

Up for grabs

SWC coaches say any team can win tourney

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff

Southwest Conference baseball coaches agree that any of the four teams entered might win the conference tournament, being held in Olsen Field May 14-16.

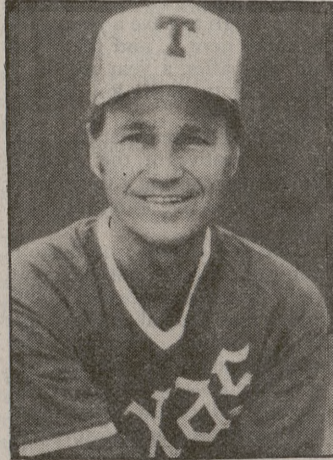
Texas A&M, Texas, Houston and Arkansas are all equally matched, Rolan Walton, head coach of the Houston Cougars said.

"At one time or another during the year all four of the teams in the tournament were ranked among the top 10 in the country," he said. "I think the team that gets timely hits will be the winner."

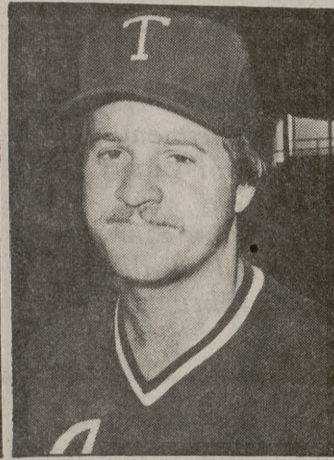
Coach Norm DeBriyn of the Arkansas Razorbacks said all four teams are capable of winning the tournament, but he added that the team able to practice the most during a two-week layoff prior to the start of the tournament will most likely be the champion.

"It's hard to get in a workout when the players are studying for finals and taking finals until 6 or 7 at night," DeBriyn said. "I don't know about the other teams, but we really need to work on some things before we go to College Station. It's hard to get in practice."

Cliff Gustafson, head coach of the regular-season champion



Cliff Gustafson



Bobby Taylor

Texas Longhorns, agreed with DeBriyn, but said pitching will make the difference.

"I don't think there is a clear-cut favorite," he said. "The team that is going to win has to get good pitching performances in the first two games. The first two pitchers pretty much need to go the distance so the relievers will be ready in the third game."

Although Gustafson said there's no favorite, he said

Texas A&M is probably the hot-

test team going into the tournament.

"They won five of their last six games and are finally getting good pitching from (Rick) Luecken and (Bobby) Taylor," he said.

The Aggies will also have an advantage playing in front of their own fans in Olsen Field, Gustafson said.

Tom Chandler, Aggie head coach, said he thinks Texas should be the pre-tournament favorite, but he hopes his team

can upset the Longhorns in the tournament opener to avenge a three-game sweep by Texas.

"We play them Friday night and we're hoping to redeem ourselves," he said. "We've improved lately and we have a little momentum going into it so we're looking forward to playing Texas again. But judging the depth of their pitching staff, I think they will be the team to beat."

Luecken said the players are looking forward to playing the Longhorns.

"They blew us out in Austin on the artificial turf," he said. "But they play 90 percent of their games on the turf so they know how to play on it. I think when we get them at our park the game will be a little different."

The Longhorns and the Aggies will play at 8 p.m. May 14 following the Houston-Arkansas game at 3 p.m. The tournament has a double elimination format, which means a team isn't eliminated until it loses twice.

Reserved seats for the game are \$4 while general admission and student tickets cost \$3. Tickets for people high school age and under are \$2.

Sherrill hires academic adviser

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor

Dr. Donald Ray Hunt, administrative assistant for student-athlete services at Mississippi State University, has been hired as an academic counselor at Texas A&M University.

The filling of that position has been a top priority of Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill since his

arrival here in January. During the latter part of March, Sherrill announced that he had chosen faculty member Alan Beals of the University of Tennessee to be the new academic counselor to Texas A&M athletes.

However, Beals said Thursday that he decided soon after that to turn down the University's offer. Beals, who has mas-

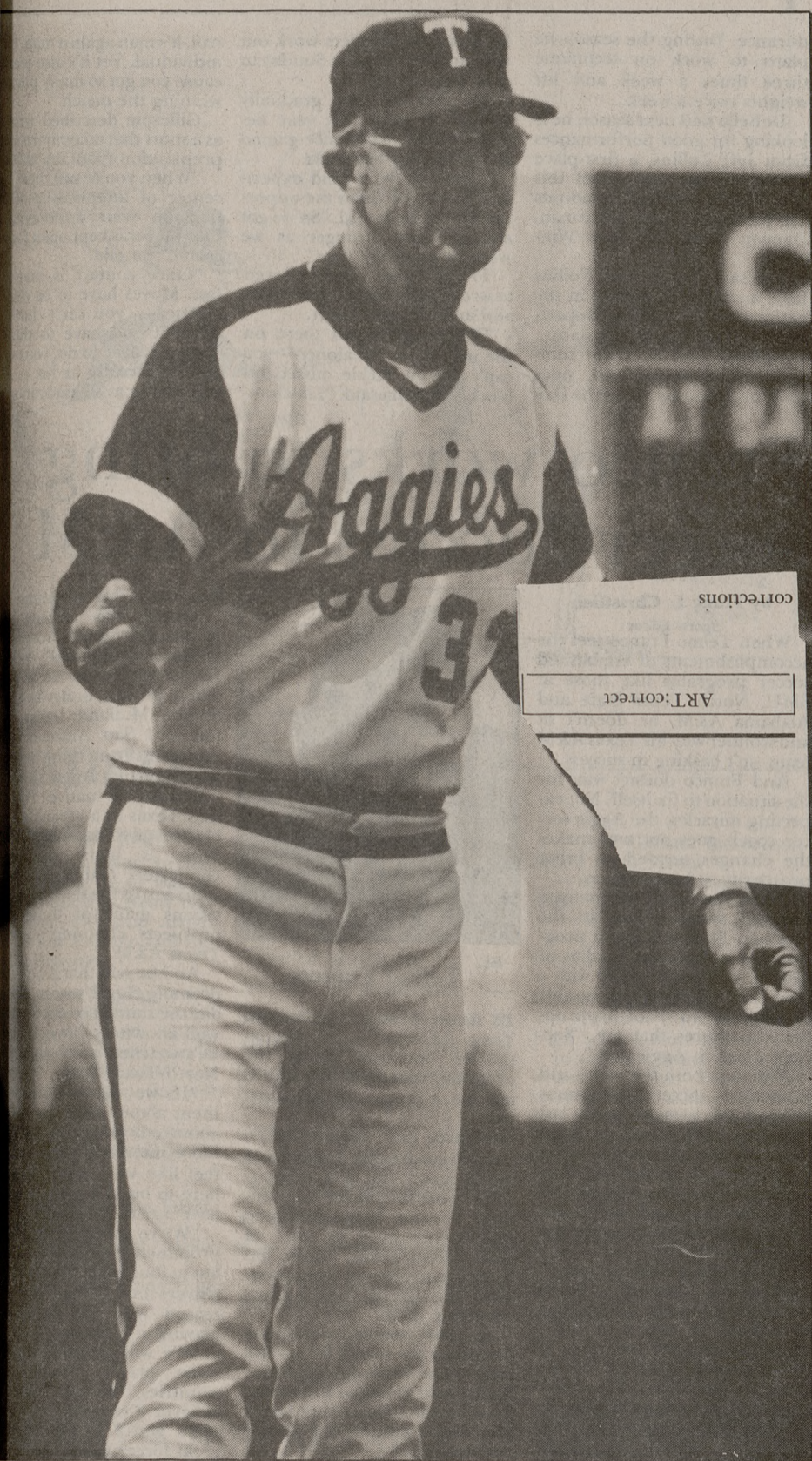
ter's degrees in English and social studies and has served on the teaching faculties at Iowa State University and the University of Pittsburgh, said he elected to remain at Tennessee to continue building the academic programs there.

Hunt, 36, will work with Texas A&M academic adviser and Cain Hall supervisor Leroy

Sutherland and will hold a teaching position on the Texas A&M faculty.

Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill said: "We feel fortunate to be able to obtain the services of Don Hunt. His addition further points up our total commitment to the academic excellence of the student-athletes who represent

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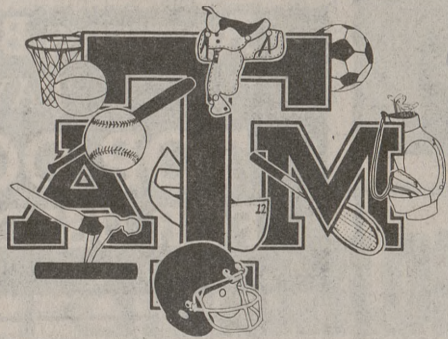


staff photo by David Fisher

Aggie coach Tom Chandler, pictured here during his team's series sweep of Texas Tech near the close of the regular season, sends his team against the Texas Longhorns in the Southwest

Conference tournament opener next Friday in Olsen Field. While UT ended the season with a league record of 12-4, the Aggies had a 10-10-1 record to finish in fourth ahead of Texas Tech.

Athletic Department



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