Battalion/Page 19 May 12, 1982

Surprising year in Aggie sports reaches final page

ink for a moment about what a difce a school year makes. ne months ago, what names were often thought of upon mention of s A&M athletics?

-sports-

om Wilson. Johnny Hector. Gary iak. Marvin Tate. Shelby Metcalf. Riley. Reggie Roberts. Tom dler. Rick Luecken. Billy Cannon. consider the figures whose es are brought up during nearly ev-discussion of Texas A&M athletics. ckie Sherrill. Gary Kubiak. Jackie rill. Johnny Hector. Jackie Sherrill. nest Jackson. Jackie Sherrill. R.C. um. Jackie Sherrill. Curley Hallman. ndlast, but certainly not least, Jackie

t the same time, contemplate the nts that have taken place on the Texas M sports scene since the fall semester an Aug. 31.

Now squeeze them all into a capsule medicated kind that combines all the edients necessary to relieve symps resulting from stress

To be sure, Texas A&M athletics has red its share of stress during the ool term that ends with this week's exams. But it seems that Texas M's athletic accomplishments since t first week of classes have done a at deal to ease what might be referred s "growing pains.

most stressful situation encound during the past nine months began ith the resignation of former athletic ector Marvin Tate, and then de-loped into the torturingly slow removf Tom Wilson as head coach of the gie football team. The tense condiis culminated with the search for and ing of Pittsburgh's Sherrill as athletic meters and head football coach.

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n his third full season as the Aggie oall coach, Tom Wilson started 1981 a seemingly safe job, two years left his contract and the confidence that team had no real weaknesses. Preson forecasters, picking Texas A&M finish sixth in the Southwest Confer-



ence, didn't give Wilson and the Aggies the slightest chance for a bowl bid.

Although the Aggies lost important SWC games to league champion SMU, Texas and Arkansas, it's obvious that a key mid-season 7-6 victory over the Houston Cougars vaulted them into the Independence Bowl against Oklahoma State

And other Texas A&M squads shared success during the course of the year:

- The Aggie women's softball team won the state title during the fall with a 36-3 record, then won the spring regional title this weekend in Oklahoma City, Okla. Texas A&M, which will compete in next week's AIAW national tournament, has a 77-8 combined record for the season

- The basketball team finished third in the SWC regular-season race, then played into the third round of the National Invitation Tournament before losing to Purdue. Although picked fifth or Sixth before the start of the season, Coach Shelby Metcalf's squad won im-portant games over Texas, Houston, TCU and Rice to end the year with a 20-11 record. At the same time, Metcalf surpassed the 300-victory mark for his career, and tied Arkansas' Glen Rose for the most SWC victories at 176.

— The Aggie baseball team, picked as a strong contender for the SWC crown, shook off early league losses to win five of its last six games. By virtue of three vic-tories over Texas Tech and two over Baylor, Texas A&M slid safely into the SWC tournament, which starts Friday in

Olsen Field.

- The men's golf team, after not winning any of its previous tournaments, won the conference title during April. The Aggies' Danny Briggs won the individual title, qualifying him to participate in the professional Colonial tournament this weekend in Fort Worth.

- The No. 4-ranked women's golf team, sparked by the men's title, won the state title during April, with senior Shirley Furlong copping the individual med-al. Texas A&M came from behind to win the tournament over TCU, ranked No. 1 in the nation

Freshmen Mike Pazourek and Kimmo Alkio of the tennis team won the SWC No. 3 doubles title three weeks ago, while the 19th-ranked Aggies finished in a fourth-place tie with Texas in the conference. The doubles team of Brian Joelson-Tom Judson will compete in the NCAA championships Monday, while Joelson will participate in the singles portion of the tourney

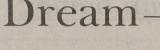
Sprinter Rod Richardson of the track team upset Houston's Stanley Floyd to win the NCAA indoor 60-yard dash title during March. Richardson, a sophomore, must still decide whether to accept Sherrill's offer to play football for the Aggies in the fall.

But these strong finishes weren't the only memorable events during the year in Ággie sports. Since the emergence of Sherrill and his new coaching staff, Texas A&M followers have had high expectations for the 1982 football season.

Texas A&M didn't break the attend-ance record of 30,000 in its first annual alumni football game, but Sherrill received high commendation from everyone involved. After witnessing the Aggie football team during spring workouts, most people consider Sherrill's staff to be among the finest in the nation.

To say the least, it's been a noteworthy year in Texas A&M sports. And one thing's for sure — the 1982-83 school year will have a difficult time topping the excitement of the past nine months.

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(continued from page 17) base, Texas A&M

Kris Bergstrom, outfield, OSU

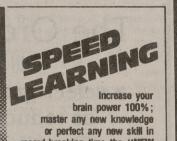
 Mary Lou Youngblood, outfield, Texas A&M
Karen Guerrero, outfield, Texas A&M

- Gay McNutt, Texas A&M and Kim Fabian, OSU, tie at catcher

Twelve teams will play in the national tournament, where Texas A&M placed fourth in 1981 and third in 1980. But Brock says this year's team doesn't want to finish below the top spot.

"I think everyone knows what they have to do," he said. "Our five seniors have really come to the front and shown that they know what to do. They want to win it — they've been close, and they want it this year.

"I hope we keep up that intensity. I think we showed it this



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weekend. We probably should intensity gave us the win. That have lost that 1-0 game, but our was one we really earned.



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