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Aggies

(continued from page 11)

staff, then A&M and Texas," he said. "The rest are pretty average."

Sullivan has good reason to fear Texas A&M's pitching staff.

Starters Tom Arrington (8-1), Kelly Keahey (6-1) and Sherman Corbett (4-2) have 150 strikeouts between them. Keahey boasts an overall ERA of 0.93, while Arrington's is 1.98. Corbett and Arrington have each given up only nine walks in SWC play.

Sullivan shows no less concern for the Aggie hitters. Texas A&M is batting .323 as a team in the SWC.

Not only will the Bears have to shut down the red-hot Swain, but they must also contend with Tony Metoyer, Buddy Haney,

Tim Carwright and Pat James.

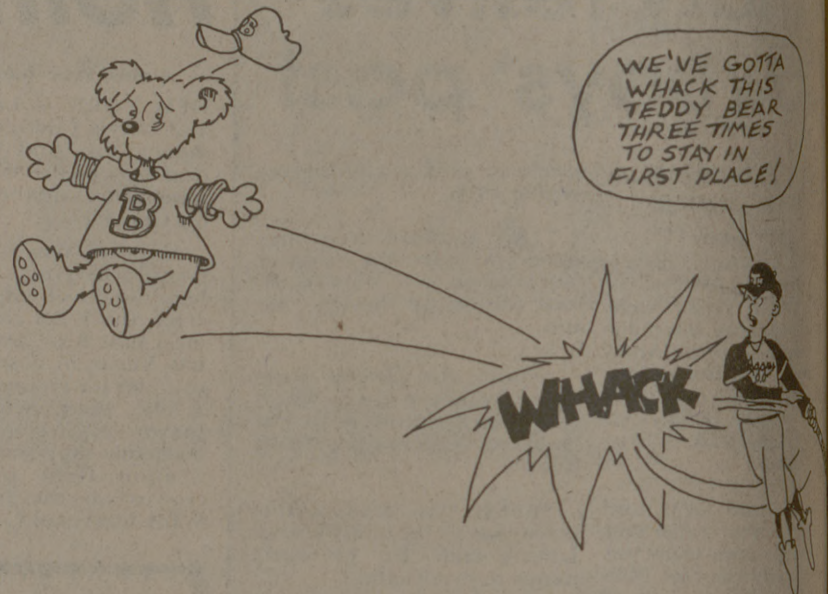
Metoyer is batting .426 in conference play and leads the team in doubles with six.

Haney is hitting .367 in the SWC and leads the Ags in RBIs with 15. Metoyer and Haney have both hit three homers to lead the team.

Cartwright started his first conference series at second base against Tech a week ago. Cartwright hit two clutch triples against the Red Raiders and leads the Aggies in that category.

As the designated hitter, James has 12 RBIs for the Ags and a .314 batting average in conference play.

The three-game series with Baylor begins with a single game at 2 p.m. today. Saturday, the Aggies and the Bears will complete the series with a doubleheader beginning at noon.



dp 1984

A's dump the microchip

Computers to crayons

United Press International
By MILTON RICHMAN

Don't get me wrong. I'm with you, and think the whole world will be run on computers some day.

Some day very soon, too. Look, even the Mets are using one now, right there in manager Dave Johnson's office, and that has to tell you something.

The Mets go out and get themselves a computer and while they're doing that, the Oakland A's decide to discard the one they were using, or at least stick it up on the shelf for awhile.

Here's the intriguing points to ponder about that:

Using the computer, the A's won nine of their first 13 games last year and were in first place in the American League West at that point.

Operating without the computer this year, the A's won nine of their first 13 games again and — guess what? — they're leading their division once more.

What made them junk their computer?

"It wasn't cost-effective," says manager Steve Boros. "That's a term I picked up from the business section of the New York Times. I'm not sure what it means but it sounds impressive."

"So instead of a computer, I've got a grade school tablet for kids and a box of crayolas now. What I've really got are some index cards and some crayons.

Mostly I've got Steve Boros. For better or for worse."

The A's are lucky to have a manager like Boros. He's bright without being overbearing, through without being picky. He makes his job his primary working concern without turning it into some sort of holy crusade and finds ample time for the media without ever neglecting his players. What else can you ask from any manager?

You can tell how the A's feel about Boros by the way they

Schueler was quite specific, especially with Kearney, who would be giving the signs.

Warren was to waste a fast ball inside and then try to get Fisk out with a breaking ball. Warren's first pitch was a fast ball inside, according to instructions, but Kearney then called for another fast ball inside and Fisk stroked it into the second deck to narrow Oakland's margin to 7-6. Greg Luzinski tied the score with a two-out homer in the ninth and the White Sox

Oakland players at a door meeting which called for immediately decisions.

"We told 'em we'd make decisions," Boros said. "I turned out we were wrong. We got the heat, not them."

"As it happens," Boros added grimly but not plainly, "we'd get all the anyway."

How many times have you heard that nothing is sure until it's over?

Steve Boros has heard it a hundred times. He's got a quick upstairs, picks up things in a hurry anyone knew enough not to take, thing for granted even he became a major league manager for the first time last year with the Oakland A's.

In case he might have ten, though, a couple of buddies in the managerial ternity, Whitey Herzog, who coached for at Kansas City Dick Williams, for whom he worked the same job at Montreal, reminded him never to assume anything about anyone until he's found himself in trouble.

What Herzog and Williams told Boros was never to be sight of the fact that ballplayers are fallible, prone to mistakes in key situations and anything perfect in their execution. "Whitey and Dick told me never to assume a major league player will know what to do when the game is on the line when he should steal or put, when he should throw second base or home plate things like that," Boros said watching his players work out in front of him.

Did Boros find that to be in his first year as manager of the A's?

"Yes," he answered quietly. "I found it to be so. I thought you'd go through it beforehand and your pitchers and catchers would know to get all of them out, but forget when the time came to do it or they'd be afraid to a chance."

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play for him. They're alert, yet loose and relaxed, reflecting the manner in which he handles them. If he has something to say to one of his players, though, he doesn't keep it a secret.

Example: The A's were playing the White Sox in Chicago last September and were ahead 7-2 when the Oakland starter began to tire and Boros brought in right-hander Mike Warren from the bullpen.

An error, a walk and a bloop hit cut Oakland's lead to 7-3 and Carlton Fisk was the next hitter. Boros and Ron Schueler, the A's pitching coach, knew how they wanted to pitch Fisk and Schueler conveyed that information to Warren and Bob Kearney, catching for Oakland at the time.

won the game in the 10th. Boros and Schueler both were livid.

"What in hell is going on?" the two of them demanded of Kearney.

Kearney, with Seattle now, actually had good intentions. He felt the first pitch to Fisk wasn't inside enough to set him up properly so he believed it would be a good idea to try another fastball inside instead of the curve Boros and Schueler had instructed him to call for.

"I thought we should go back one more time," was the way Kearney reasoned.

Boros declined to reveal what he had to say to Kearney on the grounds his answer couldn't possibly be printed in any family newspaper. The A's manager did disclose what he and Schueler had to say to all the

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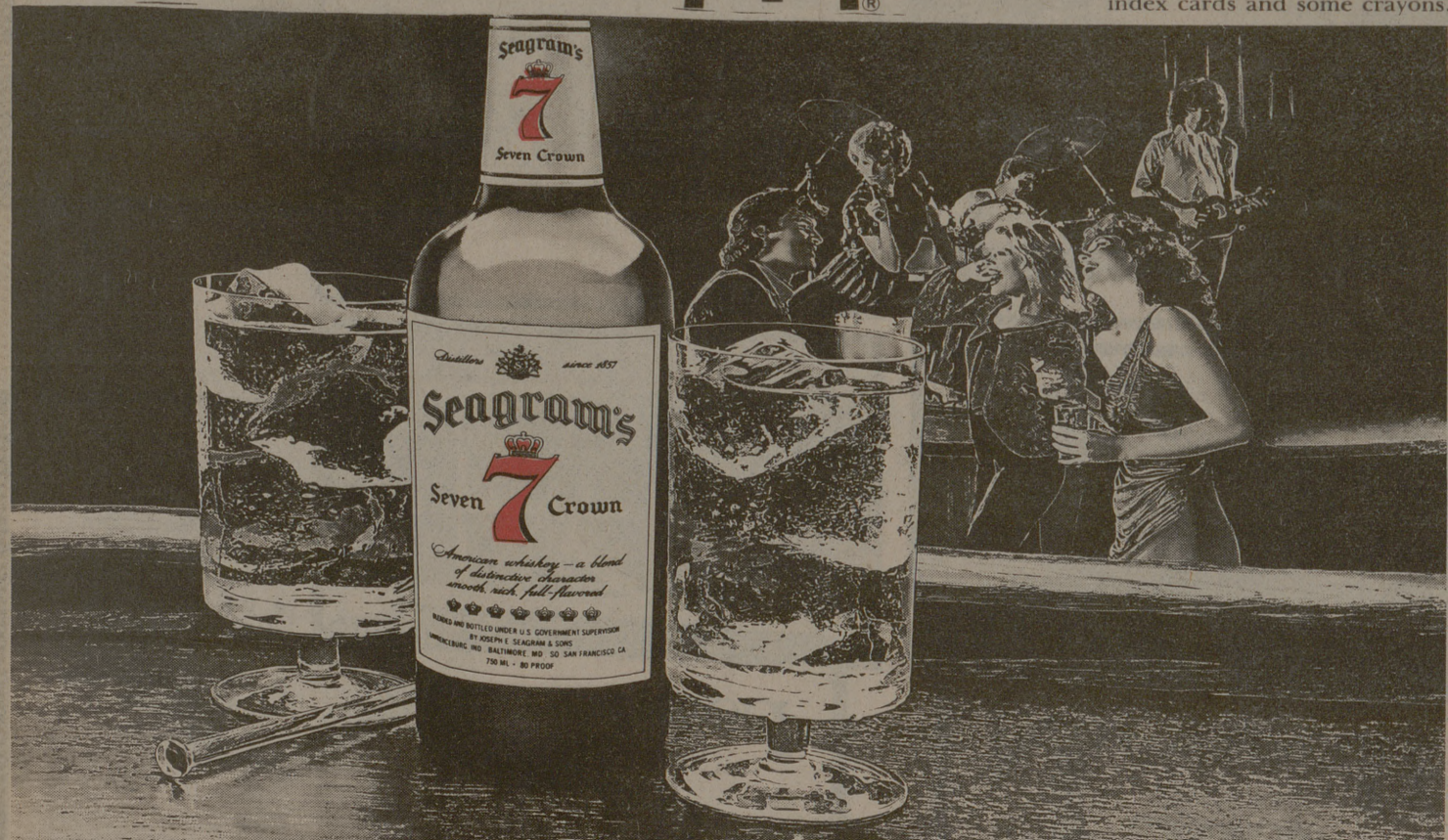
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