

Friday, May 5, 1989

Road to SWC title goes thru A&M

Ags, Hogs in crucial series to decide conference championship

By Richard Tijerina

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

All roads to a Southwest Conference championship go through College Station this year.

Heading into their final three Southwest Conference games of the season against each other, the Texas A&M baseball team and the Arkansas Razorbacks are neck-and-neck for the conference lead.

With Arkansas (43-8, 16-2) holding a one-game lead over the Aggies (48-4, 15-3) in conference play, both teams have their eyes set on the conference title.

For Arkansas, it would be their first SWC championship. It also would be the first time a team other than A&M, Texas or Texas Christian has won a conference championship.

To win or share that title, all Arkansas has to do is avoid getting swept by the Aggies. A calculator becomes necessary when figuring all the possibilities that can come out of this weekend's series.

If the Aggies sweep the Razorbacks, A&M wins the title outright.

If the Aggies win two of three games this weekend, the two teams would share the crown as co-champions. The Aggies would be the number-one seed in the SWC tournament, which is being held this year in College Station, because they would

Aggie Update

- **What:** A&M meets Arkansas for a three game series.
- **Records:** A&M is 48-4 (15-3), Arkansas is 43-8 (16-2).
- **Ranking:** A&M is second, Arkansas is fifth.
- **When:** Tonight at 7. Doubleheader Saturday starting at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** C.E. "Pat" Olsen Field.
- **TV/Radio:** Home Sports Entertainment will televise Saturday's doubleheader. 1240 KTAM-AM will broadcast all three games.

have won the season series between the two teams.

If the Razorbacks sweep the Aggies, Arkansas becomes the conference champions. If Arkansas wins two of three, they still win the championship on the basis of having

a better SWC record than the Aggies.

However, conference title picture becomes cloudy if one or more of the games this weekend are rained out.

Alan Cannon, A&M sports information director, said any games not played because of the weather will be made up Sunday afternoon. If, for any reason, the games cannot be made up, the conference title will be decided on how many of the games were played and who won them.

• If the Aggies win one game and no other games are played or made up, the two teams become co-champions and A&M receives the top seed.

• If the Razorbacks win one game and no other games are played or made up, Arkansas wins the conference title outright.

• If the Aggies win two games and no other games are played or made up, A&M wins the title outright.

• If the Razorbacks win two games and no other games are played or made up, Arkansas wins the title outright.

Cannon said Southwest Confer-

ence rules don't allow more than two games to be played on the same day.

The extended weather forecast for this weekend includes the possibility of rain both Friday and Saturday.

Friday is expected to be cloudy, becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon, with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Saturday is expected to continue to be cloudy and warm with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms.

The Aggies' last conference championship was in 1986, when they were co-champions with Texas. The Aggies' last outright championship came in 1978.

The Aggies were ranked second nationally in Monday's ESPN/Collegeiate Baseball. Arkansas was ranked fifth.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and University Police, said security measures discussed after the A&M-Texas series earlier this year will be enforced at this weekend's series.

Students will not be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages either

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Lady Ag netters get bid to NCAA tournament

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M women's tennis team Thursday received a bid to the post-season NCAA tournament in Gainesville, Fla. May 10-14.

It is the first time the Lady Aggies have been invited to the tournament as a team since 1986.

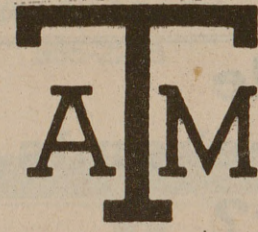
Bobby Kleinecke's first year as head coach at A&M.

The Lady Aggies are seeded 19th in the 20-team field and open tournament play May 10 against 14th-seed Arizona. The winner meets third seed UCLA May 11.

Kleinecke said it was an honor to be invited to the tournament, but he thought it was possible the

Lady Aggies wouldn't receive a bid.

"We're elated to be in," Kleinecke said. "We were right on the border. We were beating people right behind us in the polls, but were worried about whether we'd actually make it or not."



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Kleinecke said he hopes this year's tournament appearance is the first of many for his Lady Aggies.

"Our goal is to be there (at the NCAA tournament) on a regular basis," he said. "We want this to be a regular feeling. Arizona will be a tough match for us, but a winnable match."

The top three seeds for the tournament are Stanford, Florida and UCLA. Texas is the number 13 seed. Texas and A&M are the only Southwest Conference teams invited to the tournament.

The Pacific-10 conference led the way with six bids as UCLA, Stanford, Cal-Berkeley, USC, Arizona and Arizona State will be competing in Gainesville.

A&M baseballers can bury the Aggie Choke by beating Hogs

Send away the women and children. Hide your valuables.

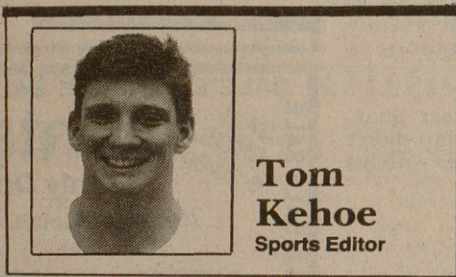
Lock your refrigerators. Aggieland will be laid siege to once again.

After successfully defending their top national ranking from the raiding Longhorn hordes, Coach Mark Johnson's Aggies are boiling oil and sharpening arrows to defend the keep and castle of the Southwest Conference championship.

And, once again, it won't be easy.

It's going to take a sweep to wrest the conference title from the Hogs, two wins just to tie. A tall order if it were just another series with the Razorbacks. To make a Curt Gowdy-ish understatement: This isn't just another series.

It's a big to-do when A&M and Arkansas tangle. A&M's last outright conference championship (1978) came at Arkansas'



Tom Kehoe
Sports Editor

expense. Both teams entered the series in Fayetteville with 17-4 records. The Aggies promptly took the first two games to secure the title.

But that was 11 years ago. Since then Texas has won nine titles outright and shared just one (with A&M).

That's not going to happen this year. The Horns have six losses and are eliminated from any chance of making it 11 in a row.

The king is dead. But who will claim his throne?

On paper it's a dead heat.

The Aggies lead the conference in hitting. The Hogs lead in pitching. John Byington's batting average leads all SWC hitters but Arkansas' Bubba Carpenter is right behind him. Seven of the top 10 hitters in the conference reside either in College Station or Fayetteville.

But this series will be played on the green grass of Olsen Field, not on paper.

And that's where the problem could lie for the Aggies.

Yes, it could be time for the dreaded Aggie Choke.

Oh, THE Choke you say.

The same.

It's unfortunate, but these things happen in the sports world.

Greg Norman somehow always finds a way to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in the majors. Bjorn Borg never could pull it off at the U.S. Open. The Chicago Cubs: enough said.

Add to this sad list the Aggies' ineptitude for rising to the occasion and reaching the pinnacle.

It's happened all too often in the past. The most recent attack of The Choke occurred in Austin last year as A&M dropped all three games to Texas. Despite A&M winning its final six games, The Choke paved the way for Texas to claim its 10th consecutive crown.

It appeared to be rearing its ugly head again this year as Texas took the first game of the series here and appeared to be in the driver's seat, enroute to another sweep, until John Byington put the brakes on the Horns with his ninth-inning heroics.

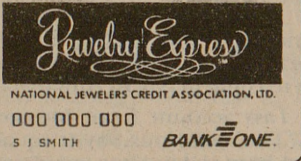
The Choke had been stifled. With two heart-stopping home runs, Byington turned his back on one of the less popular Aggie traditions.

And it happened on grass, not paper. Ignore history and The Choke.

Hope that Byington and Jim Neumann didn't exhaust the thunder from their bats in Houston. Hope that Scot Centala's sole bad pitch of an outing doesn't end up on the intramural fields.

And hope the Aggies bury The Choke's corpse this weekend.

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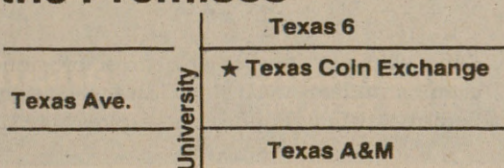
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Carat	Our Price	Compare at	Carat	Our Price	Compare at
2.04	\$12,570	\$25,000	2.14	5,850	\$9,950
1.67	5,875	12,200	1.82	5,095	9,350
1.35	3,100	5,800	1.75	5,775	9,925
1.23	3,350	6,395	1.43	3,780	7,250
1.10	3,650	6,650	1.24	3,925	7,400
1.04	2,850	5,200	1.21	3,750	7,100
.98	2,475	4,395	1.01	2,675	4,995
.79	2,095	3,875	.72	1,985	3,850
.72	2,325	3,895	.71	1,965	3,800
.71	2,195	4,095	.64	1,295	2,395
.71	2,050	3,995	.64	875	1,495
.70	2,390	4,250	.62	1,485	2,395
.70	1,995	3,450	.60	1,250	2,295
.68	1,890	3,650	.58	995	1,795
.64	1,385	3,495	.52	665	1,195
.62	695	1,195	.51	1,240	2,350
.55	985	1,895	.48	1,160	2,150
.54	1,490	2,795			
.52	1,050	2,295	HEART		
.50	1,275	2,295	Carat	Our Price	Compare at
.48	1,225	2,250	.75	\$1,785	\$3,395
.46	1,160	2,195	.58	1,375	2,495
.39	875	1,595	.51	1,395	2,495
.35	595	995			

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Carat	Our Price	Compare at
1.02	\$2,150	3,995
.99	2,950	\$5,495
.81	2,385	4,395
.73	1,975	3,750
.62	1,475	2,495
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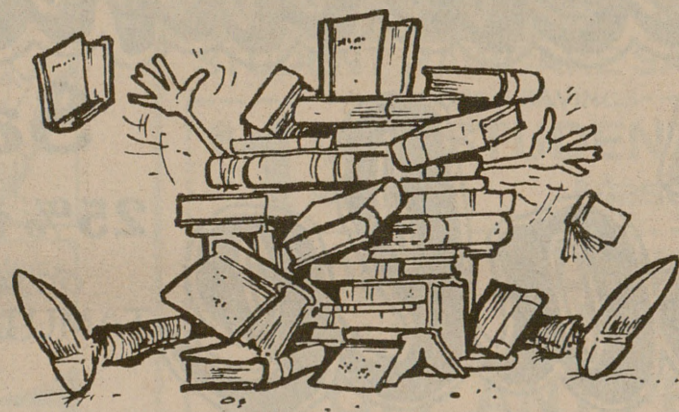


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