

Friday, April 14, 1989

## Texas to give A&M first SWC test

### No. 1 Aggies face No. 10 Texas, Dressendorfer tonight at Olsen

By Jerry Bolz

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

You can look at the Texas A&M-Texas baseball series in any number of ways. But one thing you won't find is a typical weekend of college baseball.

The Aggies are currently tied with the 1977 Longhorns for the best NCAA start ever. The '77 Texas team brought their record to Aggie-land and lost two of three games. Will the Aggies, who have lost 13 of

the last 14 meetings between the teams, be able to improve on the record start?

You can't tell just by looking at the teams.

The Longhorns boast one of the nation's best pitchers, sophomore Kirk Dressendorfer, who is 12-1 with 108 strikeouts this year.

But the Aggies, with a 40-1 record, obviously don't have any slouches on the mound.

And the No. 1-ranked Aggies have enough hammers at the plate to ring most any pitcher's bell. All

nine offensive starters are hitting over .300 and three are above .400.

However, Longhorn players are in front of everyone in the conference in total hits, runs scored, doubles and runs batted in. They are able to give anyone fits as well.

As a matter of fact, it's hard to find a weak spot on either team this season. But the same thing could have been said last year when the Longhorns swept the Aggies in the series.

**ATM**      **AGGIES**

Record: 40-1  
SWC Record: 9-0  
Ranking: No. 1  
Team batting avg.: .370  
Team ERA: 2.72

Time: 7 p.m. Fri. thru Sun.  
Place: Olsen Field  
TV/Radio: ESPN(Sun.)/KTAM 1240

**HORNS**

Record: 36-10  
SWC Record: 7-2  
Ranking: No. 10  
Team batting avg.: .255  
Team ERA: 2.52

So what evidence do the Aggies have to make them think this year will be any different?

John Byington, A&M's leading hitter at .450, says it's the team chemistry he has felt since February.

"We've had talent before," he said. "It's there this year — we just have a feeling of chemistry like never before."

"They've had our number for a while, but we have enough confidence now. We're just going to treat it like another conference series. We're not going to have to play over our heads."

Right fielder Andy Duke agrees.

"The past few years we've had the talent to match up with theirs, but they've still come out on top," Duke said. "It's there this year — we just have to put forth the effort to win it."

Texas Assistant Coach Bill Bethea said anytime the two teams play it's not just another series.

"A&M had a great team last year," Bethea said. "Their ranking this year makes it a little different. They haven't lost any Southwest Conference games and that makes it a little different. Someone has to give them some losses."

Pat Sweet (7-1) will be tonight's pitcher for the Aggies. He knew little about the strength of the rivalry before transferring here from a California junior college this season, but he's "as fired up as the rest of the team."

Sweet gets the challenge of facing Dressendorfer, who shut out the Ag-

gies in Austin last year.

"I'm going to go out and throw a normal game like I've been doing all year," Sweet said. "I'm going to let

the defense do the work."

But it's the offense who will have to stand in there when Dressendorfer screams fastballs at them. Duke, hitting .405, said Dressendorfer will have some success, but the Aggies are up to the challenge.

"He isn't gonna mess around with you too much," Duke said. "He's not gonna finesse us — he's gonna come right at us. This team has the talent to hit him."

Byington is also confident the Aggies can overcome Dressendorfer.

"Dressendorfer is a bulldog — a real competitor," Byington said. "With his winning bulldog attitude, we're gonna have to scrap. We may not get to him early — it may be a while. But I feel confident we'll get to him."

Single games are scheduled for tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7

p.m. at Olsen Field. A&M has averaged 2,316 fans per home game, the highest ever for the Aggies. The Texas series is sold out.

An 80 percent chance of rain is predicted for today with a 30 percent chance for Saturday.

## Stulce returns to action with Texas A&M Relays

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

The Texas A&M track team, featuring the return of NCAA Shot Put Champion Mike Stulce, will host the Texas A&M Relays Saturday at the Frank G. Anderson Track & Field Complex.

Stulce, who won the indoor shot put title March 11, hasn't competed in the outdoor season because of shin splints. Stulce had a season-best throw of 68 feet 10 inches in the indoor season and won the outdoor shot put event as a freshman last year.

The meet will also feature 14 men's track teams and 11 women's teams.

"There will be a lot of good athletes here so it should be a good meet to watch," A&M Head Track Coach Charlie Thomas said.

In the women's division All-American Melinda Clark, who cleared 6 feet 3 1/2 inches last week at the Texas Relays, will be pressed by Lamar's Cassie Presley in the high jump. Both Clark and Presley are among the best collegiate jumpers in the nation.

The women's 100- and 200-meter

dashes will showcase the talents of several Texas Southern runners. Beatrice Utondo, Diane Weber and Linda Esemokumoh, all from TSU, will be favorites to win the 100-meter dash.

In the 200-meter dash, Weber and Mary Onyali, from TSU, should compete with Baylor's Kasandra McDaniels for first.

The 1600-meter relay should be a close race between Baylor, Texas and A&M. Baylor has already qualified for the NCAAAs.

A&M's Andre Cason, who has a broken jaw, and Derrick Florence will battle with Baylor's Michael Johnson for the 100-meter crown. A&M's Howard Davis and Baylor's Kermit Ward are expected to TSU's Augustine Olobia a run for the 200-meter title.

Davis and Baylor's Raymond Pierre, two of the top 400-meter runners in the country will tee-off against each other in the 400-meter dash.

The meet starts at noon with the field events and the running events start at 1 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. The event is a non-scoring meet. Team point totals are not kept at non-scoring meets.

## Some drafting tips for Jimmy Johnson

Dear Jimmy Johnson,

I've been a Cowboy fan for all the 22 years that I've stalked this planet. I gloated with them in the glory years when they were truly America's Team. I've watched anxiously and helplessly as they've shot themselves in the foot more times in the past few years than Yosemite Sam.

"Oooh, I hate dat rabbit."

But Jimmy, what I hate is the abysmal drafts that we, the Cowboy Faithful, have been subjected to recently. Please, please, please, don't blow this.

Remember Rod Hill? Neither do we. Oh, he was before your time. You see, the lame-brain trust of Brandt and Schramm used to have this absolutely comical scheme for determining how Dallas' first pick would be used.

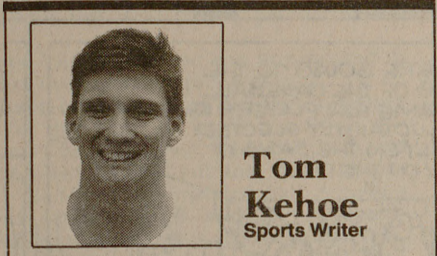
It would really break you up. Really.

They had this computer. Well, they always referred to it as a computer. Although I can't prove it, I think it was actually one of those Mattel electronic football games. But there always were a lot of dead nine-volts on the floor of Brandt's office.

"De de de de de!" Charge.

Your turn, Gil.

Anyway, this computer would do the neatest thing. It was actually programmed to select, get this, the best available athlete in the draft. One year it actually suggested they dig up Jim



**Tom Kehoe**  
Sports Writer

Thorpe. Pete Rozelle said no way.

But Jimmy, you're not that stupid. I mean, your Miami players drove cars to practice that I'll never even get to wash and wore more gold than Ramses. No NCAA investigators nosing around down there. You were too smart for that.

But all the brains in the world can't beat bad luck.

So that's why I'm enclosing a rabbit's foot, and the rest of the little sucker just to make sure.

Keep the little rodent near on draft day. It could prevent Billy Cannons and Mike Sherrards.

Cannon and Sherrard? Oh, they were these two top-notch talents, who were just coming into their own as professionals and then, BOOM! No

more football. Cannon's neck injury ended his career and Sherrard's balsa wood leg rendered him useless.

So keep Thumper (I took the liberty of naming him) close by.

Be careful though. You have the greatest draft responsibility since Landry was hoping to outbid the AFL.

You have The Pick.

I know you're getting all sorts of advice from everyone to Hari Krishnas at DFW to the paperboy. But this is the best possible tip.

Keep an open mind. Don't rush out and take Aikman. Proceed cautiously. Aikman just may be the best quarterback in the draft. But so what? Ache-man with a bad neck and a broken leg probably won't have too good of a pass rating.

So? Steve Walsh is in the supplemental draft. So is Steve Rosenbach of Washington State, who had better numbers than Aikman last year. You get the first pick in the supplemental, too, you know. All for the low, low price of next year's first-rounder.

So, take Tony "Bonecrusher" Mandarich, the 300 lb. leviathan from Michigan State who can bench press Brian Bosworth's ego. Then take your quarterback if you have to.

But remember, Broderick or Derrick Thomas could learn to take snaps.

Jim Thorpe did.

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