

Sports

Magallanes enjoys best year 'Ever'

By Doug Hall
Senior Sports Writer

You got the feeling during last weekend's three-game baseball series with the University of Texas that the Longhorn pitchers had the Texas A&M senior shortstop's first name on their mind.

"Will we 'Ever' be able to get this Magallanes kid out," they seemed to say.

Eventually, the answer was yes. But certainly not with any regularity.

After banging out three of the Aggies' five hits on Friday night in an 8-2 loss, Ever Magallanes put on a stellar performance Saturday by going 5-for-8 in double-header.

Magallanes first home run of the season was a three-run shot in the sixth inning of the first game, which brought the Aggies to within one run of tying the No. 1-ranked Longhorns.

But performing above average in clutch situations is nothing new to the soft-spoken Magallanes.

In last year's Southwest Conference Post-Season Baseball Tournament, Magallanes hit .615 and led the Aggies to the tournament championship. In addition to being named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, Magallanes was an All-SWC selection.

Despite his big-game success, though, Magallanes said he doesn't do anything special to prepare for rivals such as Texas.

"It was definitely my biggest series at A&M," he said. "I guess I got pumped up because we knew we had to win at least one game from them, hopefully two."

"But I can't pinpoint anything different than what I have been doing. I've just been hitting the ball really well in conference."

Magallanes' .478 SWC average leads the Aggies and places him second in the conference. On the season, the smooth-fielding shortstop's .377 average places him second on the team behind third baseman Scott Livingstone, who is currently hitting at a .428 clip.



Texas A&M shortstop Ever Magallanes goes for a tag at second base. Magallanes is known for his

fielding abilities, but his recent performance against Texas proved he's a hitter, too.

Battalion file photo

With four freshmen in Head Coach Mark Johnson's starting lineup, it's easy to see how Magallanes and Livingstone might feel an immense pressure to come through in the clutch for the Aggies. But such is not the case, at least according to Magallanes.

"The freshmen have been doing such a great job, that it hasn't added any pressure to Scott or myself," the A&M co-captain said. "They've been doing more than their share of the work, so it hasn't been a problem at all."

Like so many other shortstops in the college and professional ranks, Magallanes first earned a name for himself by his work in the field, not at the plate. His ability to range deep into either gap and a fluid throwing motion attracted the attention of A&M pitching coach Jim Lawler, who recruited the shortstop out of

Cerritos Junior College in California.

So after a 1986 season in which his .310 average was considered "a pleasant surprise" by the A&M baseball media guide, Magallanes said he is out to prove his merit as a hitter as well as a fielder.

"I don't want to be known as a one-dimensional player," he said. "Those shortstops are a dime a dozen. I want to impress people and impress scouts with my ability to hit and my ability to field."

It's those two skills that Magallanes, who was drafted last year by the New York Mets, hopes will allow him to play professional baseball. Although the Mets currently own his rights, Magallanes said he doesn't care what team he plays for — just as long as he gets a chance to play.

"It really doesn't matter to me," he said. "The money is all the same color."

Despite losing three of their four games last week, the 37-16-1 Aggies fell only one place in ESPN's collegiate rankings, from No. 10 to No. 11, because their losses were to top-ranked Texas and Oklahoma State.

But according to Magallanes, those losses are behind them, and the Aggies are planning ahead for this weekend's three-game series with Texas Christian University (22-29 on the season and 3-12 in the SWC).

"We've got to play hard against TCU to win," Magallanes said. "Right now, every win is important to us. We're going to concentrate on winning Friday's game first and then look ahead to the double-header on Saturday. We'll approach it game by game."

Friday's game will begin at 3 p.m. in Fort Worth, and Saturday's double-header, which will be televised on Home Sports Entertainment, begins at 1 p.m.

NBA accepts 4 cities for expansion teams

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA, refusing to choose between what it considered two equal Florida applicants, accepted both Miami and Orlando into the league Wednesday along with Charlotte, N.C., and Minneapolis.

Charlotte and Miami will be admitted for the 1988-89 season. Minneapolis and Orlando will follow a year later, primarily because their new arenas are not as close to completion.

Each expansion franchise will pay an entry fee of \$32.5 million.

"It just wouldn't have been fair to choose between two equal Florida applicants," Commissioner David Stern said after the announcement, which followed a four-hour meeting. "We decided that the only proper thing to do was take both."

On April 2, the NBA's Expansion Committee recommended that Minneapolis and Charlotte be accepted along with either Orlando or Miami. In the weeks since that recommendation, which Stern said was based on the committee's instructions from the Board of Governors that three teams be invited, the two Florida cities have exchanged barbs.

"Much has been written about the deficiencies of those two cities, but in fact the problem for the board was choosing between them," Stern said. "Because of the support demonstrated in Miami and Orlando, and the civic pride and involvement by both government and fans, we couldn't do anything but choose both."

The commissioner said the governors' vote was unanimous, although only an 18-5 majority was required.

"The dilemma between Miami and Orlando simply was that they are in the same state," said Phoenix Suns owner Richard Bloch, chairman of the Expansion Committee.

Explaining why only Charlotte and Minneapolis were in the original recommendation, Bloch said, "If we were limited to three expansion teams, we didn't feel that two of them could be in the same state."

Two expansion drafts, one in 1988 for Charlotte and Miami and one in 1989 for Minneapolis and Or-

lando, and college drafts will be used to stock the four new teams.

Each of the 23 existing teams will protect eight players in each expansion draft and each will lose one player. In the college drafts of 1988 and 1989, the new teams will choose eighth and ninth.

The location of three of the four teams in the East complicated the divisional alignments, so the governors adopted a rotating system that has little regard for geographic location.

In 1988-89, Charlotte will compete in the Atlantic Division and Miami in the Midwest, with Sacramento moving permanently to the Pacific.

In 1989-90, Charlotte and Minneapolis will compete in the Midwest, Orlando in the Central and Miami in the Atlantic.

In 1990-91, Minneapolis and Orlando will move to the Midwest, Charlotte to the Central and Miami will stay in the Atlantic.

In 1991-92, Miami and Orlando will compete in the Atlantic, Charlotte in the Central and Minneapolis in the Midwest.

The Charlotte team is tentatively known as the Spirit, while the other teams will be the Minnesota Timberwolves, the Orlando Magic and the Miami Heat.

The Timberwolves expect to play in a downtown Minneapolis arena that would seat 18,000. Construction of that arena has not begun, and if it is not ready by the start of the 1989-90 season the team will play in the Metrodome, home of baseball's Twins and the NFL Vikings.

Charlotte will play in a new 23,500-seat Charlotte Coliseum that is under construction and is scheduled to be ready July 1, 1988.

Ted Arison, major owner of the Miami franchise, based the city's bid on it being the ninth-largest television market in the nation.

The Heat has a new 15,184-seat Miami Arena under construction and scheduled to open March 1, 1988.

Orlando will play in a new 15,000-seat Centroplex Arena, scheduled to open in September, 1988.

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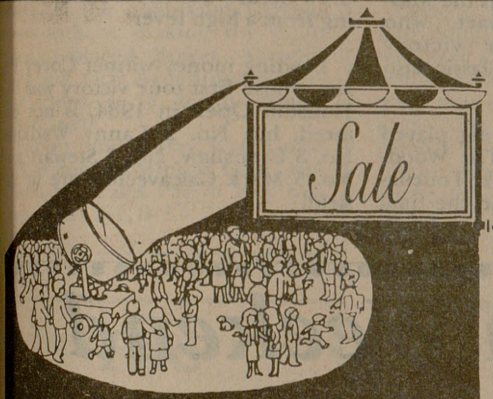
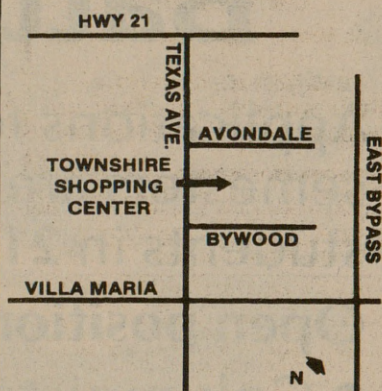
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