

Solo performance staff photo by John Ryan

Texas A&M guard Tyren Naulls shoots a layup in the midst of several players during the Aggies' 60-58 National Invitation Tournament victory Wednesday night. Also pictured are Aggie forward Claude Riley (13), and Lamar's Brian Kellybrew (20) and Kenneth Perkins. Texas A&M travels to Seattle, Wash., to play Washington Tuesday in the second round of the tourney.

SWC

(continued from page 7)

"I've been saying all year long that Texas A&M is the favorite, and I don't think they've let me down with their 11-1 record."

Twenty of the 25 players on the Rice roster will return for the 1983 season, Hall said, but he feels that this year's seniors will provide needed leadership.

"Overall, we do have a young team, but we've got seniors in the key places, especially at catcher and pitcher, and that will lend a lot of stability," Hall said. "I'm pretty pleased with most of the freshman recruits."

Freshman second baseman Carl Mikeska and freshman first baseman Curtis Fox, both starters, have made contributions expected of them so far this season, Hall said.

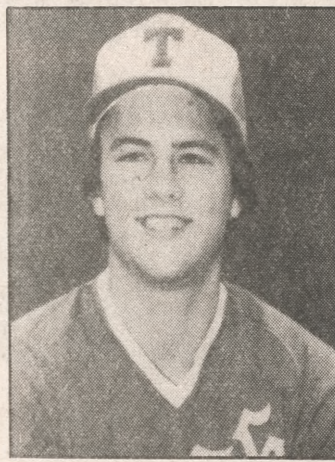
TCU: The Horned Frogs finished 27-19 in 1981. Designated hitter Tom Houk hit .333 and will be returning along with outfielders Scott Wagner and Mark Etier and infielder Carlos Barrett.

The Horned Frogs ended 1981 in sixth place with only a 9-12 SWC record, but they swept the Aggies in a three-game series in Fort Worth.

TEXAS: Gustafson's championship squad had a 16-5 conference record in 1981, but several key players from that team graduated or signed professional contracts. However, the Longhorns have managed a 20-0 record and a number five national ranking during the non-conference schedule.

"Before we ever started, I thought A&M should be the favorite," Gustafson said. "I felt that at the end of last year when we played them (Texas A&M won two of three games here). I thought they were the best team we'd played up to that point."

"I don't see anything that



Spike Owen

would change my feelings about that."

Gustafson said he's pleased with the Longhorns' progress during non-conference play.

"We've played extremely well so far," Gustafson said. "Based on our non-conference play, I'd say we have to be contenders. I think Arkansas is a team like we are, from the standpoint of not having a lot of returning starters. They've got the finest returner in the conference in (pitcher) Scott Tabor."

"I look for a very exciting, well-balanced race."

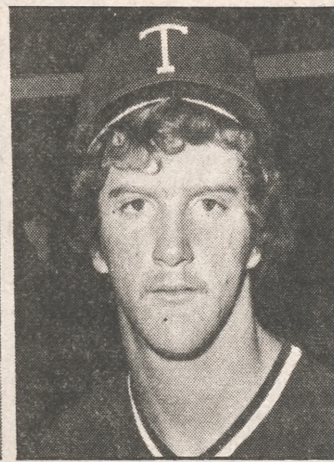
Gustafson's junior shortstop Spike Owen has been as impressive as he was during his first two seasons at Texas.

"The guy that everybody would expect to do well and is doing well is Owen," Gustafson said. "He's hitting .380, and that's leading the team."

Gustafson cited first baseman Randy Day and catcher Jeff Hearn as other offensive leaders on the team.

TEXAS A&M: The Aggies have an 11-1 record so far, but Chandler said the team's play has been inconsistent.

"Our pitching has been a little spotty," he said. "But I feel that's because we've had some pitchers out with injuries. Luecken has been out with a sore arm but



Billy Cannon

could be ready for possible duty against Rice.

"On a pleasing side, we've had some freshmen that have really been pitching well. Sherman Corbett and Phillip Taylor are doing a very good job."

David Flores leads the Aggies with a 3-0 record, and Robert Slavens is 2-0. Offensively, the Aggies have been led by Joe Szekely's .565 average and 10 RBI, with Grant Priess' average of .480 second on the team.

Freshman first baseman Buddy Haney has a .429 average, and sophomore centerfielder

Billy Cannon is hitting .333 with 10 RBI.

TEXAS TECH: Red Raider coach Kal Segrist has not had an easy time during his team's non-conference portion of the schedule. Texas Tech has a 4-8 record thus far after finishing last season 8-13 in SWC play.

"It's very hard to comment at this point because it's early in the season," Segrist said. "Basically, the league has leveled out. The teams that were good have maintained theirs and a lot of others have improved. It's very difficult for any teams to go in and sweep any other teams."

Segrist said outfielder Bobby Kohler, who had a .372 average in 1981, has been one of the team's leaders so far. Third baseman Jimmy Zachry, who hit .333, and catcher Kevin Rucker, who hit .283, have provided more offensive power, Segrist said.

"We need them to do well for us," Segrist said. "Bobby's been doing pretty well, but not as well as he's capable. We've got a number of people who haven't been performing real well lately, but we hope they'll pick it up here in the next two weeks."

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