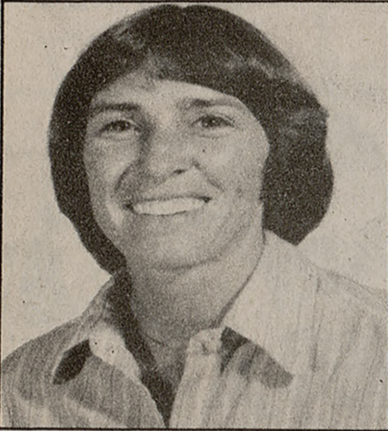


Aggies take third place in home tournament

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

Coach Cherrri Rapp's basketball team blasted the Baylor Bears 81-52 in the final game of the Aggie Lady Classic to take third place in the tour-



HEAD COACH CHERRI RAPP

Chandler is optimistic on Ag prospects

When Texas A&M baseball coach Tom Chandler gathers his troops in January to begin pre-season workouts, he will be on somewhat of a fact-finding mission. A lot of answers will need to be found before the Aggies take the field for the season opener Feb. 19 against St. Mary's University of San Antonio.

"We're returning six starters from last year and have a pretty good nucleus to work with," says Chandler. "But our pitching staff will be inexperienced. We have a very young staff with some good arms and they will need to improve as the season goes along. Adding to the problem of a young pitching staff is that we also lack experience at catcher. Our strengths this year will be good speed in the outfield and a good double play combination."

Those six starters are senior outfielders Mike Hurdle and Simon Glenn, senior second baseman Randy Woodruff, junior shortstop Bryan "Twig" Little, junior first baseman Rodney Hodde, and junior third baseman Harry Francis.

Hurdle is a fourth-year starter for the Aggies who has a chance to break a number of A&M career records with a good senior season at the plate. Glenn is the swiftest Aggie, having stolen 10 bases in 12 attempts last year. Woodruff, who received his undergraduate degree in Accounting this past December, has always been an excellent defensive player but last year also established himself as an offensive threat, leading the Aggies in hitting during SWC play with a .338 average.

Little was a second-team NCAA district 6 All-Region selection last year and this fall played for the United States in the Intercontinental Cup Tournament in Cuba. The speedy shortstop batted .337 in SWC play last year and led the team in hits.

Hodde, who has played first base, outfield and pitched for A&M during his career, led the Ags in hitting last year with a .304 average for the season. He also had a 2-1 pitching record and 1.90 ERA in his seven mount appearances. Francis was a part-time starter at third for A&M last year.

There are, however, a number of gaps to fill. Gone are All-SWC pitchers Mark Thurmond and Mark Ross, who between them broke or tied 14 A&M school records. Kyle Hawthorne, the Aggies' all-time homerun and RBI leader, also played out his eligibility last spring, as did All-SWC outfielder Shelton McMath and catcher Buster Turner.

But Chandler has the material to work with in reshaping these areas, especially pitching. Freshmen Rick Luecken from Houston Spring Woods, David Flores of Corpus Christi Carroll and Charlie Guinn and Robert Slavens from Houston Westbury all have good arms but need seasoning. Add to the list of newcomers to the Aggie pitching staff junior Perry Kilgo, a transfer from McLennan County College, and freshman lefthander Jack Miska from Wharton.

Returning hurlers are sophomore lefty Steve Davis, who was 3-1 as a part-time starter last year, and sophomore righthander Bobby Taylor who finished strong last season after missing most of the season with injuries.

At the end of fall practice, A&M's depth chart looked like this: freshman Joey Szekely at catcher backed up by junior Chris Rupp, Hodde at first base; Woodruff at second; Francis at third; Little at shortstop; junior Joe Paul Bramhall or freshman Bobby Beach in leftfield; Glenn in center; Hurdle in right; Flores, Miska, or JC-transfer Tim Boyes at designated hitter and freshmen David Fry, Clint Heard and Mike Borman backing up the infield positions.

Chandler will be seeking career victory No. 500 this season as his 21-year record stands at 490-238. The Aggies will not be straying from the plus confines of Olsen Field too often in 1980 as 22 home games have been scheduled, including twilight doubleheaders with USC and Miami (Fla.).

ney and lift their season record to 8-7.

"I was pleased," Rapp said. "That was the best we've played in a whole game since before Christmas. We're finally getting some confidence back."

Sophomore Lori Foreman continued here domination at the post collecting 20 points and 11 rebounds in the game. Outside shots by Lola Baker netted her 16 points and kept

the Baylor defense wide open allowing Foreman, Tammy Crafton and Susan Kimbro to work underneath.

Peggy Pope pulled down nine rebounds in helping the Aggies to win.

Foreman led all Aggie scorers and rebounders in the five-game round robin tournament for major colleges.

She averaged 14.6 points and 8.2 rebounds. Peggy Pope was a close second in both categories contributing 13.8 points per game and grabbing 7.0 caroms.

Memphis State and McNeese State, favorites from the start, battled it out for the tourney title in Saturday's first game. Memphis State left, the victor, after a tough 56-49 win. Both teams placed two players on the All-tournament team. Speedy Betty Booker, a 5-5 guard, and 5-7 guard Marcia Monk were the honorees from Memphis State, while 5-6 forward Aline Guidry and 6-0 freshman center Pat Jean were selected from McNeese. The fifth team member was 6-0 forward Molly

McGuire of fourth place University of Oklahoma.

Memphis State finished the tourney undefeated at 5-0, McNeese had a single loss, 4-1, and A&M finished 3-2, losing only to the first and second place teams. Oklahoma finished with two wins and three losses, Baylor picked up a single win and Southwest Missouri State went home winless, 0-5, although they came within a mere second of victory over Oklahoma in those two teams' final game.

In the junior college single-elimination tournament portion of the Aggie Lady Classic, Amarillo College defeated Western Texas 78-73 to take the title. Tyler Junior College eased by Eastern Oklahoma to take third place, 66-64.

Eastern Oklahoma was undefeated (14-0) and ranked number one nationally coming into the tournament. Murray State, ranked eighth and having a 13-1 record coming in, finished in fifth place by beating McLennan County College 66-53.

Prior to the tourney Western was ranked 13th (12-4) and was seventh place in the JC Classic an 84-61 thrashing of Hill JC. Rapp was pleased with the tournament. "I thought there were real good teams here. The competition was excellent," she said. "I thought there were some great players. The team travels to Huntsville to play on Thursday and then returns Saturday night date against Texas State in G. Rollie White

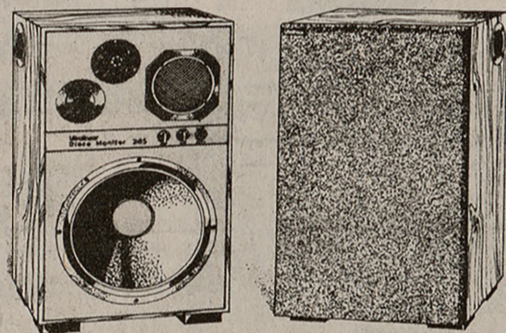
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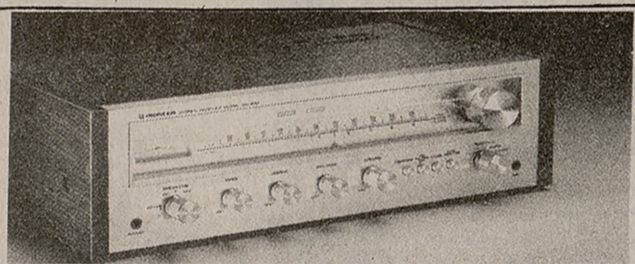
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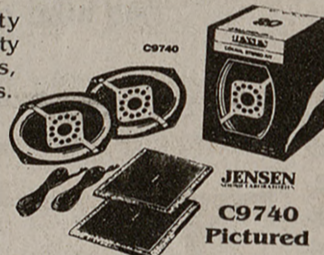
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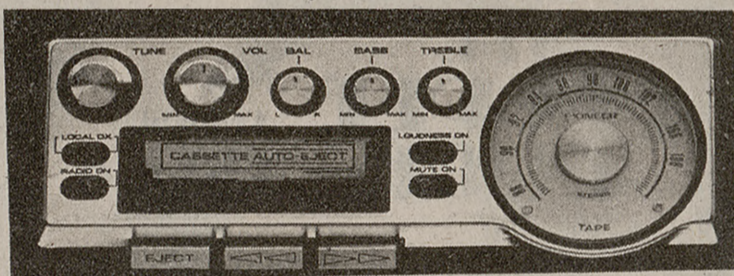
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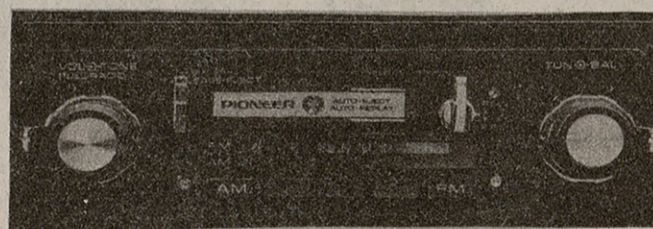


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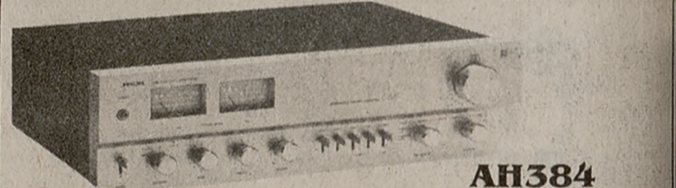
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