

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

April 27, 1982 Page 9

Waiting it out

Split with Baylor means UT must win two for Aggies to gain tourney

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

A replica of a baseball season? Certainly it's possible, but it doesn't happen every day.

But the Texas Aggies, although doing their best to avoid a duplication of the 1981 season, have endured another nail-biting, knuckle-cracking, teeth-gritting Southwest Conference schedule.

But they hope that one key factor will help make the two seasons easier to distinguish from one another.

Much easier. If the league-leading Texas Longhorns do the Aggies a tremendous favor by defeating Texas Tech in two of three games this weekend, it'll make Texas A&M's season worth every gnawed nail, every cracked knuckle and every ground tooth in the bunch.

UT victories in two games with the Red Raiders will barely squeeze the Aggies into the post-season tournament. If the squeeze were any tighter, the Aggies would have to use a base-

ball bat to pry their way into fourth place.

Texas A&M finished its season Monday by splitting a double-header with the Baylor Bears. The Aggies took the series two games to one to wind up the season with a 10-10-1 conference record — the same mark they had in 1981.

As the bunched-up SWC stands, Texas maintains only a slim half-game lead over Houston, while Arkansas is one game behind after having completed its season. Two crucial series this weekend will decide the conference champion and that final post-season tournament qualifier.

Texas Tech must win two of three games from the Longhorns to have the 11-10 record needed to edge the Aggies for fourth place and a spot in the tourney. And if the Baylor Bears sweep the Houston Cougars in Houston over the weekend, they will emerge with an identical 11-10 record.

But the Aggies, whose overall record of 32-16-1 is a near-car-

bon copy of their 35-16-1 record in 1981, seem confident that the Longhorns will dispose of the Red Raiders. No one seems to be worried about the Baylor-Houston series, since the Bear facts don't dictate a sweep of the Cougars.

If Texas A&M manages to keep fourth place within its grasp, the tournament will be held in Olsen Field May 14-17 as scheduled.

"I feel that we'll get fourth place for a number of reasons, but the biggest reason is that both Texas and Houston will be wanting to sweep this weekend," catcher Joe Szekely said Monday. "They're still fighting for first place, and neither one can afford to lose any games."

"I think that Texas, with the

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staff photo by David Fisher

Texas A&M designated hitter Bobby Beach scrambles back to first base during Monday's series finale between the Aggies and the Baylor Bears in Waco. Tank Davis prepares to take the throw for the Bears,

while first base umpire James Jones waits to make the call on the play. Although the Bears won this game 5-3, Texas A&M won the series by topping the Bears in the first two contests, 3-2 and 4-0 at Ferrell Field.

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By IRA M. HELD
Chevaliers De Sancerre

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