

Lemons' approach to UT slide hard to figure

by Bill Robinson
Battalion Staff

The Texas Longhorn basketball team did it again Saturday — they lost another Southwest Conference game by a large margin.

That's the way things have gone for the Horns since sopho-

more forward Mike Wacker went down with a knee injury Jan. 26 at Baylor.

But Texas' junior center La Salle Thompson doesn't believe the injury killed the Longhorns' championship drive.

"They shouldn't have made Wacker such a big deal,"

Thompson said.

He said the press put a lot of pressure on the Horns by playing up the injury.

But the loss of Wacker's height, if nothing else, slowed

guys getting all over my little guys' backs. The official told me the best advice he could give me was to get some big guys."

In truth, it's not the Horns' lack of size that has caused their demise. Texas, more than anything else, lacks the will and enthusiasm to play well.

During the game, the Longhorns seemed almost lifeless as Lemons sat staring at the clock or the floor.

Lemons seemed completely disinterested in the game's outcome. He arose from the bench only a few times, letting Assistant Coach Barry Dowd direct the game.

Thompson said: "He always expects the worst. Lemons told

me once that he's pessimistic so he won't be disappointed. If we're shooting a free-throw he'll say 'He won't make it,' then if it goes in he's wrong, but if it misses he's not disappointed."

That attitude may have rubbed off on the Longhorn team. After a loss like that which the Horns suffered to the Aggies, one would expect a very quiet, solemn group of players in the locker room.

But the Horns, with a few exceptions, weren't really down after the loss.

After losing eight of nine conference games its probably hard to do otherwise, though.

"We were so nervous," Lemons said.

"There's got to be somebody out there who wants to come to Texas, who's not nervous," he said. "Somebody from the big city, I guess. Somebody used to

standing on street corners and riding subways.

"We had one young guy try to drink a cup of water and he spilled it out both sides. It was that kind of a day."

Although the Longhorns may have been intimidated by the Aggie crowd, it was also a lack of ability to perform basic basketball skills that contributed to the loss.

"We had 13 turnovers in the first half," Lemons said. "That's ridiculous, because they weren't even pressing."

"We worked hard but we just didn't generate anything. We started out as the best, but we've lost it all. We play hard and work hard but just are not getting anything done."

With the SWC post-season tournament coming up, it would seem the Longhorns would be working rapidly to solve their

problems. But following game Lemons gave the impression that the Longhorns have any chance in the tournament.

"I don't even care," he never thought they should play each other. I felt like when we were on top and the same way when we are bottom."

The Horns could still get a surprise if they get to the site of the 1982 SWC tournament.

The only obstacle in the is the no-care, individual attitude of the team.

"We have potential," man guard Jack Wortham said. "If we get it together we be awesome again. We are tough team."

Analysis

Texas' previously explosive offense.

"It is obvious we need some big guys," Texas' coach Abe Lemons said. "We got killed inside and the Aggie guards just killed us outside."

"I was up complaining to the officials once about their big



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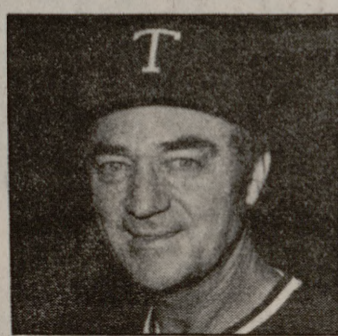
Baseball team to open season with St. Mary's

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M baseball team begins its season Tuesday by hosting St. Mary's University in a 1 p.m. double-header at Olsen Field.

Coach Tom Chandler, who returns 17 lettermen off last year's 35-16-1 squad, enters his 24th year with the Aggies. Texas A&M starts the season ranked number 14 in the nation.

Chandler says pitching and quickness will be the Aggies' strong points this season. The Texas A&M coach will start the season with a four-man pitching rotation of senior Steve Davis and juniors Rick Luecken,



Tom Chandler
David Flores and Robert Slavens.



Rick Luecken

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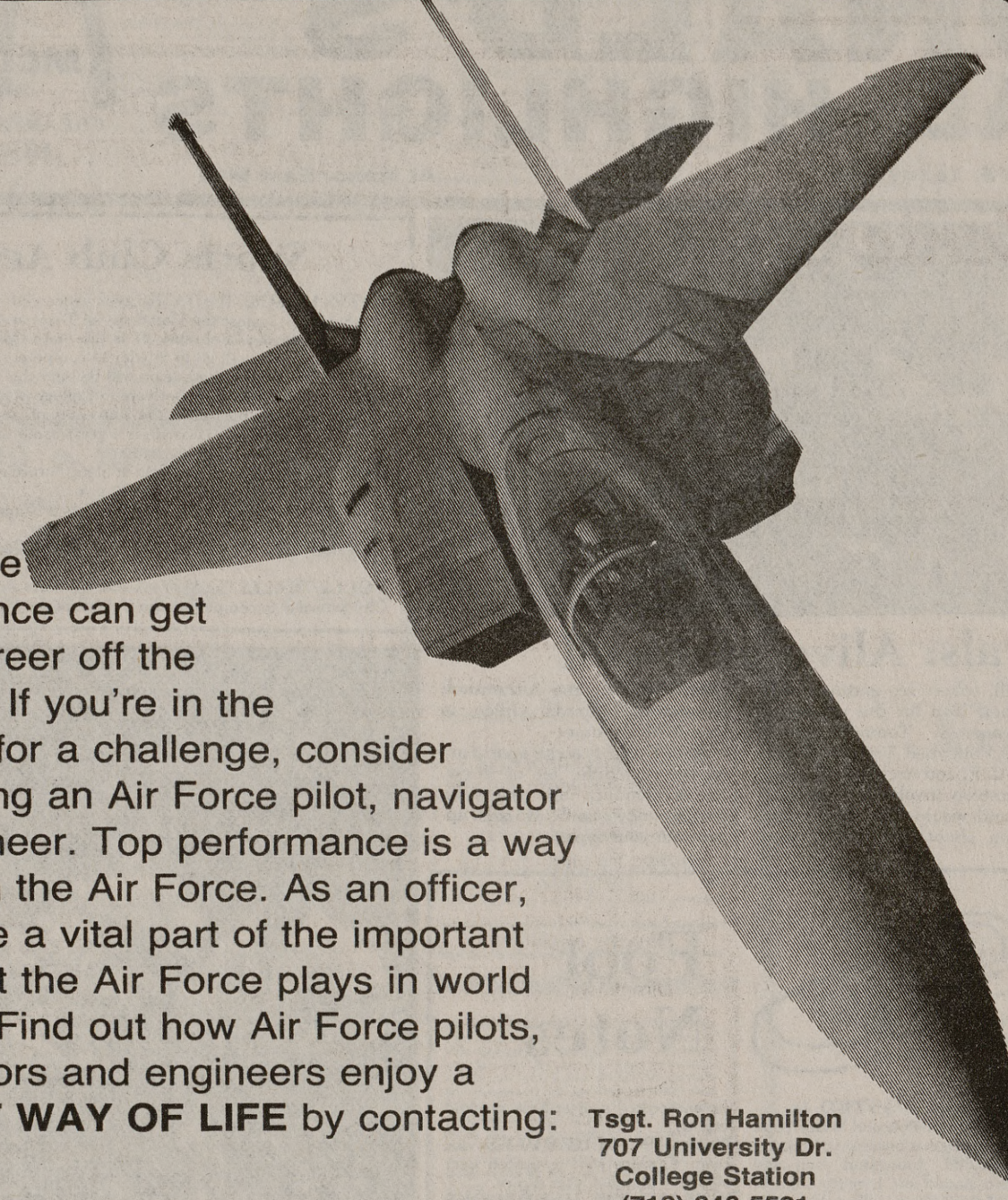
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