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Aggies, Cal-Fullerton meet here Sunday

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff
Mid-term exams — a dreaded and inevitable experience for countless Texas A&M students. The Aggies usually can tell how the rest of the year will go. And after California State at Fullerton tests the Aggie baseball team Sunday at Olsen Field — a mid-term, of sorts — Texas A&M will know a lot more about the 1983 season. The first game of the doubleheader begins at 1:00.

The Titans, College World Series participants a year ago and currently ranked fifth in the country, will be the sternest test of the young season for Texas A&M. Aggie head coach Tom Chandler said Texas A&M has done its homework and is ready to play.

"We're untested," Chandler said. "The teams we've played so far are certainly not any California States. So it should be an outstanding ball game."

Chandler added that the doubleheader with the Titans has all the ingredients of an exciting affair.

"If people miss this game, they're going to miss a heckuva

ball game," he said. "Cal State is a very aggressive team that runs a lot and has good hitting and strong pitching. I think we can surprise some people though, if we get good pitching from our guys and we keep up our good infield play."

Some people might classify that "good" infield play Chandler mentioned as "great." The Aggie infield of Buddy Haney, Clint Heard, Todd Edwards, Tony Metoyer and utility infielder Tim Cartwright has been more than good. It's been close to perfect.

In the past six games, the Aggie infield has only committed one error — a streak that Cartwright would like to keep intact.

"We need to have as near-perfect a game as possible," Cartwright said. "This game is going to tell the story for us. It's a very, very big test."

Third baseman Metoyer agreed with Cartwright, but added that the Aggies will have to produce on the offensive end too.

"We really need to have a productive day at the plate," he said. "This series will tell us a lot about

what shape we're in. To tell you the truth, I really think we're going to win Sunday."

"I also think we should be in the top 20. But we haven't played anybody ranked yet so we'll have to see after this series."

Shortstop Edwards agrees: "We could easily be 10-0. Ability-wise I think we can compete with anybody in the top 20. But we'll have to play good defense and have good pitching."

Infielder Pitches Rick Luecken and Phillip Taylor will carry the load for Texas A&M and will have to have good outings against the multi-talented Titans. Taylor said he's up for the task.

"This is the biggest start of my life," Taylor said. "But I feel confident and feel like I can get the job done. I'm not an overpowering pitcher. I just try to get people to hit the ball on the ground and let the infield handle it — and they have. Our infield has been doing a great job. But we're really going to have a big job Sunday."

"It's one of the biggest tests we've had here in two years. We're going to learn what it

takes to beat a team like this and there's going to be a lot of pressure on us. We'll find out who can handle it and who can't."

But outfielder Kevin Smith

said the Aggies will easily handle the pressure of playing a top-notch team.

"I think we can sweep them because they know very little ab-

out us and we're going to surprise them. I think it'll be a tough game, but we know how good we are and we know we can do it."

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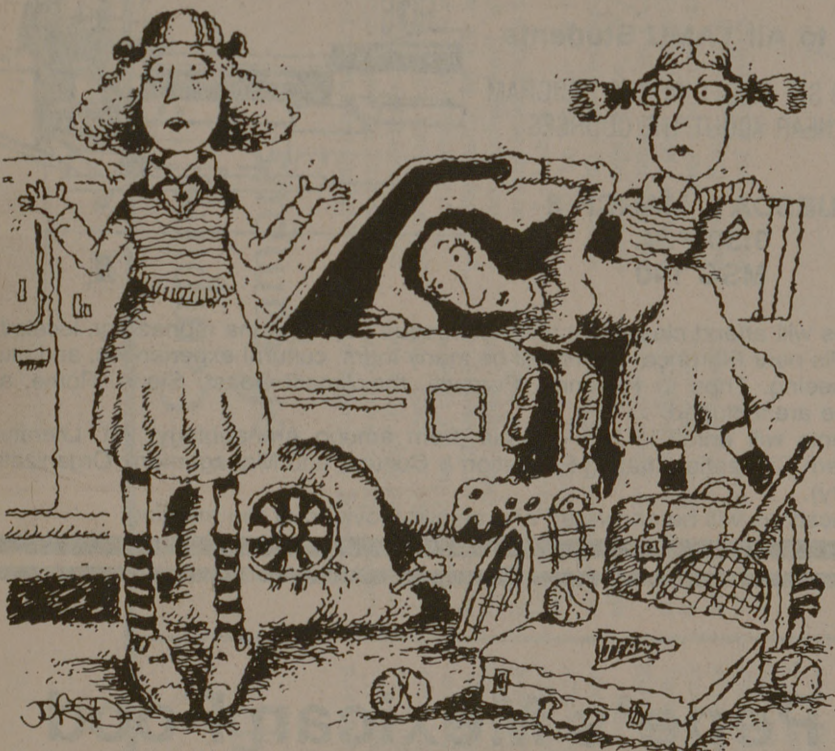
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