

**Detroit readies to close out AL series**  
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## Ags' 'youth' worries Sherrill

By **TONY CORNETT**  
Sports Writer

Going into tomorrow's Southwest Conference opener, the same thing is still worrying Aggie Football Coach Jackie Sherrill about his team that has worried him all season long. The Ags are a young football team.

And just as A&M has a surplus of youth, their first conference foe, Texas Tech, has an abundance of experience.

"They have 26 seniors or redshirt juniors," Sherrill said. "They have 16 of those starting for them. This is a senior football team. They've been around a long time."

Sherrill sees the Aggies' youth as the cause of many mistakes they've made in the first three games and the reason for another problem — inconsistency.

That's an area where Sherrill expects to see the most improvement Saturday.

"I hope we improve in consistency," Sherrill said. "I think we will."

The Ags will need all the consistency

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— Texas A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill

tent play they can muster. Texas Tech has the best pass defense in the SWC and is ranked No. 2 nationally.

Passing has been A&M's ticket to its 3-0 record.

Even Aggie quarterback Kevin Murray's shotgun arm might have had some trouble with such a staunch Tech defense.

Murray will be out of action for at least six or seven weeks. It will be up to redshirt freshman quarterback Craig Stump to get a firm grip on the offense early in the game and hang on to the football.

What exactly will the Aggies' strategy be against the Red Raiders?

"You've got to make a decision," Sherrill said. "You're going to be a running football team, a passing team or both. Our decision is that

we're going to do both. We're going to throw the ball to open up the running game. So, they (Texas Tech) are going to have to drop people off to cover us. We have the receivers to do it. We can throw the ball well enough to do it.

"I think our football team is one where you have to get the football to the weapons. Certainly our weapons right now are our tight ends and receivers. Who's the most productive? The most productive are the wide-outs, tight ends and quarterbacks."

Sherrill obviously thinks that Stump can pass his first SWC test against Tech.

"Craig's got a lot of discipline to him," Sherrill said. "He's not going to get rattled. The expectations are not out of line. He takes what hap-

pens, plus or minus. He's pretty level-headed.

Details on exactly what form Sherrill's strategy will take are secret. This week, for the first time since Sherrill began coaching at A&M, the Ags closed their practices this week to the print and electronic media.

As usual, look for Sherrill to play a lot of players just as he has in the past three games.

As far as the quarterback situation, if anything should happen to Stump, senior John Mazur will quarterback. Behind Mazur is sophomore Paul Gasper.

"John Mazur is one who's been around," Sherrill said. "His intensity level is good. I think that Paul Gasper has made a lot of progress in camp and he's certainly a young man who can give us that third depth situation."

The Aggies are blessed with talent, even if it is young.

Sherrill quoted the late Paul "Bear" Bryant:

"For every sophomore you start you're going to lose a football game."

Sherrill is hoping Bryant's prophecy doesn't hold true this season.



## San Diego rides 11-hit barrage

## Padres stay alive; Zap Cubs

United Press International

**SAN DIEGO** — The San Diego Padres postponed the last rites and remained alive in the National League playoffs Thursday night by defeating the Chicago Cubs 7-1 behind Ed Whitson's five-hit pitching over eight innings and an 11-hit attack that featured a three-run homer by Kevin McReynolds.

After a day off Friday, the best-of-five series resumes Saturday night with the Cubs still needing one victory to notch their first pennant in 39 years.

Gearing up for an emotional pitch by a raucous record-setting San Diego Stadium crowd of 58,346, the Padres crushed loser Dennis Eckersley and reliever George Frazier to give

themselves renewed hope in the series.

As usual, Chicago scored first, taking a 1-0 lead in the second inning on a double by Keith Moreland and a single by Ron Cey, but that was all they would get off Whitson, who blanked them on two hits the rest of the way until he was replaced by Rich Gossage in the ninth. Gossage got the last three outs to preserve the first playoff victory in the Padres' history.

Whitson, a 14-game winner during the regular season who specializes in a palm ball, struck out five and walked only one in shutting down the powerful Cubs bats that had made such a loud noise in the first two games at Wrigley Field.

It appeared for a while as if that one-run lead might stand up, but the Padres finally got to Eckersley in the fifth and rocked him for four hits and three runs to take a lead for the first time in the series.

Terry Kennedy and McReynolds started the inning with back-to-back singles and after Carmelo Martinez popped out, Garry Templeton ripped a double into the left center field gap to score both runners.

Eckersley retired Whitson on a pop to second, but Alan Wiggins ripped a single to center to score Templeton with the third run of the inning. Wiggins was cut down at second base when first baseman Leon

Durham cut off the throw to the plate, but it didn't matter because the Padres shelled Eckersley again in the sixth.

Tony Gwynn, the National League's leading hitter this season, opened the Padres' sixth with a single and moved to second as Steve Garvey grounded out. Graig Nettles then singled to center to score Gwynn for a record-tying 18th RBI in post-season playoff competition.

Eckersley then was replaced by Frazier, who was greeted by a single by Kennedy. McReynolds then followed with a home run to left field that brought the crowd to its feet in a deafening roar.

## A&M weekend sports roundup

Aggie sports fans are faced with a quiet weekend if they plan on watching A&M teams other than football.

- The Texas A&M Cross Country team travels to San Antonio on Friday for the UTSA Invitational meet.

- The Women's Volleyball (18-2) team will be competing in the UTA Tournament in Arlington until Saturday.

- The A&M Softball team heads to the All-College Tournament in Oklahoma City for a two day tournament.

- The Ag Women's Tennis team hopes to continue its winning ways at the Westwood Tournament in Austin until Sunday.

- The A&M Women's Soccer team heads for the important Colorado Springs Tournament this weekend.

- And the Ag Women's Golf team leaves Sunday for the Memphis State Invitational and will finish Tuesday.

- Good luck to all the Aggie teams this weekend from The Battalion Sports staff.

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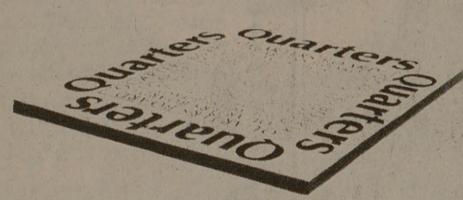
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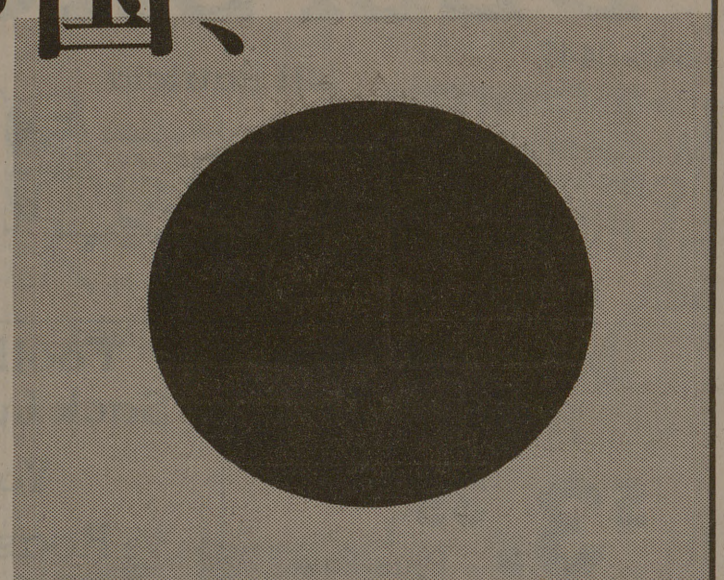
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