

Sports



A&M catcher Maury Martin, left, guns the ball to Robi Chandler, who is covering first base, to get a

Mississippi State runner out. A&M, 21-15, travels to play No. 13 Arkansas Friday and Saturday.

Photo by JAY BLINDERMAN

A&M offense a worry in series with Arkansas

Ags need line-drive hitting against Hogs

By Tom Tagliabue
Sports Writer

Texas A&M Coach Mark Johnson said his ballclub will have to hit more line drives and fewer fly balls this weekend if it expects to upset the 13th-ranked Arkansas Razorbacks in a Southwest Conference series at Fayetteville, Ark. Johnson said 32 percent of the balls the Aggies hit are fly balls. That gives the Ags a low .121 batting average on the flies and Johnson knows that low average just won't get the job done against the Hogs.

"We know (Arkansas) is an outstanding ballclub and they're outstanding at home (19-2)," Johnson said. "The thing we have to be ready to do is not be intimidated by anybody. We have to be aggressive. We're not the kind of ballclub that can sit back and play catch-up ball."

"We have to be ready when that first throw is made. We've gotta be ready to play. That's the biggest concern I have is that everybody is

properly motivated and they're aggressive at that time."

Arkansas, 22-8 overall and 4-2 in the SWC, swept the Rice Owls at home two weeks ago and last weekend lost a 2-1 series in Austin to the No. 4 Texas Longhorns.

The Hogs are led by three returning All-SWC performers — third baseman Jeff King (.379, 10

any stretch of the imagination," Johnson said, "but it's a series where we need to get in there and lock horns with them."

Arkansas Head Coach Norm DeBriyn also believes this weekend's series is an important one.

"I think it's obvious this is a big series for us if we have any hopes of winning the conference championship," DeBriyn said. "I don't want to say we have to win two or have to win three. Every game is very important."

Both Johnson and DeBriyn have announced their starting pitchers for the weekend series.

A&M's Dale Barry (4-0 overall, 1-0 SWC) faces Kevin Campbell (2-4, 1-0) in the opening game of the series Friday at 7 p.m. Darryl Fry (6-4, 0-1) and Steve Parker (4-0, 2-0) will start the first game of the Saturday double-header.

In other SWC action this weekend, Rice is in Waco to play Baylor, Houston takes on first place Texas Tech and the Longhorns of Texas will play TCU.

Baseball

home runs and 35 RBI), catcher Doyle Wilson (.262 and 14 RBI) and designated hitter Doug Patterson (.435, 2 home runs and 28 RBI).

The Aggies, 21-15 and 2-1 in the conference, upset the Houston Cougars twice last weekend and today will make their first conference road trip of the season to the artificial turf of Cole Field.

Johnson said it is important for the Aggies to do play well against one of the favorites for the conference title.

"It's not a do-or-die series by

Ag track hosts College Station Relays Saturday

By Ken Sury
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M will host its first track and field meet since 1982 when the College Station Relays get underway at the new A&M Track and Field Complex.

The complex, located near Olsen Field, should get quite a workout in its inaugural meet, since both collegiate and high school teams will be competing. The first event, the 3,200-meter run for high schools, be-

gins Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

The track events for high school and college teams will be held simultaneously, with preliminaries beginning at 8:30 a.m., and the finals at 2:30 p.m.

The high school field events, however, begin at 9:30 a.m., while the college field events start at 1 p.m.

A&M Head Track and Field Coach Charlie Thomas said his team has had no problems getting excited about hosting the meet.

"They're already perked for this meet," Thomas said. "They've been

perked the last few days."

Thomas said he expects quality competition in this meet. Joining A&M in the men's competition are Baylor, TCU, Oklahoma, Texas Southern, North Texas State, Texas A&I and Arizona State. The women's competition will match those teams, plus Stephen F. Austin.

The meet will not be scored, and Thomas said that will actually help most teams because they will not be competing heavily since the Texas Relays, a big national meet, will be held next Saturday. The teams want

to be well-rested for that meet, he said.

Saturday's meet will mark the return of Aggie high jumper Kenny Burke and triple and long jumper Terrance Strong, who were injured during the indoor season.

However, quartermiler and relay man Gary Pervis and long jumper Ian James won't compete Saturday, Thomas said. James bruised a heel at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships March 14-15 and Pervis is sore from the Texas Southern University Relays last weekend.

"Gary ran four hard, super races at TSU," Thomas said. "He's not hurt, just very sore, so we're going to hold him out."

Thomas said even with the loss of Pervis he expects to field a good mile relay team, although there will be tough competition from Baylor, Oklahoma and TCU.

The highlight of the meet, Thomas said, will be the sprint events.

"We'll see as fast a sprint meet here as anywhere in the country," Thomas said.

Thomas pointed out that the

A&M, Baylor and TCU 400-meter relay teams have all qualified for the NCAA championships.

Thomas said he also is hoping for another strong performance from All-America shot putter Randy Barnes, who won the Texas Southern Relays shot put competition.

The wide open look of the complex is a big change from the confines of Kyle Field, Thomas said.

"I wasn't sure I'd like it (out in the open) after being in the enclosed stadiums," Thomas said. "But I think I could get used to it."

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