

Saints sale hinted

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A group of Louisiana businessmen is being assembled to bid for the New Orleans Saints, said Gov. Edwin Edwards, who vowed to use his powers to help keep the football team from moving to Jacksonville, Fla.

Edwards said Tuesday he has been told Saints owner John Mecom Jr. has placed the football team and three hotels he owns on the market for an estimated \$70 million.

A spokesman from Mecom's Houston office said the Texas businessman met Wednesday with Saints and Superdome personnel "to attempt to solve the Superdome lease problems."

The Saints 1975 contract with the 71,330-seat Superdome expires after the 1984 season.

Edwards told a crowd at a fundraising dinner for New Orleans Mayor Ernest Morial he has authorized concessions in the Saints contract with the Superdome to increase the team's chances of staying in Louisiana.

The concessions include a rental reduction from 10 percent of gross ticket sales to 7 percent, a reduction in day-of-the-game cleanup costs from \$35,000 to \$30,000 and a reduction in the cost of office space.

The Saints have discussed with business leaders in Jacksonville the possibility of moving the team to the 80,900-seat Gator Bowl and a television station in Jacksonville has said a move could be arranged within a week or two.

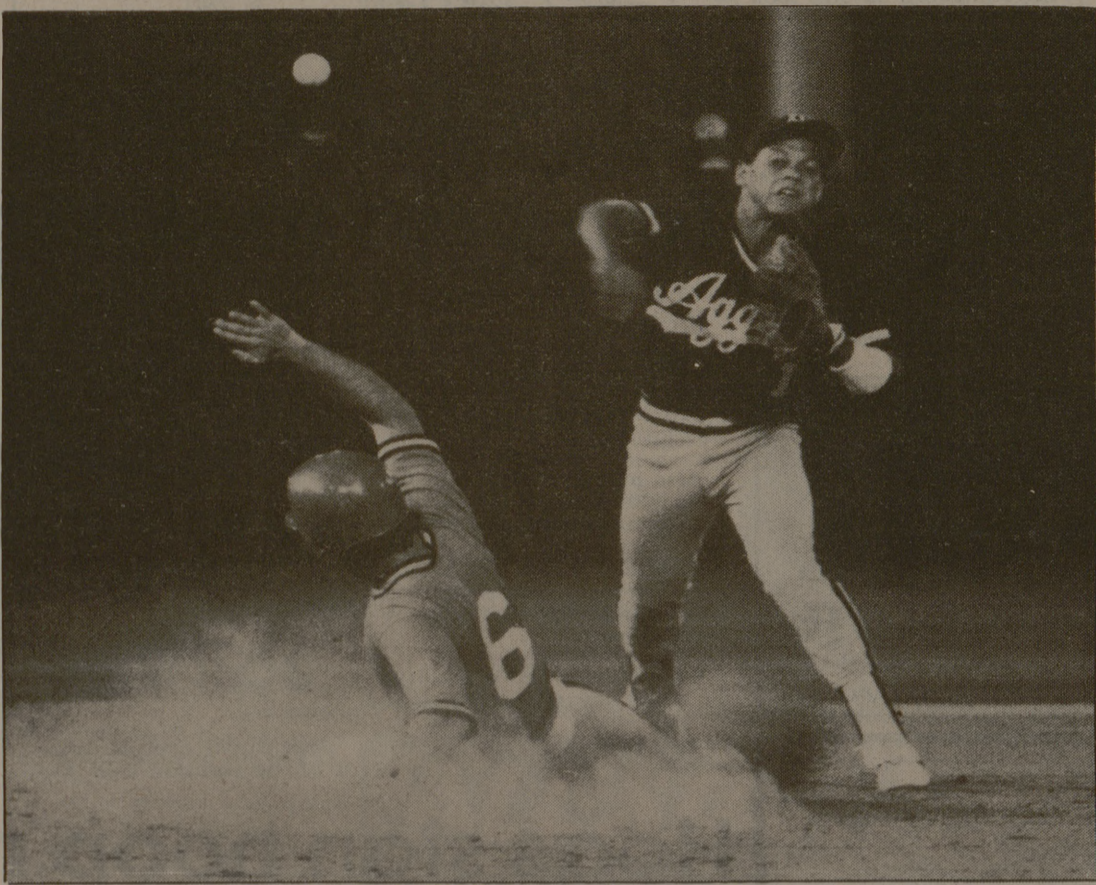


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M's Tim Cartwright relays the ball to first base after forcing Sam Houston State's Benny Jasek at sec-

ond. A&M completed the double play in the fourth inning of Wednesday night's game at Olsen Field.

Tigers streak past Rangers

United Press International
ARLINGTON — The long grind of the baseball season has not yet caught up with the giddy Detroit Tigers, who Wednesday night captured their 15th win in their 16th outing, 9-4, over the Texas Rangers.

"It's so much fun coming to the park," said designated hitter Johnny Grubb, whose first homer of the year started the Tigers toward their sixth con-

secutive victory. "I've been on teams that have lost a lot and I know there are times when you struggle and you don't want to come to the park."

Grubb, who spent 4 1/2 years with the Rangers before Texas dealt him to the Tigers for relief pitcher Dave Tobik, prior to the 1983 season, admitted that homering against his previous employer did give him a thrill.

"Right now, it feels good to

hit a home run against anybody, but I can't deny it felt good hitting one here," said Grubbs.

"When I hit the ball, I was just hoping I could get it over (Rangers centerfielder) George Wright's head.

Detroit's quick start this season leaves it just two games short of the 17-1 mark of the 1981 Oakland A's for the best getaway in American League history.

Swain's jaw broken

Bearkats stop Ags

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Sports Writer

Sam Houston State rallied for four runs on five hits in the ninth inning to stifle 11th ranked Texas A&M 10-9 Wednesday night.

Texas A&M shortstop Rob Swain, the conference's leading hitter, did not play. Sources say Swain suffered a broken jaw last weekend when he was hit by a batted ball during Baylor's pregame batting practice. Swain played in all three games of the Baylor series, not knowing the extent of his injury, which was revealed today. He is questionable for the Rice series.

Rusty Roberts replaced Swain in the game with Sam Houston.

The Bearkats, ranked 20th in

Division II, trailed the Aggies 9-6 going into the ninth.

Rock King took the loss after coming in during the ninth. Chris Huchingson, Barry Smith, Beje Mahoe and Jimmy Flowers each pitched two innings, combining for 11 strikeouts.

Texas A&M found itself down 5-0 after the first four innings. Sam Houston's Scott Coole hit a grand slam homer in the third. The Bearkats added another run in the fourth, but then the Ags stormed back.

Freshmen Jimmy Flowers hit a two-run homer in the fourth to start the Aggie comeback. Mike Scanlin scored from third base on a wild pitch, then Buddy Haney doubled to left,

scoring Tim Cartwright. Don Robison ripped a single up the middle to score Haney and, just like that, the score was tied 5-5.

Sam Houston broke the tie in the seventh by scoring a run off a throwing error by Roberts trying to team up with Cartwright for a double play.

Flowers doubled to score Todd Edwards, tying the score again 6-6. The Ags went on to score three more runs in the inning and appeared to have the victory locked up.

But Sam Houston's first four hitters in the ninth all got hits — two for extra bases.

Texas A&M dropped to 36-12 on the year.

Levine aims for title

United Press International

CORPUS CHRISTI — Texas' Johnny Levine will be trying to win the Southwest Conference No. 1 singles title that eluded him last year but it may be more than a personal achievement — Levine's success could also mean a team title.

Heading into the conference tournament, to be played this weekend at the H.E. Butt Tennis Center, Arkansas has the team lead with 58 points but Southern Methodist, Texas A&M and Levine's Texas squad are all contenders for the crown.

A school can win up to three points in each division, or a total of 27 points by sweeping the tournament. With only 10 points separating the top three men's teams and two points between SMU and Texas in the women's, the 1984 tournament promises to be the most important in Southwest Conference

history from the standpoint of determining championships.

Men's No. 1 singles give a good indication of the competitive nature of the divisions: Levine has lost only to Arkansas' Kelly Evernden, who has lost only to Texas A&M's Greg Hill, who lost to Levine.

Levine was the 1983 No. 1 singles runner-up to since-departed Rodney Harmon of SMU, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5. Other contenders who enjoyed success in last year's men's tournament are Arkansas' Pat Serret, the No. 3 runner-up; SMU's John Ross, the No. 4 runner-up; Arkansas' Tim Siegel, the No. 5 champion; TCU's Craig Boynton, the No. 5 runner-up; Texas' Gavin Forbes, the No. 6 champion; and Arkansas' Bobby Banck, the No. 6 runner-up.

Serret teamed with Peter Doohan last year to win the No. 1 doubles from TCU's David


Pate and Corey Wittenberg. Then the Arkansas pair went on to claim the NCAA doubles title won a year earlier by TCU's Pate and Karl Richter. Serret and Evernden are among the stronger No. 1 doubles teams this time, along with SMU's John Ross and Den Bishop, and Texas A&M's Greg Hill and Grant Connell.

It's a similar story in the second annual women's tournament, where SMU hits Corpus Christi with a 64-8 record, while Texas is a close second at 62-7.


Seven of last year's 12 women singles finalists return — three champions and four runners-up — but four of them are playing in lower positions.


No. 1 champion Margaret Redfearn of Houston is one of the three defending champs to return.


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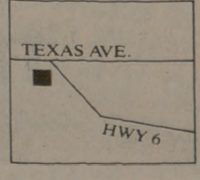
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