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**Astros in first by 1/2**

United Press International  
CINCINNATI — J.R. Richard hit a solo home run Wednesday night and combined with Dave Smith on a four-hitter, and Cesar Cedeno and Joe Morgan backed him with home runs to give the Houston Astros a 5-1 victory over the Cincinnati Reds and a half-game, first-place lead over the Reds.

Richard gave up three hits and struck out eight over 7 1/2 innings for his fourth victory. He was replaced in the eighth after developing stiffness in his shoulder.

The Astros scored their first run off loser Tom Seaver, 1-1, in the third. Cedeno walked, stole second and scored on Alan Ashby's double. Houston scored twice more in the fifth when Cedeno hit his second homer in as many nights. One out later, Richard hit his first homer of the year.

**Reflections by Richard Oliver**

The Texas A&M University baseball team is good. In fact, they're excellent.

You, as the students of Texas A&M, should be proud of that.

Now, for the first time since the innovation of the post-season Southwest Conference Tournament, that tournament will be held here in College Station.

For the past three years, the University of Texas has hosted 12 games for a packed grandstand. The partisan crowd was definitely an advantage for the Longhorns.

This year, we Aggies have a chance to support a fine team. The Aggies who before the 1980 season began were not picked to clean anyone's plate, scrapped their way to a 36-10 record, good for second in the league behind the Longhorns, with an outside chance of finishing first.

If the Longhorns should, by some miracle, get swept three-straight by TCU, the Aggies would finish on the top of the heap. Not bad.

Despite this gutty team's success during the season, it has been a long time to see a ballgame at beautiful Olsen Field with only 300 other fans. Last Sunday, the last home game for the team except for the tournament, approximately 250 showed up, and that's being generous.

For the past three years, the Longhorns have held successful SWC tournaments, and now the pressure falls on Texas A&M to duplicate better that record.

As I watched the Aggies warm-up Wednesday, I thought of the Aggies successes this year. Three freshmen pitchers, Robert Slavin, Rick Luecken, and David Flores have come from nowhere to post 22, the 36 Aggie wins, Simon Glenn has swiped a school record 20 base right fielder Mike Hurdle has set numerous total base records, stop Bryan "Twig" Little had 86 assists this season, a new SWC conference record, the Aggies as a team tied a school record with a .300 fielding average, etc., etc., etc.

And only averaging a few hundred fans a game?

A fan sitting with me during the practice listed off the problems tournament directors were having.

The first three years they had it (the SWC tournament in Austin) they drew great crowds and it was a decided advantage for Texas, said. "When they first decided to have the tournament, it was put in in Austin. Texas has the best facility for it. It should have been around, though."

"Now, their success puts a little pressure on A&M. We've got to have good crowds. If Baylor or Houston were going to play, it would be easier, but Tech and Arkansas being in the tournament mean pressure from Lubbock and Fayetteville won't be showing."

Now, the Aggies have made it to their own SWC tournament.

Granted, the tournament begins after school lets out for the summer, but t.u didn't seem to have too much problem packing the stadium for the tourney.

Tournament officials are working hard to show outside forests. Texas A&M is a good place to hold this tournament, and perhaps heavy planning is because of a fear of no-shows.

We, who have the most spirited fans in the SWC, if not the country should not have any problem catering to their plans.

Show up for a game or two and watch the Aggies play ball. I promise you. You won't be disappointed.

**3 more Aggies picked in draft**

Three more Texas A&M University football players were selected in Wednesday's National Football League college draft.

Gerald Carter, George Woodard and James Zachery were swooped up in the final stages of the 1980 draft, bringing to five the number of players selected from Texas A&M.

Curtis Dickey and Jacob Green were claimed fifth and 10th in Tuesday's first round.

In Wednesday's rounds, Tampa Bay selected Aggie wide receiver Carter as the 19th pick in the ninth round. Running back Woodard was taken as the 12th pick in the twelfth round by the New Orleans Saints, and linebacker Zachery was selected as the 13th pick in the twelfth round by the New York Jets.

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