

Flores is 'third man'

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

David Flores is a confident player.

He is the "third man" of a Texas A&M starting pitching rotation which includes 1980 SWC Newcomer of the Year Robert Slavens and Rick Luecken.

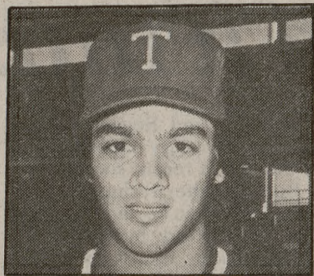
The three pitchers combined for 24 wins last season in the Aggies' Cinderella drive for second place, but most of the glory and attention went to Slavens, 11-1, and Luecken, 9-5, the freshman pair from Houston.

Behind the shadow of those two, Flores awaits his chance this season to prove he can do as good a job.

"After playing one year, I think it's enough to see who your competition is," he said. "You can pretty much make up your mind whether you can pitch in this league or not. This year, I've got a lot more confidence than last year."

Last year was a trying experience for the slender sophomore from Corpus Christi. He began the year playing occasionally at first base and as a spot starter. He was hit hard early in the season, but as the schedule progressed, his worth became apparent to Head Aggie Coach Tom Chandler, who soon had Flores tagged as one of his three "freshmen wonders."

The right-hander finished the year 4-2 with one save, overcoming his early ragged performances to finish strongly, winning a key game to start a series against Houston in Houston. He also pitched well against the top-ranked University of Miami Hurricanes, taking a 1-0 lead into the last inning at packed Olsen Field before tiring and giving up four runs.



David Flores

As the season reached the final crucial stages, Flores became the most consistent Aggie hurler.

Over the summer, he stayed in Bryan and played for the Bryan Bombers, a team largely made up of several current and past Texas A&M players.

"I started playing first base," said Flores, who was a star pitcher and infielder at Carroll High School. "But by the time tournaments rolled around I was pitching."

Flores got his pitching spot largely due to the fact former Texas A&M star Kyle Hawthorne arrived as the new first baseman.

But the Bombers soon learned the mound was where Flores belonged. After Bryan swept through the regional tournament at Olsen Field, Flores led the team to an 8-0 shutout of Lubbock in the state tournament in Lubbock on a two-hitter. The Bombers also knocked off favorite Houston Lone Star in the double elimination tournament before bowing out.

The Lubbock team was so impressed with Flores' efforts they picked him up to play as they advanced to the nationals. "We went to the national tournament in Kansas," he said. "It was something; I got to go

and play against all the guys who are unique and considered to be the best in the nation."

At the nationals, Lubbock managed to defeat the top-ranked team, Fairbanks (Alaska).

Despite the fact Flores said the competition the Bombers faced didn't give him that much experience, he met Clint Thomas, the pitching coach of the Texas Longhorns, who also played with Bryan.

"I was sort of uneasy on the mound," said Flores. "He helped me a lot. I was lucky to get to know him."

Under Thomas' guidance, Flores worked on a slider and change-up, learning primarily to control those pitches.

"My problems this summer were mainly getting a couple of those other pitches that I could get over the plate ... other than the fastball. He made me more of a pitcher."

After one year of experience and a summer of maturity, Flores said he feels he's ready to help the Aggies.

"We're not going to peak early this year," he said. "It's going to take awhile until everyone plays as a team. We should be better by the time the tournament rolls around."

"We have no one or two guys who can really bang the ball like we did in the past, but we have speed."

Chandler has no plans to use Flores' talents as a hitter or a first baseman, rather he has decided to go with him solely on the mound.

"If he decides you're good enough to play something, then that's what you're going to play," said Flores. "It's not bad pitching like that. Then you get to sit on the bench for three days and watch a little baseball."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Rockets on a streak, beat Pacers, 101-100

HOUSTON — Allen Leavell's 14 fourth quarter points led the Houston Rockets to a 101-100 victory over the Indiana Pacers Wednesday, extending Houston's unbeaten string to four and putting them into playoff contention.

The win put the Rockets in sixth place in the Western Conference and if they continue to win they'll be assured a playoff berth.

The Pacers led by as many as nine points midway in the second period but the Rockets put on a 12-0 spurt to get back in the game. The teams were tied 45-45 at halftime.

Indiana led 76-72 entering the fourth period, but Houston went on another spurt, this time with 10 straight points, to capture an 84-78 lead with seven minutes left.

Leavell scored three baskets and added one assist during that spurt. The lead changed hands four times in the final minute of play. Bobby Joe Reid's two free throws with five seconds remaining put the game away. But the game wasn't assured until a desperation jump shot by Pacer George McGuiness fell short.

Leading scorers for the Pacers were James Edwards with 25 and McGuiness with 19. Reid and Calvin Murphy led Houston with 18 each. Leavell had 14, all in the fourth quarter.

TENDER LOVING CARE!
FOR YOUR
THESIS OR DISSERTATION
OF A LIFETIME.
We Care At
KINKO'S COPIES
201 College Main • 846-8721
Open Every Day

something
for
everyone
in the
Battalion Classified
845-2611

Houston, Arkansas clinch semifinal tourney berths

United Press International
It wasn't exactly a masterpiece, but the Arkansas Razorbacks will gladly hang it in their museum.

The 16th-ranked Razorbacks went out and put together what can only be described as a workmanlike performance against the slowdown-minded SMU Mustangs Tuesday night, picked up a 47-33 victory, and won the undisputed championship of the Southwest Conference.

Arkansas has won or shared the SWC title four of the last five years and coach Eddie Sutton had reason to be especially pleased about this one.

"I'm very proud of our team," he said. "Every championship is special; but this team showed a lot of courage to come back from 2-3 in the conference. I think very few clubs could have done that."

In winning their 10th game in a row the Razorbacks also wrapped up the No. 1 seed in the SWC post-season tournament while the Houston Cougars, breaking a three-game losing streak with a 63-55 win over Rice, annexed the No. 2 seed.

Even though Houston and Baylor could wind up tied for second place in the league's final standings, the Cougars own a tiebreak advantage over the Bears.

So Houston and Arkansas are assured of not having

to play until the semifinals of the tournament in San Antonio March 6.

Nothing else is quite so certain, however.

Texas A&M's thrilling 59-57 victory over TCU and Texas' 65-54 whipping of Texas Tech left a wholesale number of possibilities open for the opening round of the tourney next Monday night.

Texas Tech is assured of a home-court advantage for the first round, but Rice, Texas A&M, TCU and Texas are all fighting for the remaining two home-court edges.

In Fayetteville, SMU — determined not to have a repeat of the 92-50 loss it suffered against Arkansas earlier this year — opted for a patient game. And even though the Mustangs trailed by 10 early in the second half they held the ball for three minutes before taking the shot.

"The stall was the only chance we had," said SMU coach Dave Bliss. "I apologize to the fans who don't like that kind of basketball, but our fans didn't like the game at Dallas, either."

Texas A&M let a nine-point lead slip away in the second half and it took a blocked shot by Rynn Wright with seven seconds to go and a missed shot at the buzzer by TCU's Cuney Luke to preserve the Aggies' victory in Fort Worth.

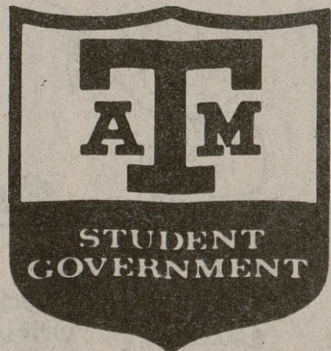
SPRING ELECTIONS

Filing opens March 3
9am-5pm Room 216A of the MSC
Filing closes March 9 at 5:30pm

Positions open:

- Student Body President
- Student Government Vice-Presidents
- Resident Hall Association Officers
- Off Campus Aggies Officers
- Graduate Student Council
- Yell Leaders
- Class Council Officers
- All Student Senator Positions

for more information
Call 845-3051



Auto-Reverse Cassette
Clarion PE-560 has locking fast forward and rewind plus convenient automatic reverse.
Clarion \$149
INSTALLED

Mini-Chassis Digital Cassette
Clarion PE-956 has separate power amp, digital readout and signal seek, auto-reverse and more.
Clarion \$399
INSTALLED

40-watt Auto-Reverse Pushbutton Cassette
Hi-Comp 1030 has built-in 40-watt booster, auto-reverse, Dolby NR, pushbutton radio tuning and up to a 5-yr. warranty.
Hi-Comp \$219
INSTALLED

Car Antennas
Hi-Comp car antennas for popular makes and models both foreign and domestic.
\$399 up

ROADSTAR Foreign Car Size AM-FM Cassette
Roadstar RS-2747 has small chassis and flat faceplate for most foreign cars.
INSTALLED \$99.95

Cassette with Equalizer
Roadstar RS-2280 gives you everything! All most wanted cassette features plus a built-in 5-band graphic equalizer for complete tone control.
INSTALLED \$159.88

ROADSTAR AM-FM Cassette with TV Band
Roadstar RS-2141 has AM and FM radio plus TV band for listening to your favorite shows on the road.
INSTALLED \$119

Cassette Deck Cleaner
Allsop 3 cleaner is perfect for both home and car cassettes.
\$488

Clarion 300-EQB delivers 30 watts per channel with LED power indicators. Five-band equalizer plus fader control and separate on/off switch.
Clarion \$149.88

Concord 2 speakers are perfect for vans, jeeps, and trucks where cutting holes is impractical. Great sound from efficient 3-way design.
\$129.88 pr.

ROADSTAR RS-551 60-watt power booster has LED power indicators and separate bass and treble tone controls. Put big power in your car at a Dyer Deal price!
ROADSTAR \$49.88

Get famous Sony sound quality at the lowest price ever. Model XS-211's look as good as they sound.
SONY \$29.88 pr.

ROADSTAR RS-501 60-watt booster has slimline design so you hear big power without having to look at it. Get one today!
ROADSTAR \$39.88

Sony XS-62 two-way six-by-nine speakers will deliver crisp highs as well as deep bass with limited power.
SONY \$97.00 pr.

dyer electronics

3601 E. 29th St.
846-1768

Focus: The Battalion Thursday, February 26, 1981