

# Sports

## A&M baseball to swing into action

Ags brace for Saturday's first pitch against Pan American

By TOM TAGLIABUE  
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M baseball team will begin its second season under head coach Mark Johnson when the Aggies host Pan American in a double-header Saturday at 1 p.m. at Olsen Field.

At a news conference Monday, Johnson said A&M should be right in the hunt for the Southwest Conference Championship, which the Aggies have not won since 1978.

"I think it's going to be a tougher conference race," Johnson said, "but I feel like we ought to be in the top four. Where we sit in there I don't know. I feel like we ought to contend for a conference championship."

The lineup for opening day is almost set, except for catcher and right field, where several players are in contention for the starting job.

The infield will be anchored by All-SWC first baseman Fred Gegan, who came to A&M last season and led the team in hitting (.360), RBI (60), hits (67) and walks (37).

Gegan, however, will miss at least the first month of the season because of a broken thumb he suffered last week during practice fielding a pop fly. Johnson said Gegan is expected back by early March.

Gary Geiger, a junior transfer from Seminole Junior College, may start in place of Gegan at first. Johnson said he would rather have Geiger concentrate on pitching in the Aggies' rotation, but Gegan's injury may change things.

As for the rest of the A&M infield, Johnson said second baseman Robi Chandler, who took over that position late last season, will be the team's defensive catalyst.

"He's the guy that is going to have to pull the infield together," Johnson said.

Johnson said the Aggies' new shortstop this season, junior college transfer Ever Magallanes, will be an outstanding player. Magallanes, a junior from Maywood, Calif., takes over for Rob Swain, who was one of the Aggies' top hitters for two years.

Third base will be one of the steadiest positions on the entire Aggie club, Johnson said. Sophomore Scott Livingstone returns to his starting position where he won SWC Newcomer of the Year in 1985. Livingstone also led the Ags in doubles (21) and was second in home runs (10).

The A&M outfield will be anchored by senior centerfielder Mike Scanlin, who led the Aggies last season in at-bats (199), hits (67), triples (5), home runs (11) and fielding percentage (.984).

"He's going to have to hold (the outfield) together, defensively," Johnson said. "He's become more comfortable out there."

Left field will be played by Jeff Schow, who moved from second base to the outfield late last season. Seniors Bill Doug Potter and Pat James are vying for the right field position. Potter and James both have experience, but Potter saw more

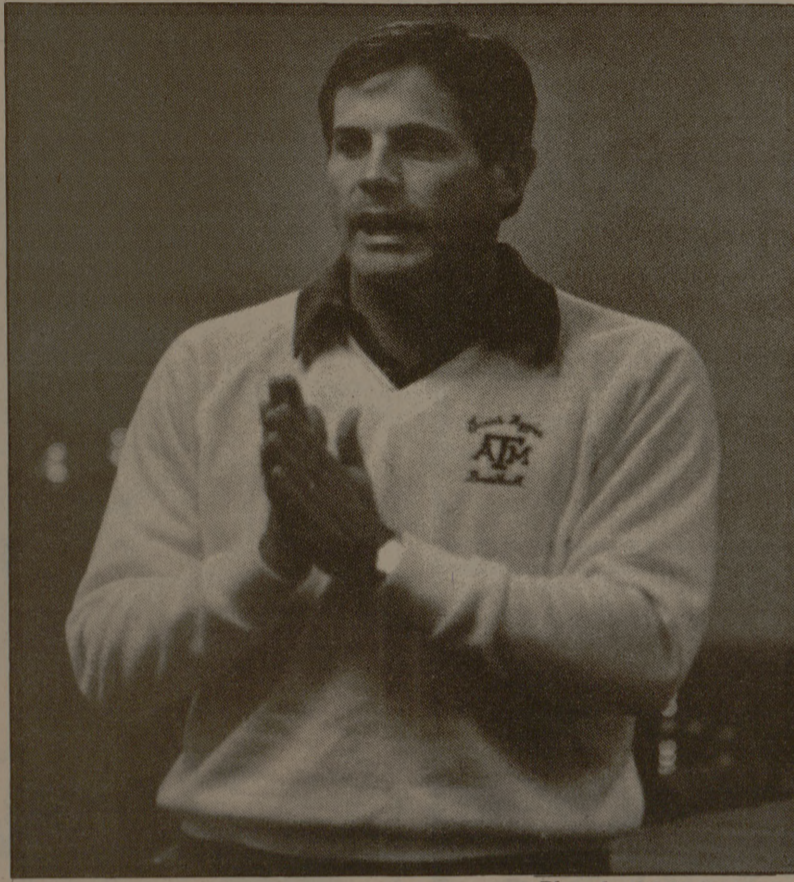


Photo by GREG BAILEY

A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson talks to members of the local sports media during a news conference Monday at Cain Hall.

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Seniors Bill Doug Potter and Pat James are vying for the right field position. Potter and James both have experience, but Potter saw more

playing time in the Aggie outfield last year before injuring his shoulder.

A&M's starting catcher's job, a position vacated by Steve Johnigan, is still up in the air.

"If I were to grab each one of (the catchers) and took their best talent and put it in a pile, that pile would be a heckuva catcher," Johnson said.

The four players trying to land the catcher's job are sophomore Maury Martin, senior Blake Hutchison (who moved from the outfield to catcher this season), and juniors Scott Winterburn and Frank Tanner.

Johnson said Tanner would probably start for the team throughout the season, but may not this week-

end because of a sore shoulder.

In the other half of the battery, Johnson said the Aggie pitching staff has good depth, but is still unproven.

Going into Saturday's Pan American game, Johnson named Jimmy Flowers, Russ Swan and Geiger as the three-man starting rotation.

Flowers, a right-hander from Houston Bellaire, posted a 1-1 record last season before injuring his hand. A&M pitching coach Jim Lawler said Flowers may have the best fastball on the Aggie club and could be its only "power pitcher."

Swan, who was the Aggies' only left-handed pitcher last season, was 3-0 with 19 strikeouts. Swan also was injured last season, but is now healthy. Lawler said Swan has a good slider and throws it for strikes 70 percent of the time.

Geiger will be a pitcher/first baseman/designated hitter for the Aggies. Lawler rated Geiger's fast ball "good" and his change-up "excellent."

Lawler said the bullpen is going to be the Aggies' strength this season.

Senior Barry Smith (5-1, 2 saves) and junior transfer Darryl Fry (17-1 at McLennan Junior College) will come out of the bullpen in short relief.


"If we can be ahead, or even, going into the last two innings of the ball game, it'll make it tough on the opponent to come back on us," Lawler said of the Aggies' pitching staff.

The Aggies have seven more pitchers who will probably see action this season: junior Pat Wernig, senior Dale Barry, junior Ed Perez, sophomore Russ Greene, sophomore Kyle Atkinson, freshman David Jones and junior David Bruning.

### A&M BASEBALL NOTES:

The A&M baseball team has planned several promotions to attract fans to Olsen Field during the '86 season.

Two promotions are scheduled for this weekend's three-game series. A parachute jump will precede the start of Saturday's double-header and Aggie baseball visors will be given away before Sunday's single game, which also begins at 1 p.m.



'86 A&M Baseball Season Schedule

February

- 15 • Pan American (DH) — 1 p.m.
- 16 • Pan American — 1 p.m.
- 19 • St. Mary's (DH) — 1 p.m.
- 21 • McNeese State — 3 p.m.
- 22 • McNeese State — 12 noon
- 25 • Lamar — 1 p.m.
- 27 • Lubbock Christian — 3 p.m.
- 28 • LCC (DH) — 1 p.m.

March

- 1 • SW Louisiana — 2 p.m.
- 2 • SW Louisiana (DH) — 1 p.m.
- 4 • Sam Houston (DH) — 1 p.m.
- 7 • at NE Louisiana (DH) — 1 p.m.
- 8 • at La. Tech (DH) — 12 noon
- 9 • at La. Tech — 1 p.m.
- 11 • Mississippi St. — 7 p.m.
- 12 • Mississippi St. — 3 p.m.
- 14 • at Hawaii — 11 p.m.
- 15 • at Hawaii — 11 p.m.
- 16 • at Hawaii — 9 p.m.
- 17 • at Hawaii-Hilo — 11 p.m.
- 18 • at Hawaii-Hilo — 11 p.m.
- 22 • Houston (DH) — 5:30 p.m.
- 23 • Houston — 1:30 p.m.
- 24 • Bethel College — 3 p.m.
- 25 • Minnesota (DH) — 5:30 p.m.
- 28 • at Arkansas — 7 p.m.
- 29 • at Arkansas (DH) — 1 p.m.

April

- 1 • N. Texas St. (DH) — 5:30 p.m.
- 2 • N. Texas St. — 3 p.m.
- 4 • Texas Tech — 7 p.m.
- 5 • Texas Tech (DH) — 1 p.m.
- 8 • Dallas Bapt. (DH) — 5:30 p.m.
- 11 • at Baylor — 2 p.m.
- 12 • at Baylor (DH) — 12 noon
- 15 • at Sam Houston — 3 p.m.
- 18 • Rice — 3 p.m.
- 19 • Rice (DH) — 7 p.m.
- 25 • at Texas — 7 p.m.
- 26 • at Texas (DH) — 2 p.m.

May

- 2 • TCU — 7 p.m.
- 3 • TCU (DH) — 5:30 p.m.


• Non-Conference Games  
\* Southwest Conference Games

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## Former A&M head coach lands Cardinals' job

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Gene Stallings, former Texas A&M head coach and protégé of coaching legends Paul "Bear" Bryant and Tom Landry, was named Monday to succeed Jim Hanifan as coach of the St. Louis Cardinals.

"I'm sorry Coach Bryant couldn't be here," Stallings said at a news conference where he was introduced by Cardinals owner William V. Bidwill. "I know somewhere he's smiling."

The appointment of Stallings, an assistant to Landry with the Dallas Cowboys for the past 14 years, ended Bidwill's arduous search for a coach. Hanifan and his assistants were fired just 15 minutes after the Cardinals lost the final game of the 1985 NFL season to the Washington Redskins Dec. 21.

It also filled the last vacant NFL coaching job.

The 1985 Cardinals posted a disappointing 5-11 record after being

picked by some experts to win the NFC East. Critics contended that, although Hanifan was well-liked by his players, he did not impose the discipline needed to win and make the playoffs.

Stallings agreed with descriptions of himself as tough, but added that he also can be compassionate.

"There's nothing wrong in liking your players," Stallings said. "I've got a job to do and that is to make Mr. Bidwill glad that he hired me."

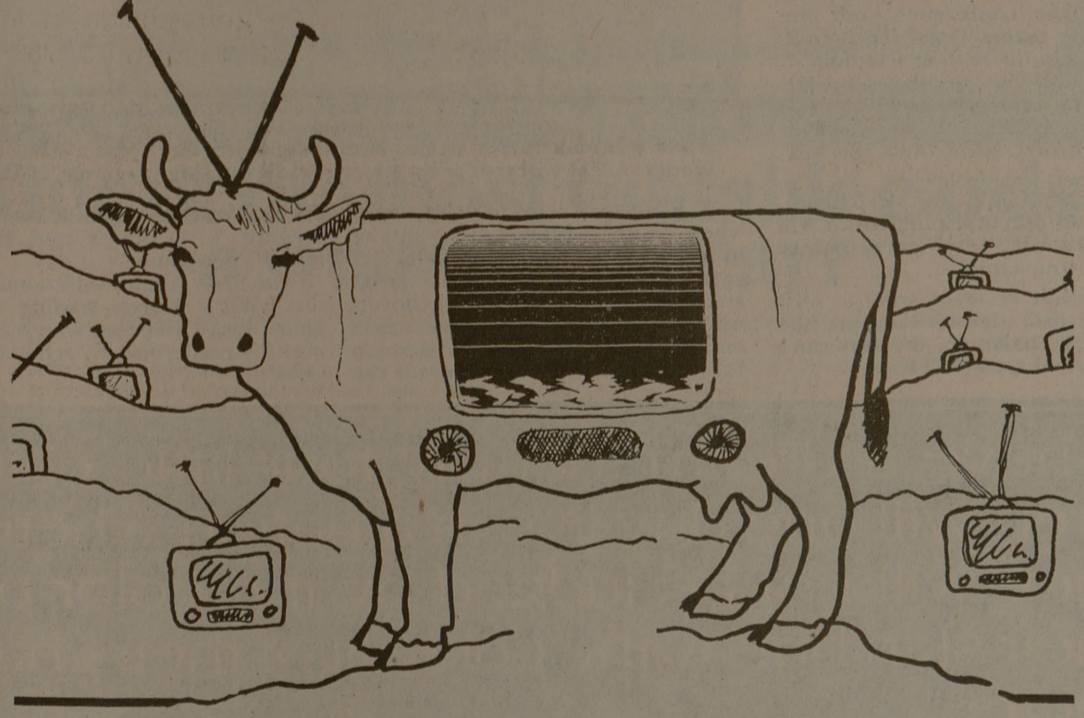
Bidwill said he was glad the hunt was over.

"It's been a long search and I've talked to a lot of fine football coaches and fine men," Bidwill said in introducing Stallings. "But you have to stop and make a judgment. And I think I've picked the best man for the job."

Stallings has spent all but seven years of his post-high school football life under Bryant and Landry. He was an All-Southwest Conference re-

ceiver at A&M under Bryant and a captain of Bryant's undefeated 1956 team. He spent one season as an assistant to Bryant at A&M and then accompanied him to Alabama in 1958.

Stallings returned to A&M as head coach in 1965, and guided the Aggies to the Cotton Bowl in 1967, the only winning season he had at A&M. Stallings was fired after the 1971 season, and he joined Landry's staff in 1972.



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Bill Jenks, Selected Works  
Ralph Arlyck, Godzilla Meets Mona Lisa  
And More

Renee Jensen, Mona  
Steina Vasulka, Bad  
Bruce & Norman Yonemoto, Vault

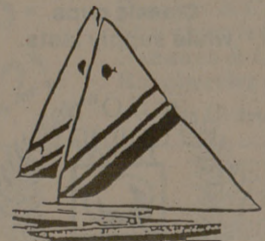
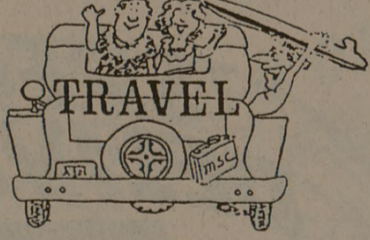

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