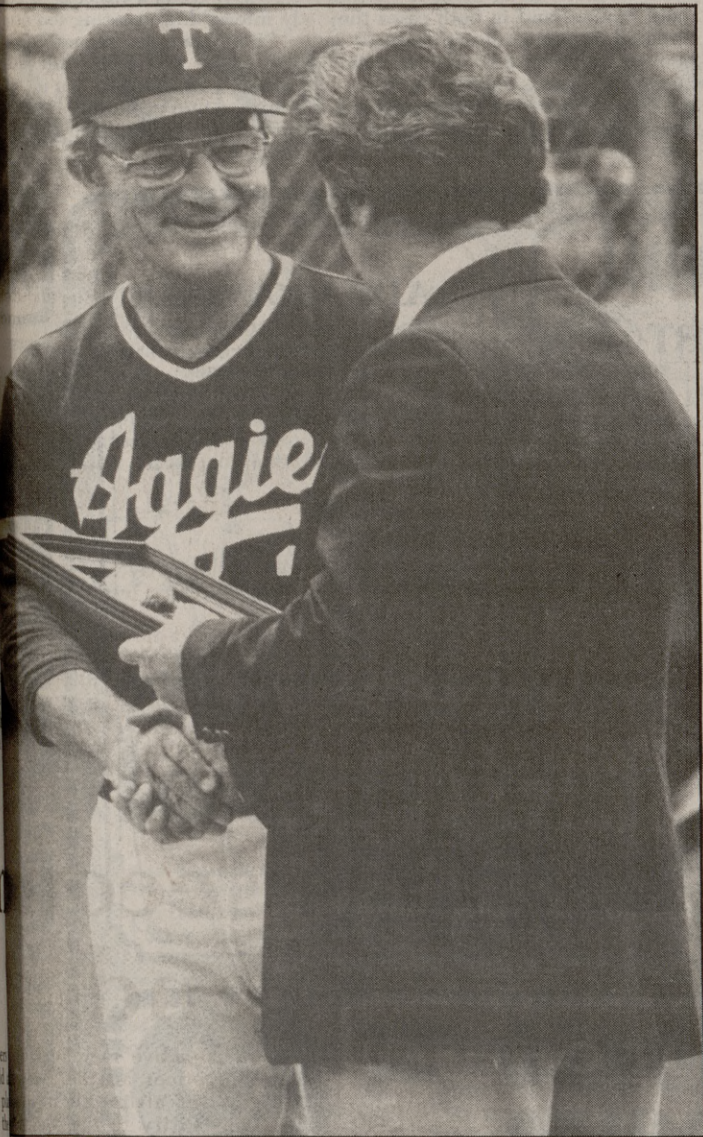


Chandler knew what to do: make Ags proud of baseball



By MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Editor

When he first walked out to the baseball diamond behind Kyle Field 22 years ago, Tom Chandler had no idea he would still be head baseball coach 500 victories and one baseball stadium later.

The stadium, Pat Olsen Field, came in 1978. The 500th victory came March 2 against Baylor.

"What I always tried to do was to have the type of baseball team that personified the school. A hustling, aggressive team with rich sportsmanship; a good, clean, hard team." — Tom Chandler, Texas A&M baseball coach.

Chandler could not foresee either of these events — he just wanted to put together a baseball program Texas A&M could be proud of. He knew he had to satisfy a student body and former students that followed Aggie athletics with a religious fervor.

The Aggies like to win and they take a lot of pride in their school," Chandler, who turned 54 on March 19, said. "What I always tried to do was to have the type of baseball team that personified the school. A hustling, aggressive team with rich sportsmanship; a good, clean, hard team."

When it came to recruiting, Chandler was after a special type of athlete.

"I wanted a guy who had good feet said. "I wanted a kid who would fit in with the University."

"And of course he had to have the ability to play ball," he laughed.

Born in Greenville, Chandler attended Dallas public schools and graduated from Adamson High School in 1943. After a stint in the Marines, he attended Baylor in 1946. Chandler was team captain and earned All-SWC honors for two years. After playing two years in the Pittsburgh Pirate organization, he ended his professional playing career and returned to Adamson as a coach. During the summers from 1950-58, he played and managed the Alpine Cowboys, where he helped bring along the careers of such future stars as Gaylord Perry, Joe Horlen and Norm Cash. Then Chandler, past president of the American Association of College Baseball Coaches, got the job he holds now.

In 1959, his first year as Aggie coach, Chandler led the team to an 18-9 season record and an SWC championship. Twenty-one years

and four conference championships later, Chandler entered the 1980 season with a won-lost record of 490 and 238. In the first conference series of the season, the Ags beat the Baylor Bears in the first game of a Saturday double-header, 6-5, to give Chandler his 500th win and a place in Aggie history books.

Last weekend between games at the Texas Tech double-header at Olsen Field, Chandler was presented with a plaque from the Athletic Council commemorating his achievement.

His years in Aggieland have been relatively smooth, he said, having received virtually no pressure to produce from former students or Athletic Department. He's had offers to go elsewhere, but he said he's never really thought about leaving.

"I have had other offers to go into professional baseball, but I like collegiate baseball," he said. "You're working with young men and can be selective in recruiting. And there are long bus rides in the minor leagues. I just like the collegiate atmosphere we have here on campus."

Chandler said that former students' reputation of being demanding has been blown out of proportion and said he's never felt pressure from them. He has enjoyed his stay in College Station, but says being baseball coach has led to many disappointments as well as triumphs.

Chandler says his two favorites were Doug Rau and Dave Johnson. "Guts and determination" set these two apart, he said.

ships we've won and the winning seasons we've had," he said. "The disappointments have been eight second-place finishes to the University of Texas."

"We have beaten Texas in the last 22 years more than any other conference team, and that's the good news. The bad news is, we haven't beaten them enough."

Chandler said his favorite team was the 1964 SWC championship team that wound up with a 19-8-1 record and a spot in the College World Series.

"That year we won the conference championship, winning two ball games over in Austin," he said. "We went to the NCAA regional playoffs and the College World Series. We ended up ranked fifth in the country."

Chandler also remembers his most frustrating season, which was

the 1961 team that led the conference in hitting but still finished fourth in the conference.

"We had a great ball club, and led the conference in hitting with a .343 team average," he said. "Virtually

"The good part is the championships we've won and the winning seasons we've had," Chandler said. "The disappointments have been eight second-place finishes to the University of Texas."

every member of the team hit over .300. But in those days the pros could sign players right out from under you and just prior to the season I had two outstanding pitchers sign professional contracts. We had a great team with virtually no pitching."

He said one weekend against TCU in 1961, the Ags scored 45 runs on 63 hits, committing one error, but still lost two of three games.

Chandler has seen many players come and go, but says his two favorites were Doug Rau and Dave Johnson. Johnson went on to play for the Baltimore Orioles and appeared in two All-Star games and one World Series. Rau is still pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers. "Guts and determination" set these two apart, Chandler said.

Chandler says he'll quit when he loses his enthusiasm for the game, and he says that won't be for a while.

Twins crush Astros, 8-3

United Press International
ORLANDO, Fla. — Mike Cabbage, Roy Smalley and Willie Norwood slammed home runs Tuesday to help the Minnesota Twins score an 8-3 decision over the Houston Astros in an exhibition game.

the fifth and Norwood drilled a three-run homer off Mike Mendoza in the eighth.

Hosken Powell also nicked Richard for a run-scoring single as the Twins roughed scored four runs on 11 hits in five innings of the strike-out artist. Catcher Butch Wynegar added two doubles and a single to a 16-hit Minnesota attack.

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Aggie baseball coach Tom Chandler receives a plaque from Athletic Director Marvin Tate commemorating Chandler's 500th baseball victory as an Aggie coach. That victory came against Baylor March 2. Tate made the presentation during Aggie double-header against Texas Tech Saturday.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Softball team wins two more

By JOHN BRASHER
Sports Reporter

Texas A&M women's softball extended its winning streak to six games after sweeping a double-header from the University of Missouri 2-0 and 7-0, Monday night.

The Aggies, now 16-5 on the season again got excellent pitching as the staff recorded its 10th shutout in 21 games.

In the first game, Shan McDonald pitched Missouri on just three hits and topped her season record.

Missouri never mounted much of an attack against the Aggies as she could only manage to get runners past first base twice through the game. The Aggie offense, which has disappointed Coach Bill Galloway thus far this season, were once again fairly silent as the Aggies collected six hits in 23 at bats. Rhonda Reese led the Aggie offense with a 2-for-3 performance at the plate.

In the nightcap, the Aggie bats came alive as Texas A&M pounded out 10 hits in the 7-0 win over Missouri. Reese and Mary Lou Wargo each collected 2 hits in 3 at bats and drove in two run apiece.

Lori Stoll, A&M's left-hander, increased her season record to 7-2 by pitching the three-hit shutout.


Pustejovsky named Heart Award winner

— Doug Teague as academic player of the year.

Former Aggie All-America full-back-linebacker Jack Pardee, now head coach of the Washington Redskins, was the guest speaker for the banquet, held in Duncan Dining Hall.

Other awards presented included: Jacob Green as defensive player of the year, Gerald Carter as offensive player of the year, Randy Harvey as special teams player of the year, and

Henry Dunn invites you to come see him.



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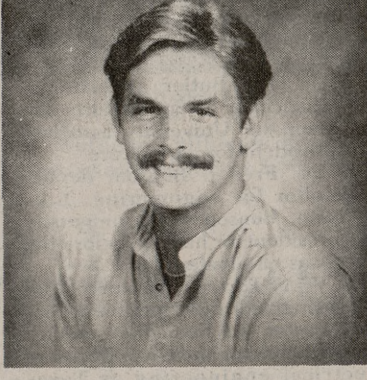


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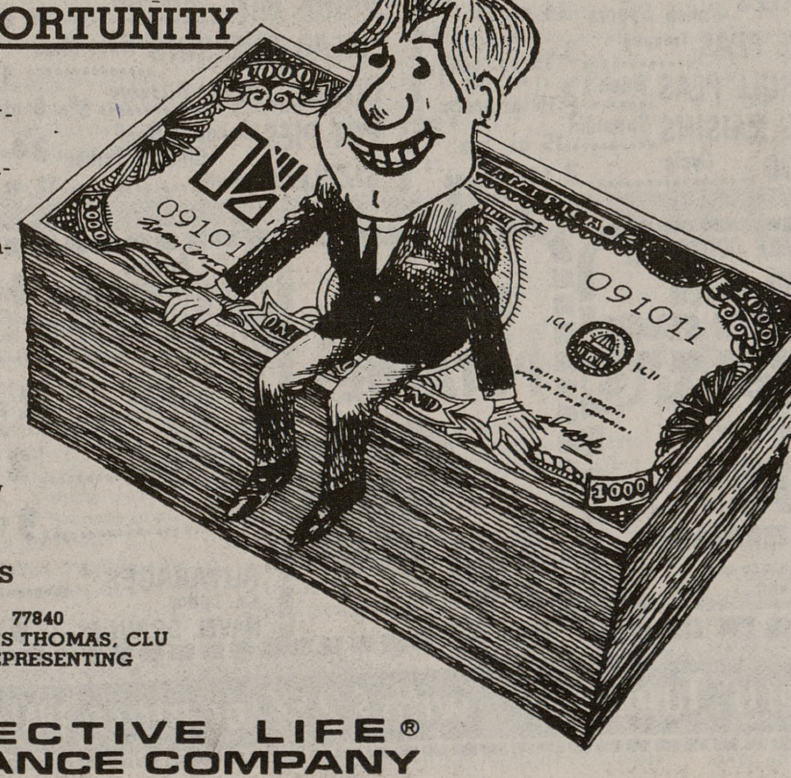
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