

Sports



dp 1981

Ags travel to meet Raiders

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M baseball team hopes to start a new season this weekend when it travels to Lubbock to play the Texas Tech Red Raiders—even though the season is really more than half over.

The first 12 games of the Aggies' Southwest Conference schedule have left them with a dismal last-place 3-8-1 record and a no-alternative-but-twineverygame-left situation. And starting this weekend, that's exactly what the Aggies have to do if they hope to play in the May SWC post-season tournament.

The Aggies are coming off a Tuesday night double header sweep of Sam Houston State University in which they played solid baseball both offensively and defensively. A&M must keep playing that way in their nine remaining SWC games against Tech,

Baylor and Texas in order to have even an outside chance of playing in the tournament.

Like the Aggies, the sixth-place Red Raiders have not had much luck in SWC play and are struggling to gain a spot in the four-team tournament. Tech lost three games a week ago to the University of Houston by close scores of 6-5, 7-5 and 7-6, and is now 24-15 overall and 4-8 in the SWC.

The Aggies have won three of their last five games, including an impressive 9-2 win over the University of Arkansas Saturday. The two wins over SHSU make A&M an above-average 23-14 overall, but at this point, it's only the conference record that counts.

Joe Paul Bramhall is leading the Aggies with a .378 batting average, while Rodney Hodde is next at .377. For the season, A&M is hitting .302 as a team, but their conference batting average is only .238, seventh in the conference.

The Aggies have shown some speed this year in stealing 57 bases, which is four away from the record of 60 set a year ago. Bramhall also leads in that category with 23 steals.

The Red Raiders come into the series with a .318 season average and a .284 SWC average, good for third in the conference behind Arkansas and Texas. Tech's leading hitters are Bobby Kohler at

.398 and Jimmy Zachry at .375, and Kohler also leads the team with six homers.

A&M and Tech will play a double header Saturday at noon and a single game Sunday at 1:00 p.m. In Saturday's first game, A&M's Steve Davis, 4-0 with a 3.15 ERA, will pitch against Tech's David Carroll, 7-2 with a 3.46 ERA. In

the second game of the double header, the Aggies' Robert Slavens, 1-2 with a 6.26 ERA, will pitch against Kyle Fahrenthold, 7-2 with a 4.29 ERA.

The final game of the series will feature A&M pitcher David Flores, 4-3 with a 6.25 ERA, pitching against Tech's Mark McDowell, 1-1 with a 6.17 ERA.

Spurs, Rockets in finale

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — For the Houston Rockets and San Antonio Spurs, playing at home has become a curse instead of the advantage it's supposed to be.

The Spurs and Rockets meet again Friday for the seventh and final game in the NBA Western Conference playoffs.

"This has been a wild and crazy thing," said Spurs' coach Stan Albeck. "It's time the home team won. It's the law of averages."

The Spurs have lost two of three playoff games to Houston while playing in San Antonio. The same is true for the Rockets, losing three of four playoff games at their home court, including a loss delivered by the now-eliminated Los Angeles Lakers.

Houston coach Del Harris says he would like to see the trend continue, winning Friday in San Antonio and allowing his team to advance in the NBA playoffs.

"We'll just have to go over there and do it again," Harris said. "We know we can do it."

"Give credit to the Spurs," Harris said. "They controlled things in the fourth quarter (of Wednesday's 101-96 San Antonio win) because of their defen-

sive play. They took away our options on the inside and didn't let us have the shots we wanted from the outside."

For the Spurs, the key to a Friday win will be containing Rockets' guard Calvin Murphy and holding center Moses Malone to 30 points or less.

"Paul (Griffin) did an outstanding job on Malone," Albeck said. "He really gave him trouble."

Malone, who has scored 21, 25, 41, 35 points in the first four playoff games against the Spurs, hit for 36 points Wednesday against San Antonio, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked two shots.

Griffin, who Friday will again face Malone, says he hopes the homecourt advantage will work for the Spurs.

"If we lose three games at home, we don't deserve to win the series," Griffin said.

Controlling Murphy's scoring, Albeck says, means holding the quick guard to 20 points.

"We just made too many mistakes," Murphy said of Houston's Game Six loss to the Spurs. "We got fewer breaks and more loose balls bounced their way."

Oilers say they still want Young

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers announced that they will match an offer received from another NFL club for Oiler free agent guard Bob Young.

"The Oilers have exercised their right for first refusal in accordance with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement and have matched the terms of the other club's offer," Ladd Herzog general manager and executive vice president of the Oilers said.

"Bob figures prominently in head coach Ed Biles 1981 plans and we are both very pleased to have him on the field," Herzog said.

Young is a 16-year veteran of the NFL and played in 15 games for the Oilers last year after being released from the St. Louis Cardinals early in the season. A former Pro Bowl selection, Young attended Southwest Texas State and Howard Payne Universities. The 6-foot-1, 279-pound guard was named to the Football Digest All Pro team last season.

Texas A&M hosts soccer tourney

The Texas A&M soccer team is hosting the First International Soccer Tournament this weekend. The four team tournament will be the first international soccer tournament to be held in the area.

Teams from Tampico, Mex., Baylor, TCU and Texas A&M will meet today through Sunday in the round-robin event. The first game begins today at 2:30 p.m. and pits Texas A&M against Baylor. At 4:30 p.m. TCU will play Tampico.

Play resumes Saturday morning at 10 with Tampico and Baylor fighting it out. At 12 noon Texas A&M will play TCU.

On Sunday, Texas A&M will play Tampico at 2:30 p.m.

Head Aggie Soccer Coach Telmo Franco, said he expects the Mexican team to be skilled and strong, "but we must increase the exposure of our American players to international competition; they need the experience."

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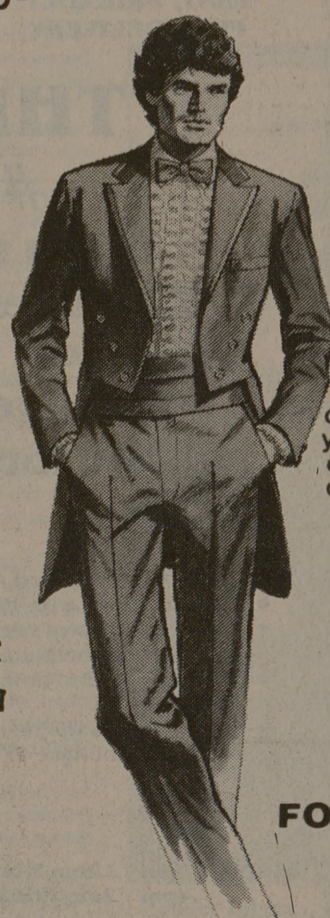
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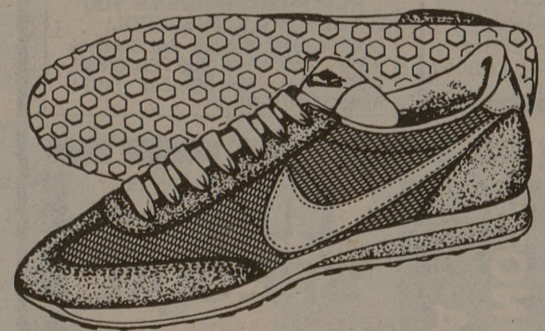
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