you get down," Fisher said of the Mustangs losing four straight games. "But we've got to forget it and get ready for A&M. If we don't prepare we'll be whipped before we get there. Other Mustangs who have been injured include All-America receiver Emanuel Tolbert, freshman running back Eric Dickerson and freshman lineman Michael Carter. Tolbert injured his thigh against Baylor and has been out of the lineup the past three weeks. He is expected to return to the Mustang lineup against the Aggies Saturday. "It (thigh) feels a lot better, much better than it has in a long time," Tolbert said. "It's not as sore as it's been in the past few weeks. It doesn't have the tender feeling that it had. "The Aggies will be hot coming off a big win over Rice. They're like us in that they're in a situation where they have to win and they probably figure they'll beat us." Tolbert, in his senior season at SMU, is considered one of the best receivers in the country. In his college career he has set the SWC mark for the most touchdowns in a season (11 last year), has been the leading receiver in the conference

the past two seasons and is the leading receiver in SMU's history. "I want to finish on a good note," Tolbert said. "I'd like to get well, get on the field, work with the quarterbacks and get rolling. We can still finish with the best record we've had since I've been here. Dickerson, the highly recruited back out of Sealy, has been injured since preseason workouts began. He's been battling toe, thigh and shoulder injuries all season and has seen limited action. After holding him out of last week's game against Texas, Meyer expects Dickerson to be ready for the Aggies Saturday. His replacement, freshman Charles Wagoner, is leading the Mustangs in rushing yards this season. Wagoner has gained 484 yards on 104 carries, for a 4.7-yard-per-carry average. "Charles Wagoner is an outstanding running back," Aggie head coach Tom Wilson said. "We, along with most coaches in the state, felt he was in the same caliber as Dickerson and (Craig) James last year. "And James is playing well for them. He's played a lot of different positions (fullback and tailback), but he's a good back. James has averaged 3.8 yards every time he's handled the ball for the Mustangs this season. "Meyer predicted that they'd have a fine team, a competitive team, when the season started. They still have the same people that they started with, with the exception of Ford. And with the backs they have, they can be very dangerous. "I'm not surprised that this game was chosen (for television). It's an attractive game. It ought to be fairly

competitive and exciting. I think it ought to be a very good football game."



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## Astros sign Jose Cruz

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Houston Astros fielder Jose Cruz and his representatives Thursday reached agreement on a five-year extension of his contract with the club, Astros president and General Manager Tal Smith announced. "We are certainly pleased that the legal differences have been amicably resolved," Smith said after Thursday's four-hour meeting with Cruz and his agent, Carlos Cildes, along with attorneys for both sides. "We feel that all parties are satisfied with the agreement, and we are just happy that we are assured of Jose's continued service," Smith said.

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# Ag water polo team prepared for tourney

By MIKE BURRICHTER  
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M water polo team will host the Southwest Water Polo Championships this weekend and coach Dennis Fosdick likes his team's chances of winning its own tournament. "I don't think anybody will touch us, except maybe Santa Clara University," Fosdick said. Last weekend the team travelled to New York for the National AAU Water Polo Championship, where they finished fifth in a 12-team field. Fosdick said he was very pleased with his team's performance, since they had entered the tournament having played only eight games all season. "We needed more game experience and it showed at the beginning of the tournament," Fosdick said, "but at the end we really began to play well."

The scorer's desk enabled the Rams to win. "The player who scored their winning goal in the last minute had actually fouled out of the game," he said, "but the desk evidently didn't count all of his fouls. The same thing had happened to Slippery Rock the night before when Slippery Rock played Fordham." The Aggies finished the tournament by winning three straight, over Slippery Rock, 8-4, a team coached by former A&M All-America swimmer, Dick Hunkler and two teams from the New York Athletic Club. The Ags beat the NYAC 'B' team first, 11-8. The Aggies finale was against the defending national champion NYAC 'A' team, whom they beat 8-7. George Dallam, the team's defensive specialist, Vince Tavaraz, the

goalie, and Steve Sampson, the team's leading scorer were all elected to the All-America team. The three are co-captains of the 1979 Aggie team. Fosdick was upset that Jim Yates was passed over by the All-America selection committee. "Jim did everything for us," he said. "I would have expected him to be considered as the most valuable player of the tournament. If he was passed over, I really don't know what the selection committee was looking for. The guys on the team are really upset about it." Fosdick said the team's play against tough competition in New York should enable them to win this weekend's tournament. The 12-2 Ags open the tournament today at 2:30 p.m. at Wofford Cain pool.

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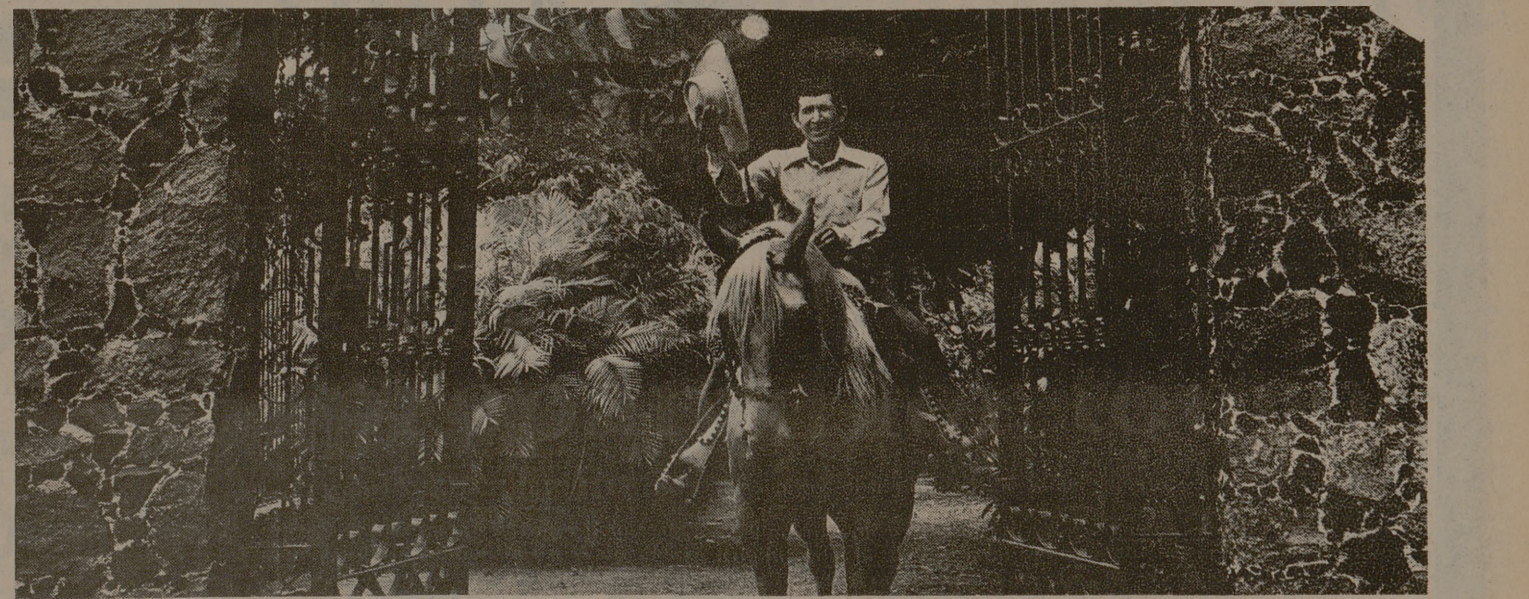
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