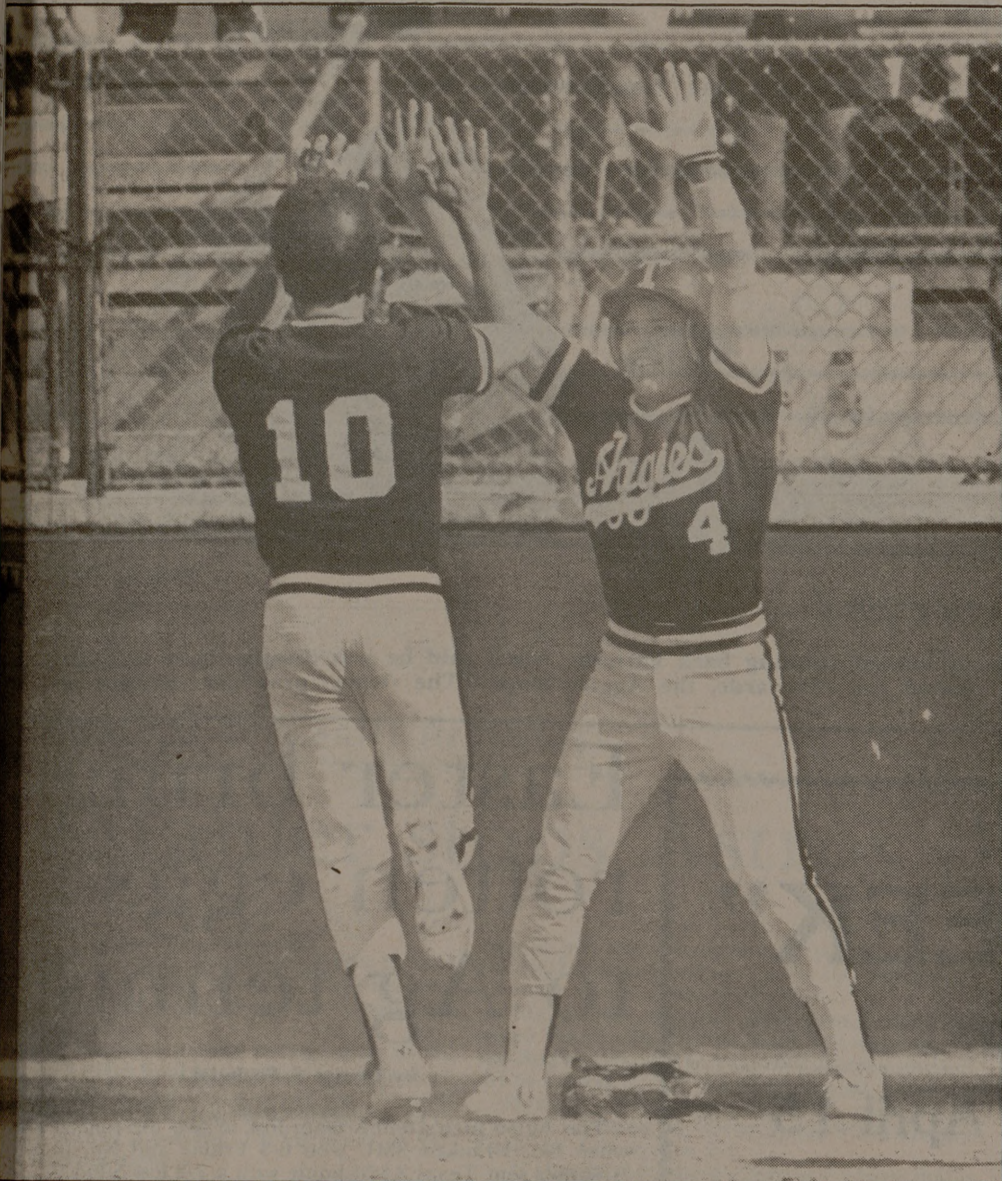


Aggies' SWC dreams may not come true in '82



Texas Aggie freshman first baseman Buddy Haney is congratulated by second baseman Brad Hisle after scoring the winning run in a victory over the Houston Cougars April 3. Aside from that game, the Aggies haven't had too much to laud themselves about. Texas A&M has a 26-15-1 mark for the year.

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

Hopes and team spirits rode as high as pop flies during the Aggie baseball team's pre-season workouts in January and February.

Many people were picking Texas A&M to win the Southwest Conference championship, with the Texas Longhorns and the Houston Cougars providing the biggest obstacles on the Aggies' road to that title. With

But the pitching has faltered, giving up more than five runs a game. The hitting has been good at times, but it's been inconsistent. The defense has made 53 errors in 42 games, whereas last year's team made 54 errors all year. And the speed has earned the Aggies 41 stolen bases, 31 less than last season's team-record 72.

Most people would look at Texas A&M's 26-15-1 season record and speculate that the season has been a success. But most of those 26 victories have been against teams that Texas A&M was expected to beat.

St. Mary's, Louisiana Tech, Delta State, McNeese State.

Maybe the non-conference schedule didn't include the proper dosage of above-average, championship caliber teams. Maybe it takes more than double-headers against Centenary, Louisiana Tech and Southwestern to prepare for teams like Texas, Houston and Arkansas.

Although the Aggies had little trouble defeating their non-conference opponents, SWC competition hasn't been quite as accommodating. Texas A&M

SWC standings

Conference	W-L-T PCT	Season
Texas	7-2-0 .778	39-3-0 .928
Arkansas	11-4-0 .733	30-6-1 .819
Houston	7-3-0 .700	27-7-2 .778
Texas Tech	7-5 .583	19-14-0 .576
Baylor	4-6 .400	17-15-0 .531
A&M	5-9-1 .367	26-15-1 .619
Rice	4-9-0 .308	26-18-0 .591
TCU	3-10-1 .230	13-18-2 .424

has won only one of five conference series, that coming against the seventh-place Rice Owls in Olsen Field.

The Aggies won one, lost one and tied one against last-place TCU. They lost all three games to Texas. They won one of three from Houston. And over the weekend Texas A&M won only one from the second-place Razorbacks in Fayetteville, Ark.

That doesn't help Texas A&M in its bid for one of the four SWC tournament berths.

Maybe everyone had the Aggies picked too high. Maybe there's dissension among team members. Maybe it's a lack of

leadership. Or maybe there's no unity.

The problem more than likely doesn't lie within the team's talent availability. There's more skill than on last year's squad, but it's not being used effectively.

Whatever the problem, it must be alleviated during Texas A&M's final six conference games against Texas Tech and Baylor. Those two teams occupy fourth and fifth place in the SWC, which means that the Aggies must defeat them in order to creep ahead into the fourth-place spot.

And that won't be an easy task.

Analysis

the four-team SWC tournament scheduled for Texas A&M's Olsen Field May 14-17, Coach Tom Chandler and his squad believed they could enter the tourney as league champs.

But not anymore. Texas A&M has a 5-9-1 SWC record, the same record it had after 15 conference games last season. The Aggies, in sixth place in the SWC, are no better off than they were at this time in 1981. To qualify for the league tournament, Texas A&M will have to win practically all of its six remaining SWC games.

The aspirations can be traced to the end of the 1981 season, when the Aggies won 17 of their last 20 games. Although the team fell half a game shy of the final tournament spot with a 10-10-1 conference record, one could sense a great anticipation about the 1982 season.

Chandler, in his 24th year as the Aggies' coach, returned nine starters and 17 lettermen to this season's team. Only five players didn't return from last year's team.

"We hope we can carry over the good things that happened late last season into this year," Chandler said about his team's prospects for this season. "We are indeed fortunate in 1982 because the Southwest Conference schedule is in our favor. We play four home conference series in College Station this year."

Home schedule in the Aggies' favor? Try 39 of 52 games this season in Olsen Field. And two of those 13 road games were rained out when Texas A&M was to have played South Alabama in Mobile, Ala., earlier in the year.

Before the season, Chandler didn't concede the SWC championship to the Aggies. But he sounded as confident as several of the players in saying that they'd finish in the upper portion of the standings.

"We're aiming very high," Chandler said before the Aggies' season-opener with St. Mary's Feb. 23. "I want these boys to believe in themselves. They have been very enthusiastic and they realize the task at hand."

"I think that we'll be improved — there's no doubt about that."

Everyone said that Texas A&M's pitching staff would dominate the SWC. The hitting would be adequate. The defense would be tough. And the team speed would be outstanding.

"We hope to make the Texas A&M athletic public relations program a model for the rest of the nation," Thornton said.

Carpenter, 47, was sports information director at Texas Tech from 1967-77 before joining the athletic staff at Mississippi. While at Ole Miss, Carpenter was the coordinator and producer for football and basketball television shows. Five of Carpenter's former assistants have become sports information directors at schools throughout the country.

"I am extremely pleased to be joining Texas A&M's athletic department," Carpenter said.

Residence Hall Association Presents



A NIGHT OF GAMBLING, PRIZES, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, April 16th
8:00-12:30

Major prizes donated by
DIAMOND ROOM 707
AND TOTAL PRIZE WORTH OVER \$3000!

PLACE: MSC, 2nd floor and Lounge
TICKETS: \$3.00 advance \$4.00 door

TICKET SALES: APRIL 12-16

MSC, Sbis, Commons, Duncan, A&A, Zachry, Academic

TCU's Carpenter hired to public relations post

Texas Christian University sports information director Ralph W. Carpenter will become assistant athletic director for public relations at Texas A&M University, athletic director Jackie Sherrill announced this weekend.

Carpenter will direct public relations and sports information operations for the Texas A&M Athletic Department. He replaces Texas A&M sports information director Spec Gammon, who last fall announced plans to retire at the end of the current

school year. "We are extremely fortunate to be able to attract a person of Carpenter's national reputation," Charles Thornton, Texas A&M associate athletic director, said.

"We are most gratified at the excellent response we received when we advertised the position. We interviewed three outstanding final candidates; however, we feel that Carpenter is uniquely qualified for the new position because of his extensive background in the field.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & REPAIR Foreign & Domestic

TOTAL PERFORMANCE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CENTER
696-3775

FULL CAR CARE

- Air Conditioning • Tune Ups
- Brakes • Charging Systems
- Engine Rebuilding • Parts

OWNER J. BITTLE ATM 78

1800 Welsh & S.W. Pkwy. College Station

You are cordially invited to the

KAPPA SIGMA

Expansion Party
on
April 15, 1982

For more information call

696-3172 (Greg)
696-7679 (Bryan)
693-5696 (Jeff)

MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Tuesday, April 13
7:30 p.m.

Room #158 A&A Building

- ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS
 - BANQUET TICKETS
- WILL BE ON SALE

4/9
12-13



Introducing
Shellenberger's
520 University Drive East

To introduce you to our new location this coupon will entitle you to 10% OFF any purchase.

Featuring the largest selection of Polo Between Dallas & Houston and this area's exclusive line of Polo for men.

Shellenberger's
(Next to Randy's Liquor)

This coupon valid through April 17th