

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Pumped up Horns, Ags say they're ready for weekend series

by Scott Griffin

Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M baseball team will be wrapping up its season this weekend by facing its toughest competitor yet — the Texas Longhorns.

On paper it looks like a mismatch. The Longhorns — currently ranked No. 1 in the nation — have already captured the Southwest Conference championship with a 15-3 record. The Aggies, 4-14, are entrenched in last place.

But Texas is in a slump, having lost four of its last five games. The Horns lost two of three to Houston last weekend,

then dropped two games against Oral Roberts University earlier this week.

And that, Texas coach Cliff Gustafson says, may help even things out a little.

"We're not playing well at all right now," Gustafson said Wednesday, "and I'm not even sure we'll make it to the (NCAA) playoffs at this point."

Gustafson said he was worried about his team's recent performances, but was pleased with the Longhorns' overall play.

"I'm really surprised that we built such a big lead early in conference play. I thought we would have a much more diffi-

cult time of it, but I'm glad it turned out this way — we had to win only one of our last six games to win the championship," he said.

Gustafson said strong pitching — a typical Texas trademark — has been the key to UT's success this season.

Calvin Schiraldi and Roger Clemens have been the Longhorns' muscle on the mound, but they've had some help. Texas has five of the top six pitchers in the conference in winning percentage, with only Rice's Tim Englund breaking the monopoly.

Though they've struggled

over the past couple of weeks, the Longhorns say they're ready for the trip to Olsen Field.

"The A&M-UT series is never hard to get pumped up for," says UT shortstop Mike Brumley. "UT and A&M is always a big series — no matter what their records are."

Big, yes. But important? "I thought at the beginning," Brumley says, "that the key series this year would be against A&M, but Baylor helped us out."

Brumley is referring to Baylor's three-game sweep of

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Brewers say A&M quarterback Murray reneged on contract, file federal suit

from staff and wire reports

HOUSTON — The Milwaukee Brewers have accused Texas A&M head football coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill of contributing to the delinquency of a minor leaguer, who the Brewers say reneged on a baseball bonus to play quarterback for the Aggies.

The Brewers say Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray reneged on his June 1982, \$35,000 baseball signing bonus, which the Brewers say was conditioned on his doing nothing dangerous.

The suit was filed in federal court April 13.

The Brewers want \$35,000 damages from Murray, Sherrill and Texas A&M and an injunction barring Murray from play-

ing football for the Aggies during the term of the contract, which was for one year with six annual Brewer renewal options.

U.S. District Judge Gabrielle McDonald granted the Brewers a temporary order April 14 which knocked Murray out of nine spring practices and the varsity-former students game. Another hearing is scheduled May 16.

Murray, an all-round athlete from North Dallas High School, signed a football letter of intent with Texas A&M in February 1982. Then he signed with the Brewers' and played for their Pikeville, Ky., rookie league team last summer.

In Pikeville, Murray hit .178

and developed a sore arm.

His lawyer, Mike Swan of Houston, said Murray decided to quit baseball and enrolled at Texas A&M in January. He was No. 3 quarterback until Judge McDonald knocked him out of spring football drills.

Charley Thornton, associate athletic director at Texas A&M, said he thinks the Aggies are innocent.

"The kid made the decision (to come to A&M)," Thornton said Wednesday. "I don't think we went out and recruited him. I remember we were surprised when the kid contacted us about coming back to school."

Murray could have played professional baseball and col-

lege football at the same time, as did Stanford quarterback John Elway, who last year received \$145,000 for playing for a New York Yankees farm club.

But the Brewers claim Murray's contract specifically forbade him from playing college football.

"You don't get money to do something and then don't do it," said Brewers' lawyer John Dawson of Milwaukee. "The Brewers are very optimistic about his baseball playing abilities. They want to enforce his contract."

Swan said he had instructed Murray, who at this point does not have a Texas A&M football scholarship, not to talk about the lawsuit during final exams.

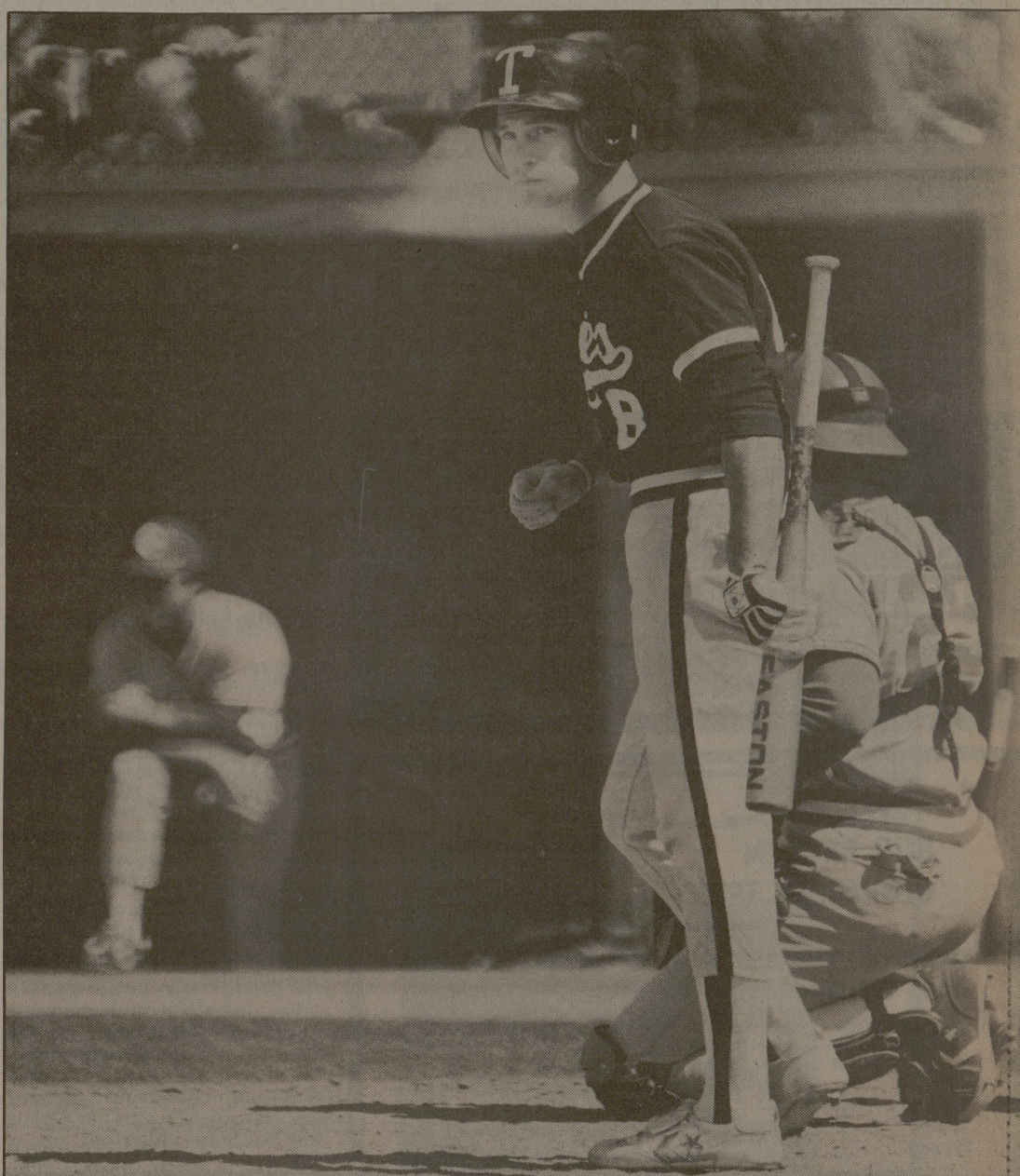


photo by Peter Rocha

Texas A&M's Clint Heard, shown here in a game last season, says "take record books and throw them out the

window" for series against Texas. The Aggies and the Longhorns meet this weekend in a three-game SWC series.

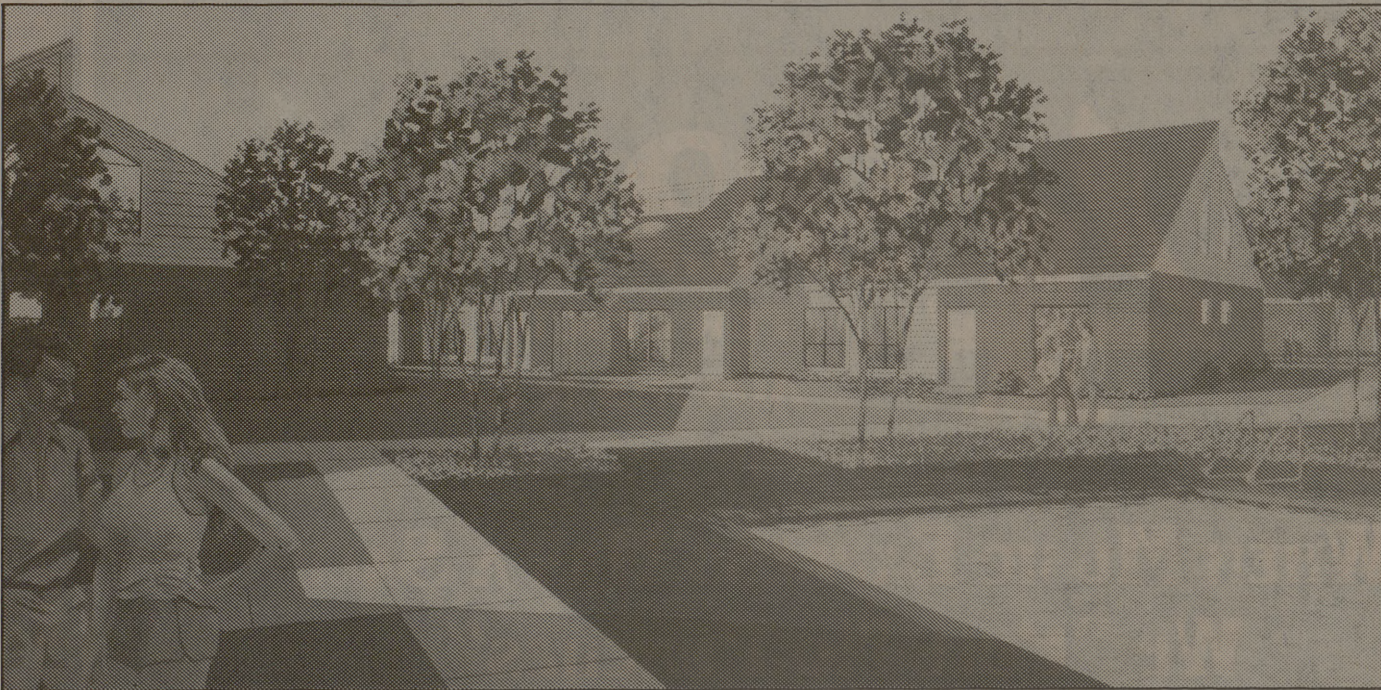
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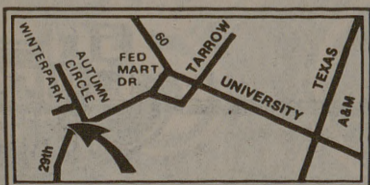
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