

Tuesday, May 2, 1989

Ags move up notch in baseball poll Mississippi State holds on to number one

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M baseball team moved into second place in the latest ESPN/Collegiate Baseball poll released Monday, its first move up in the rankings since falling from the top spot last week.

The Aggies won a three-game series against Houston last weekend, dropping one game against the Cougars.

The Aggies remain one game behind fifth-ranked Arkansas (43-8, 16-2) in the Southwest Conference.

The Aggies and Razorbacks square off against each other this weekend in a three-game series at Olsen Field with the conference title on the line.

The first game is Friday at 7 p.m. and a doubleheader is slated for Saturday afternoon.

Mississippi State (43-8) held its number-one ranking for the second straight week.

Arizona (37-14-1) dropped from second to third, while Arizona State (40-14) remained in fourth place.

Arkansas stayed in fifth place, as they won two of three games from tenth-ranked Texas. LSU (43-10) remained in sixth place.

The rest of the top 10 changed from last week, although all four teams are the same. Wichita State (47-9) moved up from eighth to seventh. Oklahoma State (38-12) dropped from seventh to eighth. Florida State (41-12) moved up from tenth to ninth, and Texas (43-14) dropped to tenth.

ESPN/Collegiate Baseball Poll

Team	Record	Team	Record
1. Mississippi St.	43-8	13. Fresno St.	34-16
2. Texas A&M	48-4	14. Loyola Marymount	35-19
3. Arizona	37-14-1	15. Pepperdine	36-13-1
4. Arizona St.	40-14	16. Michigan	34-10
5. Arkansas	43-8	17. Hawaii	33-19
6. LSU	43-10	18. BYU	38-12
7. Wichita St.	47-9	19. North Carolina	29-12-1
8. Oklahoma St.	38-12	20. USC	37-22
9. Florida St.	41-12	21. Oklahoma	37-13
10. Texas	43-14	22. South Florida	36-13
11. Miami	35-13	23. Georgia Tech	32-18
12. Long Beach St.	41-10	24. Florida	35-18
		25. Southwestern Louisiana	49-11

Before falling to third place in last week's national poll, the Aggies (48-4, 15-3) held the number one ranking for eight consecutive weeks.

Arkansas hosted Texas last weekend. Texas is in third place in the conference standings with a 12-6 SWC mark.

Sherrill speaks of A&M football; says Lewis, Wallace will lead way

GALVESTON (AP) — Jackie Sherrill had just finished a round of golf at the Dean Scott Celebrity Invitational at the Galveston Country Club.

He wandered over to the hospitality tent, found some barbecue, and relaxed — something the former Texas A&M head football coach had very little time to do during his seven years with the Aggies.

Sherrill resigned as head coach and athletic director Dec. 12 amid allegations he paid former player George Smith "hush money" in wake of an NCAA investigation.

A&M still is waiting word from the NCAA about the Smith matter, and Sherrill is reluctant to talk about the investigation.

However, he was willing to discuss football and life as a temporarily unemployed coach.

"I've been playing a lot of golf, and I have some different hobbies with flying and fishing. I've also been to the Super Bowl and Palm Springs," he said.

While A&M wrapped up spring

practice last week, Sherrill — who still lives in College Station — was out coaching T-ball for his 7-year-old son, Justin. Football, Sherrill said, has not really entered his mind since his resignation.

"I've been so busy, I haven't even thought about it. I've just been traveling a lot," he said.

Although Sherrill said his schedule of golf tournaments and speaking engagements have kept his mind off football, his ties to A&M remain strong. He often refers to the Aggies as "we."

"Like I told (Texas Head Coach) David McWilliams, and we're friends, I'll be sitting in the stands in maroon and white next year," Sherrill said.

Sherrill left a talented Aggies team, now coached by Sherrill's defensive coordinator, R.C. Slocum.

A&M, Sherrill said, should be a strong contender for another run at the Cotton Bowl.

"We didn't have that many seniors, so they've got a lot of seniors

coming back," he said. "They'll be good. (A&M running back coach) Jimmy Helms, before we beat Texas last year, said there's enough players out there to beat them for a couple of years."

The Aggies' hopes for a Southwest Conference title in 1989 will rest on the shoulders of junior Heisman Trophy candidate Darren Lewis. However, Sherrill said Lewis will have help in the backfield.

"A&M has a lot of talent with probably the two best running backs in the country in the same backfield in Lewis and (Robert) Wilson," Sherrill said. "They have great receivers, great speed and a huge offensive line. The team speed is excellent. Texas doesn't have A&M's speed."

Sherrill, who landed one of the SWC's all-time best recruiting classes in 1987, headed by Lewis and McKinney's Randy Simmons, said Lewis is a legitimate Heisman candidate.

Sherrill, who keeps in close con-

See Sherrill/Page 8

White needs to see bottom line: Cowboys don't need him

Cowboys quarterback Danny White came into the Dallas mini-camp last week thinking he still had a contract with America's Former Team.

He probably also thought he had a realistic shot at overtaking starter Steve Pelleur and rookie Troy Aikman and become the Cowboys' starting quarterback this season.

Think again, Danny. The 37-year-old White found out the Cowboys chose not to pick up the option year of his contract. He would have been paid \$605,000. Now he's an unrestricted free agent, able to sign with any other team that wants him.

Of course, White was a Plan B free agent for two months and received no contract offers from any other teams.

Dallas had until Feb. 1 to inform White if they planned to pick up his option year, but he never received any word from them.

White assumed no news was good news and he was still under contract. But Cowboys vice president Bob Ackles said an NFL team doesn't have to inform a player if



Richard Tijerina
Assistant Sports Editor

they picked up his option year.

If this sounds familiar to the inconsiderate way the Cowboys have been treating the members of its organization they want gone, you're right. Owner Jerry Jones and company have a hand on the ax handle with White's name on it.

A player with White's experience is better suited to be on the sidelines, but not in pads and helmet. Give the guy a chalkboard and do him a favor. Number 11 has been beaten up so many times the last

few years that he should have retired in 1986.

He hasn't been a full-time starter since 1985. A broken wrist in 1986 forced him to sit out the remainder of that season.

He was never the same since. He returned in 1987 with only 70 percent strength and accuracy in his wrist. Pelleur eventually took over the starting duties for good.

He entered the 1988 season saying his wrist was healthy, but the coaching staff gave the job to Pelleur, and White was relegated to a backup role.

The Chicago Bears defense decided to go ahead and put the veteran out of his misery last season with a serious knee injury. White missed the final nine weeks of his 1988 season, and possibly now could find himself out of a quarterbacking job for good.

He's participating in the Cowboys mini-camp without a contract, and plans to have a meeting this week with Cowboys head coach Jimmy Johnson to discuss his situation. And Johnson says he's not

making any commitments about the aging quarterback.

This has to be frustrating to White, who finally inherited the starting job from Cowboys God Roger Staubach in 1980, and nine years later he's still trying to prove to Cowboys' faithful he can get the job done.

Although he took the team to the NFC Championship Game three years in a row, he failed to reach a Super Bowl — the measure of success of a Dallas football team.

Now he'll never get the chance to fulfill his fantasy of guiding the Cowboys back to the Promised Land. Dallas is three years and several draft picks away from being a serious contender for the Super Bowl.

And now White is lucky if he'll even make the team. Dallas drafted Aikman, the quarterback of their not-too-distant future, and has an experienced yet inconsistent starter in Steve Pelleur. Along with second-year Scott Secules, who has been impressing Johnson in camp, the Cowboys are left with

four quarterbacks to pay, but only three to play.

They're trying to re-sign Pelleur, who made \$302,500 last year and is sitting out camp until he has a new contract. Cowboys insiders say a trade for Pelleur is not likely.

Johnson said he's only keeping three quarterbacks this season, and White, Pelleur, Secules and Aikman all have to learn a new offense. That may come harder for White, who's known Tom Landry's multiple set offense like the back of his hand for 14 years.

The bottom line: The Dallas Cowboys have made their move to go with younger men who'll build a dynasty for the future. Gone are the Landrys, Schramms, Baileys, Whites and Cosbies. They were nothing but spare parts that were slowing down the team's drive back to respectability.

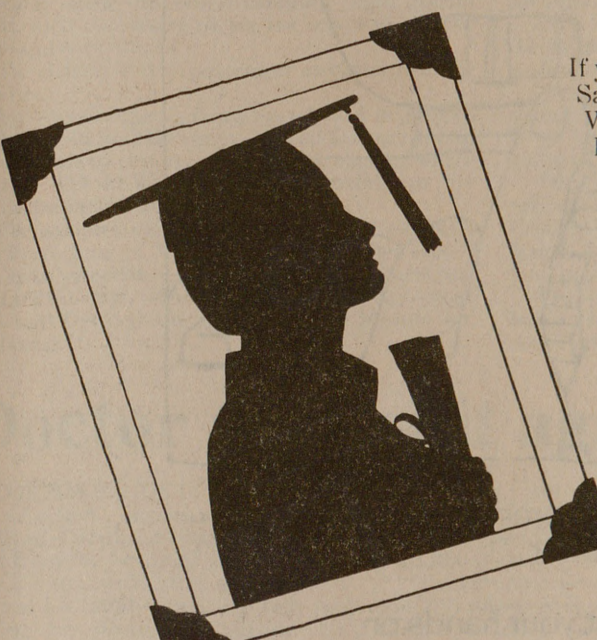
Expect either White or Secules to go, and if your last name is Rose, put your money on White leaving Dallas in the next few weeks.

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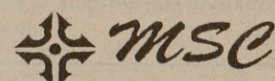
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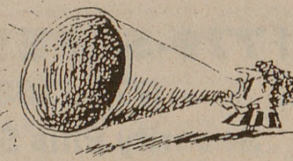
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