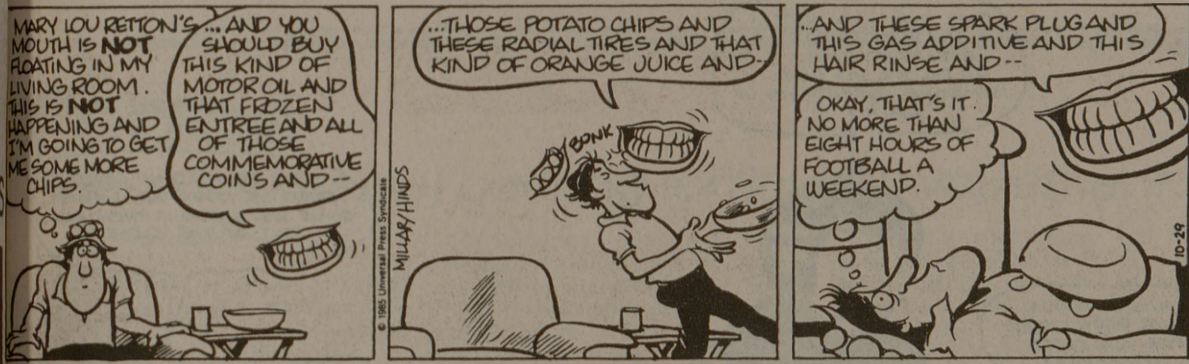


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



All SWC title roads lead to Austin for A&M spikers

Wednesday night is put up or shut up time for the Texas A&M volleyball team.

Last season, the NCAA tournament selection committee ignored the then-No. 15 Aggies, who had compiled a 33-4 season record, but had failed in their attempt to capture the Southwest Conference Championship.

The committee's reasoning for excluding the Aggies from its postseason tourney was simple — a weak schedule.

So A&M Coach Terry Condon and the Aggies had a legitimate claim when they cried, "What's the deal?"

So as the '85 season began, the Aggies' goal was to get their bid the old fashioned way — earn it by winning the SWC title outright.

And all roads to SWC championships, in just about any woman's sport, lead to Austin.

The A&M volleyball team will make that trip, which they've waited for all season long when they face the University of Texas Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

If A&M wins, the fans will be hanging from the rafters when the teams play again Nov. 20 in College Station because, undoubtedly, the SWC trophy will be sitting on the sidelines for the winner to claim.

If the Aggies should lose — perish the thought — count them out of the SWC race and, more than likely, out of the NCAA postseason chase.

But, this season, the Ags won't

CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Sports Viewpoint

have any excuses.

Condon's Aggies have done themselves in more than once this season. They started off erratically by losing to weakling Sam Houston State.

They lost twice to Top 20 teams San Diego State and Arizona State — two matches that they should've won, but just committed too many mistakes.

But the biggest hurt of all came a little over a week ago in Lubbock when the Ags suffered an injurious blow to themselves. It was almost as if they applied the proverbial salt into their own wound.

A&M lost 15-9, 11-15, 15-5, 13-15, 14-16 to a Texas Tech team that lost to Texas-Arlington in three straight games. A&M lost to a Tech team that has a new coach and has been preaching that '85 is a rebuilding year.

But against A&M, the Red Raiders weren't building anything — they were tearing down the Aggies' playhouse. Simply, the Aggies lost to a team they shouldn't have lost to.

As a matter of fact, the Ags should be sitting at 21-0 about now.

And speaking of "could haves" and "should haves:"

- They should be ranked in the Top 10.
- They should be tied for first in the SWC with Texas.

Instead, the Ags are 18-4 — a good record, but not great when one considers to whom and how they lost. They are ranked 16th and they are tied for second in the SWC with Tech and, since they lost to the Red Raiders, they're technically third.

Inconsistency has been the Ags' only constant this season. No one knows how the Ags will play on any given night.

At times, like their Sam Houston State, Kentucky and Tech matches, the Aggies appear to only be going through the motions.

At other times, like their matches with Cal-Berkeley, Purdue and Minnesota, they don a Superman cape and play like world-beaters.

A win against the Horns will partially heal the wounds and ease the pain for the '85 Aggies. It will provide seniors Sherri Brinkman and Lesha Beakley a chance to finally say, "We did it." And it will help the underclassmen say in the future, "Yes we can. We've done it before."

The Aggies seem to play to the level of their competition. They arise for the big games and sleep through the easy ones.

Since Texas is ranked No. 12 and since the Ags are in a must-win situation, look for the Ags to give the 'Horns a trick instead of a treat.

If they can keep the orange and white costumes from providing a mental block for the entire match, it will be A&M in five games.

World Series leaves many Royal queries

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The seventh game of the 1985 World Series was a bizarre ending to a baseball tournament that may well have left unanswered most of the questions it posed.

How, for example, could the Kansas City Royals, with a team ERA of 3.49 during the season, hold the St. Louis Cardinals to 1.86 runs per game after they had averaged 4.61?

How did the Royals, a team that had acknowledged its own problem scoring, wind up with 28 runs while getting only one RBI from their No. 3 hitter, George Brett, and playing without designated hitter Hal McRae?

What happened to the bats of the Cardinals, who hit a National League-leading .264 during the season, but set a record for seven games by batting only .185 in the World Series?

Even without Vince Coleman, where was all the rest of that St. Louis speed? How could a team that stole 314 bases in 162 games of the season suddenly manage only two stolen bases in the World Series?

And, finally, are the Royals, who staged baseball's most stunning postseason comeback, really the best team in baseball?

Despite rallying from 0-2 and 1-3 deficits in both the American League playoffs and the World Series, the record of the Royals would suggest they were not baseball's best team.

They finished the season with a one-game advantage over the California Angels in the AL West. But their record of 91-71 was only the sixth best in baseball behind the Cards (101-61), Toronto Blue Jays (99-62), New York Mets (98-64), New York Yankees (97-64) and Los Angeles Dodgers (95-67).

"I'm not convinced they were a better team," Cardinals pitcher John Tudor said. "For this seven games they were. They played better and they deserved it."

That the Royals deserved to win the World Series is unquestionable. They outplayed St. Louis in every aspect of the game. The final 11-0 vic-



MVP Bret Saberhagen

tory Sunday night represented, in one game, everything the Royals did right in the Series, and everything the Cardinals did wrong.

Perhaps, then, it is the questions that start with the word "how" that are the most difficult to answer.

The Royals pitching probably was not quite as good as it looked in the World Series, but, on the other hand, it was better than most realized. And that may have been due to a little undersell by KC Manager Dick Howser.

The Royals' Bret Saberhagen, 2-0 in the Series including a five-hit shutout in Game 7, could be one of the best in the game. Before postseason began, they were touting the 21-year-old right-hander in Kansas City as the American League's version of Dwight Gooden. In two complete games, he gave up just one run for an ERA of 0.50 and was named the Series' Most Valuable Player.

Left-hander Charlie Leibrandt also made a believer of many with his two outstanding World Series performances, although one ended in disaster when he gave up four ninth-inning runs to lose 4-2. Subtract that one bad inning, and he gave up just one run in the 15 1/3 innings that were left. Left-hander Danny Jackson also started twice, with a 1-1 record and 1.69 ERA.

"I've always been a little hesitant when I've been asked about our

See KC's Series, page 10

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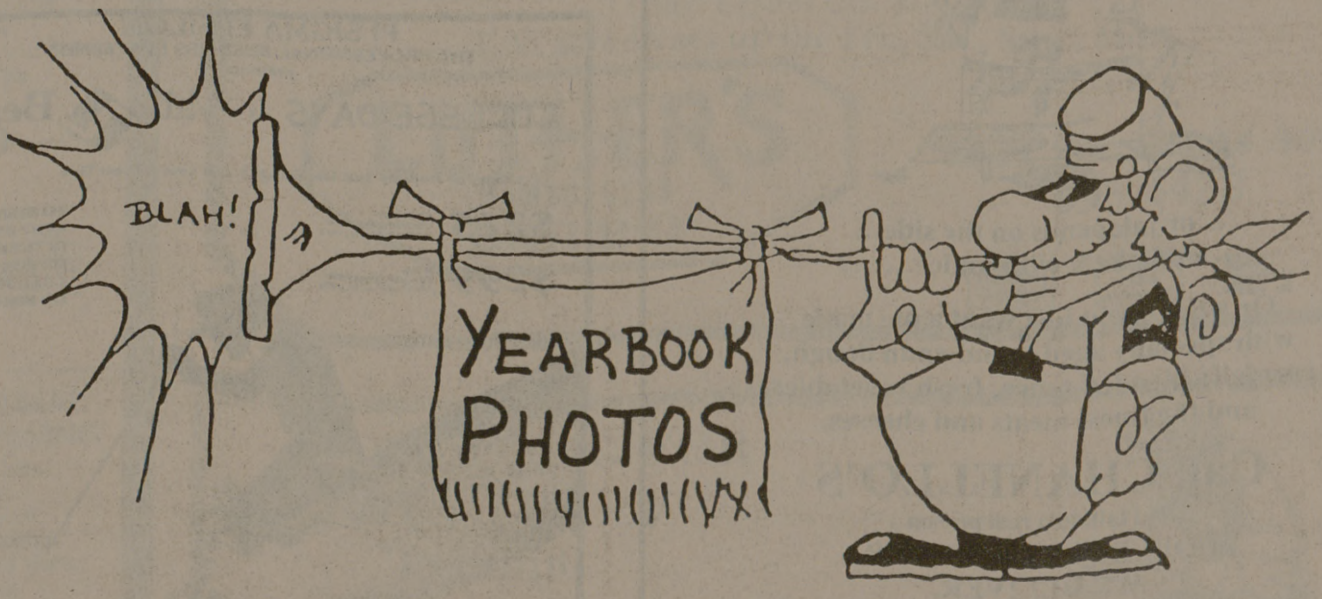
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ALL STUDENTS Can have their pictures taken for the '86 Aggieland thru November 11

All students can have their pictures taken thru Nov. 11 at the studio above Campus Photo Center at Northgate. Office hours are 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30.



No pictures will be taken at the Pavilion this year.