

Cougars invade Olsen Field

Victory important if A&M is to survive in SWC race

by John Wagner and Bill Robinson

Battalion Staff
 The Texas Aggies are half-way through the 1982 Southwest Conference baseball season and although Coach Tom Chandler's squad has not yet made prophets out of those who predicted them to finish first, they haven't exactly made liars of them, either.

This weekend, the Aggies play a three-game series with the Houston Cougars, a series which marks the mid-way point for Texas A&M in its quest for the Southwest Conference championship and the race to make the post-season tournament.

A look at the standings shows the Aggies in fifth place in the conference with a 3-5-1 record, 4 1/2 games behind the league-leading Arkansas Razorbacks.

The Cougars are in second place in the conference with a 4-0 mark. They trail the Razorbacks by 1 1/2 games, but only because the Hogs have played

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five more conference games. Coach Cliff Gustafson's Texas Longhorns, 33-1 on the season and 3-1 in conference action, dropped to third place

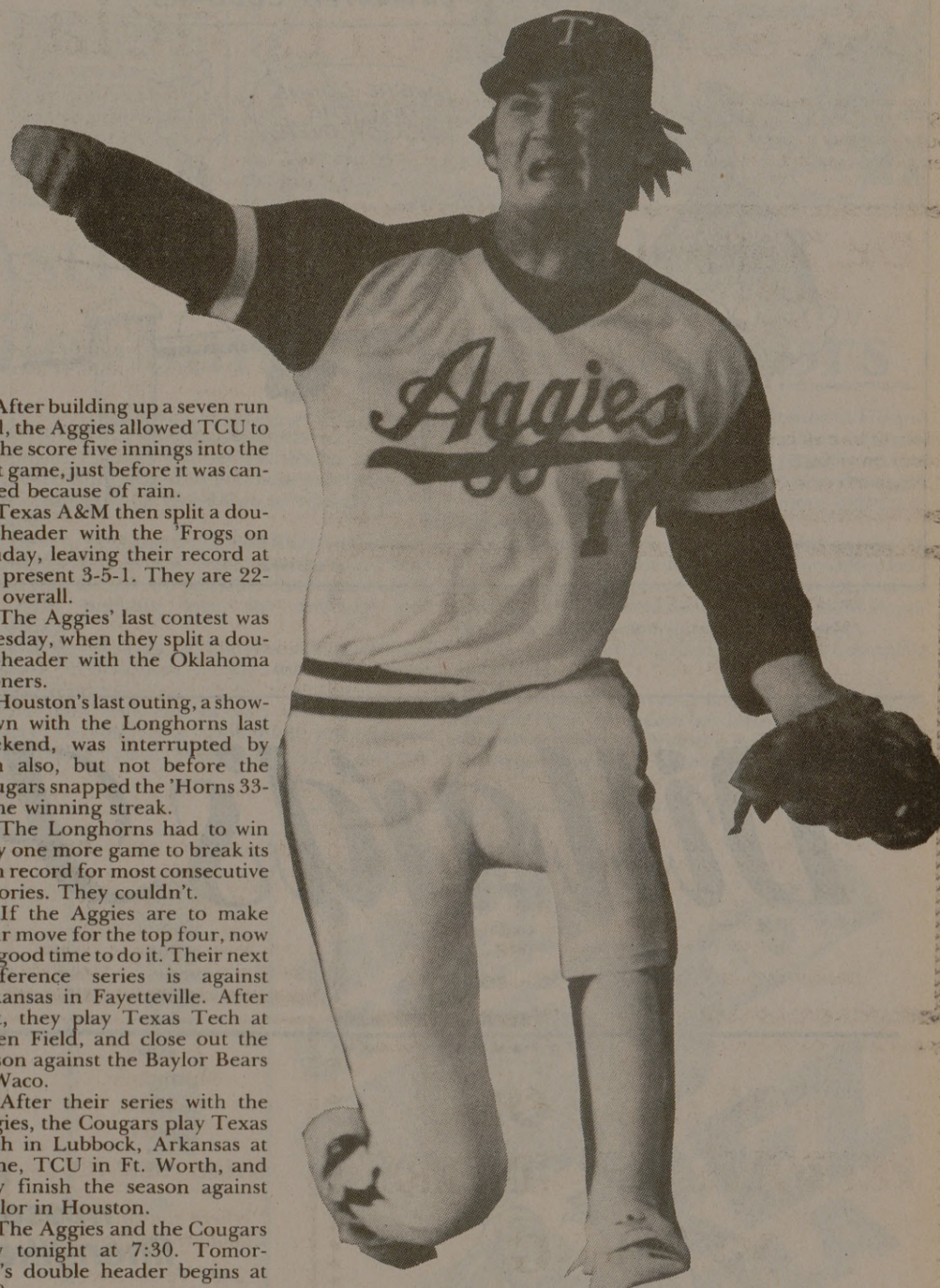
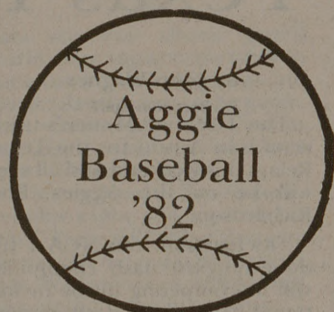
while Texas Tech is in fourth place with a 4-2 record.

That fourth place spot is important because it is the cut-off point for the tournament. Only the top four teams in the conference will participate. The tournament is May 14-17 here in College Station.

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One thing is for certain, however — every series is going to be a "must-win situation" from here on out.

After starting the season nationally ranked, the Aggies looked prepared to win the conference title which has eluded them ever since their back-to-back crowns in 1977 and 1978.



After building up a seven run lead, the Aggies allowed TCU to tie the score five innings into the first game, just before it was cancelled because of rain.

Texas A&M then split a double-header with the 'Frogs on Sunday, leaving their record at the present 3-5-1. They are 22-9-1 overall.

The Aggies' last contest was Tuesday, when they split a double-header with the Oklahoma Sooners.

Houston's last outing, a show-down with the Longhorns last weekend, was interrupted by rain also, but not before the Cougars snapped the 'Horns 33-game winning streak.

The Longhorns had to win only one more game to break its own record for most consecutive victories. They couldn't.

If the Aggies are to make their move for the top four, now is a good time to do it. Their next conference series is against Arkansas in Fayetteville. After that, they play Texas Tech at Olsen Field, and close out the season against the Baylor Bears in Waco.

After their series with the Aggies, the Cougars play Texas Tech in Lubbock, Arkansas at home, TCU in Ft. Worth, and they finish the season against Baylor in Houston.

The Aggies and the Cougars play tonight at 7:30. Tomorrow's double header begins at 1:00.

staff photo by John Ryan

Texas A&M pitcher Robert Slavens releases a pitch in a 5-2 victory over Centenary University earlier this season.

The Aggies will host the University of Houston in a three game series which begins tonight in Olsen Field.

NFL anti-trust trial continues

Commissioner cites NFL rule for blocking Oakland's move

United Press International
 LOS ANGELES — According to NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, the city of Anaheim — the nation's 20th largest city — is merely a suburb of Los Angeles. Rozelle, testifying at the anti-trust trial between the league and the Oakland Raiders, said Thursday, despite moving 35 miles away to their new home in Orange County, the Rams are still Los Angeles' team.

The Raiders' attempt to move to Irving, (Texas) and the Detroit Lions moved to Pontiac, (Mich).

"All of those moves were well within the 75-mile limit and because of that, required virtually no discussion. When the Rams and (late owner) Carroll Rosenbloom wanted to move we only discussed it for about 10 minutes. I consider Anaheim a suburb of Los Angeles and I used to live here," he said.

Rozelle said he expected a strong reaction because of the Rams' move but said he thought it would come from the football fans in the area.

"Instead, the strong reaction came from the Oakland Raiders and the Los Angeles Coliseum," Rozelle said. "It came from the parties that had their own selfish interests at heart."

Blecher showed the jury a copy of Rozelle's testimony in the first trial, which ended last August in a hung jury. In that testimony Rozelle said the "biggest winner" in the team's move to Anaheim would be the Rams.

But in answer to the same question Thursday, Rozelle said the "biggest winner" has turned out to be the "football fans of Southern California."

"Now we're seeing the overall results of the move more clearly," Rozelle said, "and it appears clear the football fans of Southern California are the big winners. In the Coliseum, with some 90,000 seats, the Rams seldom sold out and subsequently their games were seldom televised locally under the local blackout rule."

"But in Anaheim, with 70,000 seats, they sell out most of their games and thus the games are televised. So instead of 60,000 or 70,000 fans getting to watch the Rams play, about 2 1/2 million fans in Southern California get to watch their home games."

Under questioning by Colwell attorney Maxwell Blecher, Rozelle said there's a clear difference between the Rams' move and the Raiders' proposed move, citing the league rule giving each team a 75-mile radius of "exclusive territory."

"Before the Rams moved we had five precedents," Rozelle said. "The Buffalo Bills moved to Orchard Park (N.Y.), the Boston Patriots became the New England Patriots and moved to Foxboro, (Mass.), the New York Giants moved 7 miles to New Jersey, the Dallas Cowboys

moved to Irving, (Texas) and the Detroit Lions moved to Pontiac, (Mich).

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