

Briggs

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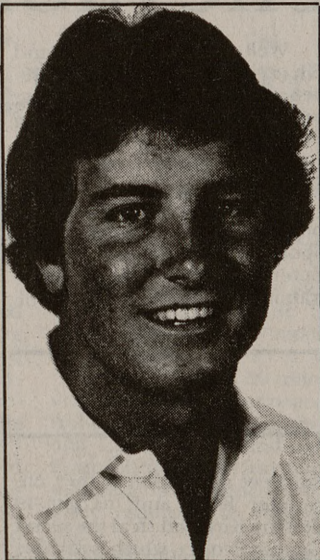
Alabama State and five behind Arizona State. The Aggies had won a second-place, one-shot nod over the Cowboys into the final round of the tournament. But the 1982 SWC and NCAA tournaments are history now, and Briggs is currently in the process of making the summer months pay off with more hard work and competition. In addition to the pro-am in Longview, Briggs now will compete in the Texas State Amateur tournament, starting Thursday in Austin.

Briggs will also compete in the Western Amateur, the Porter Cup and if he qualifies, the U.S. Amateur. After shooting a 69 in qualifying rounds of the 80 U.S. Amateur, Briggs missed the tournament cut by two strokes. But he says he's looking for a better performance in 1982.

As for a professional career, Briggs said he'll probably wait until after the 1982-83 season before he attempts to earn a PGA tour card.

A lot of people have been asking me about whether I'm going to turn pro," said Briggs, "if he chooses to do so, could I attempt to make the tour by passing qualifying rounds and tests in October. "I'm pretty sure I'm going to be back in school next year."

"I'm looking forward to playing professional golf, but if I don't make it to the professional level, it's not the end of my life. I'll just do something else, and I'm sure I'll have a good time doing it. But you don't spend 10-15 years of your life working



Danny Briggs

know. But when it comes time to play golf, I kind of push a little button to get myself prepared for playing.

"It's a game of winners and losers," Briggs said, "and it's a game of individual performance. People don't really realize what a mental game golf is. You really have to concentrate when you're out there."

Briggs, chosen second team all-America this year and honorable mention all-America in 1981, says he's improved a great deal since his high school days. But he doesn't want to take complete credit for the Aggies' success.

"When people talk about how much I've improved," he said, "that's the truth. But I'd say that (junior) Gary Krueger played consistently better than I did this year."

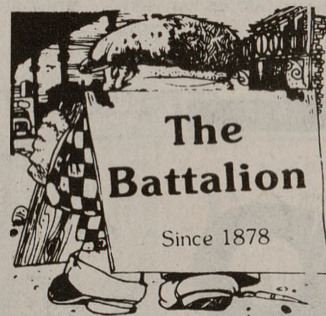
"He finished ahead of me more times than I finished ahead of him. I just happened to finish first in the Southwest Conference tournament and eighth in the NCAA tournament. But he's really played better overall."

at something and then just give it up."

Briggs, a recreation major, grew up in Bryan before moving to Paris, Texas. But living in a small town like Paris has its advantages when recruiting time arrives, Briggs said.

"When I was recruited by Coach Ellis, he didn't even give me my scholarship my freshman year," he said. "I didn't have that good of a high school tournament record. I was what you'd call a sleeper. Coach Ellis didn't even ask me down on a recruiting visit."

"I'm not a real cocky-type person. I would go out of my way to help anyone, even people I don't



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Draft

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ments of Szekely and Flores will be sorely missed if the two decide to sign professional contracts.

"I'm pleased to see both these kids get drafted," he said. "I think Flores is a good prospect if he can come up with a breaking pitch. I feel sure that they'll both sign contracts."

"I hate to lose Szekely, and I'll be sweating it out (today) with Rick Luecken."

Luecken, who recently completed his junior season as the Aggies' top pitcher, will almost surely be selected during today's rounds. The 6-5, 212-pound right hander finished 1982 with a 6-2 record and a staff-leading 2.65 ERA. In addition, he qualified for first team all-SWC while coming up with 63 strikeouts in 71 1/2 innings, spanning 12 games.

Chandler said senior Bobby Taylor, a pleasant pitching surprise who received the Wally Moon Award for being the most improved player on the squad in 1982, may be chosen today as well. Taylor, from Port Arthur, wound up the year with a 5-2 record and three shutouts to lead the Aggie staff in that category.

Flores' statistics for the past season include 39 strikeouts and a 5.12 ERA in 16 games, which included 12 starts. Flores allowed 88 hits in 77 1/2 innings.

In another important SWC pick, shortstop Spike Owen of Texas was chosen by the Seattle Mariners as the sixth pick in the first round.

Owen and the Longhorns are currently attempting to win the national title at the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Harrah atop All-Star race for third base

United Press International NEW YORK — Third baseman Toby Harrah of the Cleveland Indians, the leading hitter in the major leagues, leads his position in early fan voting for the All-Star team. But the league's two leading run producers, Kansas City's Hal McRae and Cleveland's Andre Thornton, are nowhere to be found. McRae's and Thornton's names do not appear on this year's computerized ballot, mainly because they are designated hitters and the DH is not used in the All-Star game. Balloting continues through July 4 at all major and minor league parks and thousands of retail stores.

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