

# Haney

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handler Rick Luecken, will be one of the keys to the 1983 season.

"Having Rick really helps us, because he's our stopper," Haney said. "We can almost always count on a win just about every series with him around. He had a groin pull year before last and his arm was bad last season, but everything's fine right now.

"The pitching's looking real good. They're throwing strikes and that's what the coaches are working on, because we walked too many people last season.

"We have confidence in our pitching, which is something we didn't have last year," he said.

"If the pitchers do their job, which I think they will this year, we should have a really good year. We'll hit the ball, so I think we're pretty confident."

Although there are new faces, including shortstop Todd Edwards, third baseman Tony Metoyer and catcher Ron Devereaux, Haney said the infield should be more than adequate.

"We really didn't have a set third baseman last year, because it went back and forth between Grant (Priess) and Clint (Heard)," he said. "On the whole, we should be tougher defensively. We don't have as many proven players, but Edwards should come around, Clint's going to be steady and

Tony's looking good at third. The outfield is probably one of our strong points."

As of now, the outfield shows junior college transfer Don Robinson in leftfield, junior Billy Cannon in centerfield and junior Kevin Smith in rightfield. Haney said he and his teammates should benefit from the extra running they've been doing every day.

"We were a little tired at the end of last season, but by being in shape this year, we should be ready for every series," Haney said. "Last year, we ran a little on our own, but now we run sprints and a mile every day as a team.

"That was something that even hurt our pitching last year. In most of the games, our pitchers couldn't go complete games. It wasn't so much that they were getting hit — they just got tired. I think you'll see some more complete games this year. We're

pretty strong in starting pitchers, but we don't have a lot of relief."

**AGGIE FACTS:** Fans who wear Texas A&M organizational T-shirts (clubs, groups, etc.) to the Aggies' double-header with Southwestern Saturday will be admitted free ... According to preseason rankings released in Collegiate Baseball, the **Texas Longhorns** are ranked No. 2 in the nation behind **Miami, Fla.**, which won the national championship last season. The Aggies will travel to the **Hurricane Tournament**, being held March 11-17, to play two games each with **Miami, Maine** and **Southern Illinois**. Maine, ranked No. 9, competed in last season's College World Series as well ... In Saturday's season-opening double-header, the Aggies will start **Luecken**, 6-2 with a 2.65 ERA last season, and **Sherman Corbett**, 4-2 with a 6.27 ERA last season.

## TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill



# Martin, Yanks hope third time a charm

**United Press International**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.** — Billy Martin has never been a man to duck a challenge — and he says his third time around as the New York Yankees' manager will be his sternest test.

"This is the biggest challenge. We ought to win. A good start is so important, and we start right here," Martin said in his first day of preparations for spring training.

The Yankees finished well out of the running in the American League East last year, but Martin has taken teams with far worse records and turned them into winners.

Part of the challenge this time will be getting along with Yankee owner George Steinbrenner. Martin says things are going fine so far in that regard.

"Coming back this time,

George has been so great. Our communication has been great," Martin said. "It's not that we'll never get into an argument. We will.

"Anytime there's a disagreement we might argue, but I don't think anything will get out of hand," Martin said. "I'm in a beautiful suite over where I'm staying. He's been first-class all the way."

Martin met with his eight coaches and a few club executives in advance of the opening of spring practice Friday. Steinbrenner participated by telephone.

Pitchers and catchers arrive Thursday for the opening of workouts the following day. The rest of the Yankees are due to report next Tuesday.

At his first Florida meeting

with the press Monday, Martin displayed a sign he found in his tiny office when he arrived.

It said: "The Rules: 1. Boss is Always Right. 2. Boss is Wrong, see Rule 1."

"How about that?" Martin asked before putting the sign back in the container.

Martin quit as manager of Oakland A's last season after signing on to become the Yankees' top man again. In Oakland Martin was famous for his criticism of "Billyball," a term coined to describe the rough-and-tumble way the A's scored and hustled defensively.

Martin and Steinbrenner's past arguments are legendary now, with the two strong personalities fueling almost constantly during Martin's two stints as Yankee manager.

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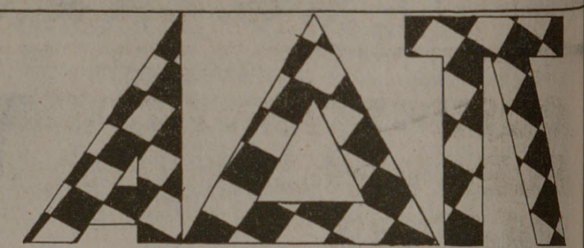
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