

## Lewis remains low-key about Heisman chances

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Darren Lewis doesn't want any posters proclaiming his status on the Texas A&M football team.

"You make your own posters by the way you perform," Lewis told touring Southwest Conference writers and broadcasters Tuesday. "I'd be very self-conscious if they did that here."

The Aggies don't intend to pressure-market Lewis, the nation's top returning rusher and candidate for post-season honors.

"It's hard not to think about it, to put it in the back of your mind," Lewis said. "But that's what I'm going to do. My only goal is to help this team win."

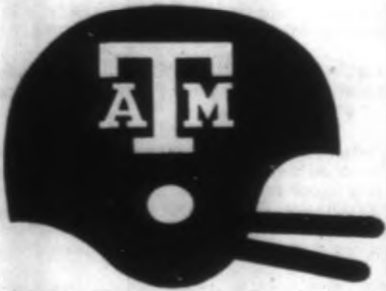
A&M sports information director Alan Cannon mailed a subdued letter to media members, suggesting Lewis' progress this season be charted and, if deserving, he should be considered for post-season honors.

Cannon said Lewis also was photographed in front of a military tank, symbolizing his nickname.

"But he told me he thought the war should be won on the field and he really didn't want a lot of hype," Cannon said.

The Aggies expanded their mailing list and will keep the nation's voters informed of Lewis' achievements.

But the post-season is at least 11 games away and until then Lewis and head coach R.C. Slocum don't want distractions.



"We're not trying to win any Heisman Trophies; we're trying to win football games," Slocum said. "I've talked to Darren about it and he's not the type of player that will be caught up in something like that."

"He walked in here as a freshman and played pretty good and he's got a pretty good understanding of the game."

Lewis rushed for 1,692 yards last season, second on the Southwest Conference all-time list to Earl Campbell's 1,744 yards for Texas in 1977.

Lewis was a first team Associated Press All-American as a sophomore and the SWC offensive player of the year. He's rushed over 100 yards in 22 regular-season games.

He gained 168 yards last season against Oklahoma State, outrushing the nation's leading rusher, Barry Sanders, who beat out UCLA's Troy Aikman and USC's Calvin Peete for the Heisman Trophy.

It will be hard to keep Lewis' heroics quiet this season, but the junior from Dallas hopes the hype is kept to a minimum.

"I don't want anything like what happened with Peete and Aikman," Lewis said. "They had all this buildup and posters and then, boom, Sanders wins the Heisman."

Lewis said that going into the professional ranks after this season was something that he wasn't considering, adding that the NFL would still be there after his senior season at A&M.

Lewis will be a major part of the Aggies' offense this season but Slocum has diversified by adding more passing to provide an option when defenses load up on Lewis.

"If I had to guess, I'd say it would be hard for Darren to come back with the same kind of gear," Slocum said. "We'll do some things with the passing game to keep the pressure off him."

Slocum wants to see fullback Robert Wilson run the football and quarterback Lance Pavlas pass for yardage.

Pavlas said that his position as the No. 1 quarterback for Slocum has enabled him to concentrate on his game.

"It allows you to relax, because you know the job is yours," Pavlas said.

Slocum said that talk of individual awards comes after the season.

"I've never been one to emphasize individual awards," Slocum said. "You see some guys with tomahawks on their headgear for some accomplishment. Our No. 1 goal is to win. If you achieve 10 of your 15 goals and lose the game, you haven't accomplished anything."



Photo by Jay Janner

In the Aggies' first fall scrimmage game in Kyle Field, Keith McAfee breaks through Aggie defender No. 31 on his way to a good gain. Two-a-days have been under way for several days.

## Ryan reaches 5,000-strikeout plateau Jarvis first victim of 'Ryan Express'

ARLINGTON (AP) — Nolan Ryan struck out his 5,000th batter Tuesday night, becoming the first, and perhaps the last, to reach that milestone when he fanned Oakland's Rickey Henderson in the fifth inning.

Ryan went into the game needing six strikeouts, and got them quickly. Facing the Athletics for the first time since 1979, he struck out Jose Canseco in the first inning, Dave Henderson and Tony Phillips in the second, Rickey Henderson and Ron Hassey in the third and finally got Rickey swinging on a 3-2 fastball leading off the fifth.

Ryan tipped his hat to a thundering standing ovation while rookie catcher Chad Kreuter ran the historic ball out to the mound. Ryan's teammates on the field surged to congratulate him and the scoreboard flashed "5,00" as hundreds of flash bulbs popped in the stands.

As per Ryan's request, the game was not stopped and the Rangers in the dugout did not come onto the

field. Ryan returned to business and Carney Lansford followed with a single.

Henderson struck out after fouling off two 3-2 pitches and fanned on a 96 mph fastball, matching his fastest of the night.

A sellout crowd of 43,000, including Commissioner Bart Giamatti and Rangers owner George Bush, son of the president, gave Ryan three standing ovations before the game even started. The fans cheered loudly every time he got two strikes on a batter, and Ryan rarely disappointed them.

Ryan's 5,000th strikeout put him 22 percent ahead of the runnerup, Steve Carlton, who had 4,136. That is the largest margin between two leaders in any lifetime category. Bert Blyleven is second among active pitchers with 3,536.

Ryan began the game with seven straight fastballs, but quickly shifted to changeups and curves. He struck out three in the first two innings, all swinging, and his fastest fastball was 96 mph.

Rickey Henderson opened the

game with a double off the center-field fence and took third on Carney Lansford's grounder before Ryan recorded his first strikeout, getting Jose Canseco to miss a 1-2 curve.

Ryan started the second inning by fanning Dave Henderson on a 2-2 changeup. Mark McGwire walked before Ryan got Tony Phillips to fish for an 0-2 curve.

Several banners in the outfield kept count of Ryan's strikeouts and the crowd began chanting every time an Oakland batter got two strikes.

By the time he made his first pitch, a called strike to Rickey Henderson, Ryan already had gotten three standing ovations. He got cheered when he walked into the outfield to warm up, was applauded when he was announced in the lineup and got another loud cheer when he trotted to the mound to start the game.

Ryan had fanned 1,066 different batters by the time he reached 5,000. The list includes 17 Hall of Famers, 42 Most Valuable Players, six father-son combinations and 11 sets of

brothers.

"If he gets me for the record, I'm going to take the ball out of the catcher's mitt, go to the mound and congratulate him," Rickey Henderson said before the game. When it actually happened, he just walked slowly back to the dugout, but even the Oakland players were smiling at Ryan's accomplishment.

Later in the fifth, Ryan fanned Hassey and Dave Henderson again for his 227th strikeout this season, breaking the team record of 225 by Ferguson Jenkins in 1974.

When the inning ended, Ryan again doffed his cap as he left the field to yet another standing ovation. Teammates surrounded him, along with a flock of photographers. A highlights film depicting Ryan's career was then played on the scoreboard and Rickey Henderson, walking to his position in left field, watched a replay of his milestone strikeout.

Ryan struck out the first batter of his career, Atlanta pitcher Pat Jarvis, as a 19-year-old with the New York Mets on Sept. 11, 1966.

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) — Former Atlanta Braves pitcher Pat Jarvis, now a sheriff in suburban Atlanta, was Nolan Ryan's first strikeout victim in the major leagues — but didn't think much about it.

Ryan, 42 and now with the Texas Rangers, went into Tuesday night's appearance against the Oakland Athletics only six strikeouts shy of 5,000 — a mark no major-league pitcher has ever approached.

The 48-year-old Jarvis, sheriff of DeKalb County for the last 13 years, pitched in the major leagues for eight years, with Atlanta and Montreal. Jarvis, who had a .121 lifetime average as a hitter, doesn't recall that time at bat on Sept. 11, 1966, against the hard-throwing Ryan.

"I really don't remember," Jarvis said this week. "I've been getting calls from all over the country and I tell everyone the same thing: I can't remember."

Jarvis, called up from Class AAA Richmond by the parent Braves in

September 1966, batted 22 times that season, but didn't get a hit that year.

He unwittingly became a part of baseball history when he struck out against the then-19-year-old Ryan.

"Everybody knew of him, but he was so wild no one wanted to dig in on this guy," Jarvis said. "I'm sure I was standing way in back of the box and giving him the whole plate."

Ryan, who also was recalled from the minors late in the 1966 season, by the New York Mets, pitched only three innings that season, but struck out six batters. He spent 1967 in the minor leagues before returning to the majors in 1968.

"I didn't know from Adam's housecat who Nolan Ryan was," Jarvis said. "But I'll be associated with him any day of the week."

Jarvis was not aware of his part in baseball history until Ryan, then with the Houston Astros, broke Walter Johnson's all-time strikeout record six years ago.

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