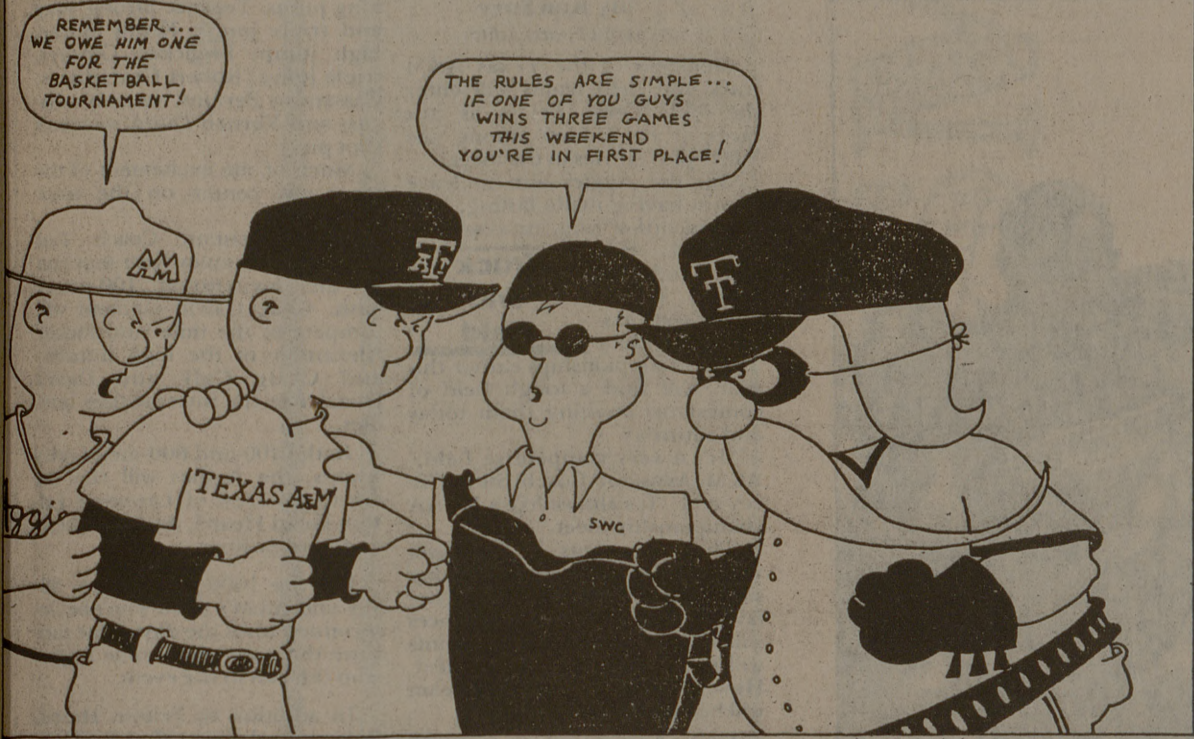


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Barry feels right at home on Ag baseball mound

By Tom Tagliabue
Sports Writer

Texas A&M's Dale Barry almost didn't have a team to pitch for this season.

Barry, a senior left hander from Anaheim, Calif., played for the Texas-El Paso Miners last year, but a lack of finances forced UTEP to eliminate the program. This left several players without a team and without much time to transfer to another school.

"They (UTEP) dropped the program late — real late," Barry said. "They told us in the summer."

A&M Assistant Coach Jim Lawler saw Barry at UTEP and contacted him about making the move to A&M.

"Coach Lawler was there (in El Paso) last year," Barry explained. "He said they (A&M) needed another pitcher."

Several baseball powerhouses tried to woo Barry's services, but he decided against Arizona State and Florida State for the chance to be a starter for A&M.

Barry, who started his playing career at Santa Ana Junior College before transferring to UTEP, said he just didn't want to attend ASU, even though his parents wanted him to stay closer to home.

"They would have liked me to go to Arizona to be a bit closer, but I just got used to Texas," he said.

With only a week left before fall classes were to begin, Barry arrived at A&M, but his pitching didn't.

"I didn't have a good fall," he said. "A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson pretty much gave me a chance (to

start pitching well). In the spring, I made the best of it. I'm in the (starting) rotation now."

For the season, Barry has the staff's best record, 5-0, the best ERA, 1.67, most innings pitched, 54, and most strikeouts, 47.

Barry has been equally impressive in his two Southwest Conference ap-



Dale Barry

pearances. He's 2-0 with a 0.53 ERA, which rates second best in the SWC, and ranks fourth in the league in strikeouts with 14.

Barry is, by his own admission, not a power pitcher, but has two complete games in five starts and nearly finished two more. He credits the A&M defenders for his successes.

"I have some great defense behind me," he said. "It seems every day they play good defense. Ever (Magallanes, A&M's shortstop) plays better than flawless."

Barry said Lawler helped him develop his pitching style.

"Coach Lawler works you a lot on mechanics," Barry said. "He's been working with me and it has helped my placement (of pitches)."

Barry will be trying to help the Aggies with their placement in the SWC standings Friday at 7 p.m., when A&M battles conference-leading Texas Tech at Olsen Field.

A&M, which is tied for second in the SWC with No. 6 Texas at 4-2, finishes the three-game series Saturday with a double-header against Tech beginning at 1 p.m.

Barry said the Aggies, 25-17, will be pumped up for the Red Raiders, 29-9 and 5-1 in SWC play.

"Every team in the conference is good," he said. "There's no team you plan on sweeping. Winning two out of three won't win you the conference. You've got to sweep somebody."

Tech comes into the series ranked No. 23 in the Collegiate Baseball/ESPN poll and are the surprise team of the SWC. The Red Raiders were dead last in the conference last season, but now have rebounded in '86 to sweep Rice and take two of three from Houston.

Tech is led offensively by outfielder Mike Humphreys, who is hitting .524 with 11 hits, including two doubles, a triple and eight RBI. Tech's offense ranks third in the SWC with a .304 team batting average.

In other SWC series this weekend, Arkansas, 5-4, travels to Houston, 2-4. Baylor, 3-3, takes on Texas in Austin and TCU, 3-3, is on the road against Rice, 1-8.

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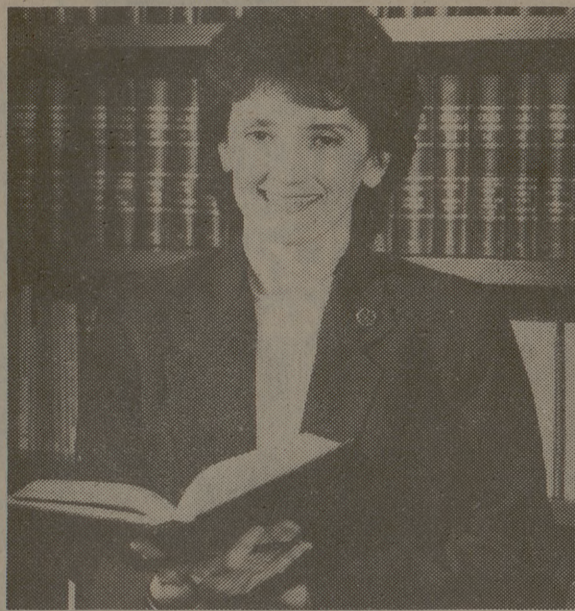
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Last chance for the magic of MSC OPAS Thirteen.

The Houston Ballet will perform *Giselle* on Thursday, April 10, the grande finale for the thirteenth magical season of the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society in Rudder Auditorium.

Spend the last night of MSC OPAS in the magnificent performance of this lovely dance corps. Under the artistic direction of Ben Stevenson, the Ballet will present *Giselle*, the enchanted myth of unrequited love.

Tickets for the April 10 performance are available in all sections. For ticket information, contact the MSC Box Office, 845-1234. VISA and MasterCard accepted.