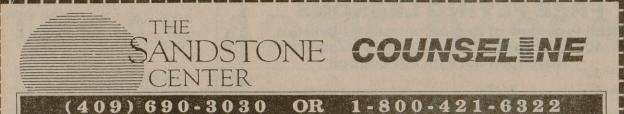
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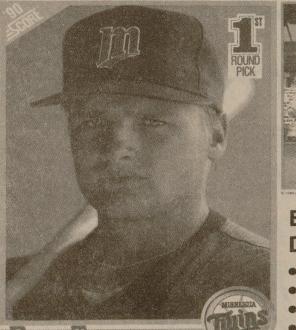
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Williams hunting grounders

By ALAN LEHMANN Of The Battalion Staff

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Travis Williams likes being outdoors

He loves to hunt, camp and fish, but his favorite piece of ground is near third base at Olsen field.

The sophomore third baseman didn't get much playing time last season behind All-American John Byington. But Williams used his time well, winning the Most Valu-able Player award at the Aggie Classic Tournament.

Williams said he didn't feel hurt

by the lack of playing time. "I got a little playing time, and be-ing behind John, I learned a lot about the game," Williams said. "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't recreater."

regret it." He showed his skill at the plate as well, hitting .271 with six home runs. With Byington gone, Williams will inherit the third base job. But, he's not new to it.

He played third base for Austin Westwood High School. More re-cently, he played the position during the summer with teammates Trey Witte and Jason Marshall for Liberal Kansas

Williams said the three worked well together, and he is eager to join them in the Aggie infield in 1990. Although Westwood didn't win a

state championship during Williams' career there, Westwood did get to the 5A championship game twice in

his four years. In 1986, Westwood fell to Chuck Knoblauch's Bellaire team, before losing to Jason Marshall's Abilene Cooper squad in 1988. Williams said he enjoyed growing up in Austin, despite not being a

Longhorns fan. "I liked going down to Disch-Falk Field, and watching the games the-re," he said. "It was nice to see col-lege baseball in action." However, Williams didn't want to be a Longhorn. "I got my fill of Towne before L even got inte colle

Texas before I even got into colle-

ge," he said. Williams said that he enjoys A&M because the people are friendly and the campus is scenic.

Still, the change from high school wasn't completely smooth.

"The first semester was tough, jumping into baseball and school life all at once," Williams said. "I got



Photo by Jay Jann

Travis Williams fields a ground ball during Tuesday's baseball practice. He'll be the starting third baseman in 1990.

mester.

Also, the college pitching gave him problems, mainly in conference, he said

"The biggest difference was the (college pitchers') control of the off-speed pitches," he said. Williams knows all about offspeed pitches. He was the ace of the West-wood staff his last two years. Wil-

liams even pitched them to a victory in the semifinals of the 1988 state

tournament. His fastball was average, about 82 mph, Williams said. So, he relied on his curveball, changeup and sidearm

slider. Still, he knew that he wasn't meant

to be an Aggie pitcher, and was com-fortable being a third baseman.

homesick midway through the se-Although he adjusted well to the

longer collegiate season, playing the long summer season and the orous fall practices left him hausted.

"That really wore me down," W liams said.

So, it's no suprise that Wi looks forward to the winter holi so that he can "put down the bata pick up the fishing rod for a mo or so

Next summer, Williams will ge chance to combine baseball and ing. He'll play summer baseball Alaska, the place he describes as dream vacation spot. But when he returns from Alask

Aggie fans will look forward to see ing him in his natural habitat: Third base at Olsen Field.

The man from Whitehouse hits big time Holt trying to make his mark

By JAY PEDEN Of The Battalion Staff

George Bush's Presidential Library may or may not land in College Station, but another White House resident will be making an impact in Aggieland this baseball season But this man is from Whitehouse,

Tex., a town of 2,100 people eight miles outside of Tyler. If you haven't heard of White-

house, join the crowd.





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The Aggies' newest center fielder once was introduced this way: "This s Tim Holt, and he's from Whitehouse, Tex.' The reaction:

"Everybody just started laughing, and they'd say, 'Whitehouse? Where

the hell's Whitehouse?" Holt said. Some day, Holt just might put

Whitehouse on the map. "If I play well this year, maybe in the future some team may want to pick me up in the draft," Holt said. 'Playing professional baseball isn't something that I've got my heart set on, because there's only a select few that get to do it, but I'd love the chance to try it and see what it is like.

"Once you get there, you never know what you're going to do.

Holt knew early in high school what he wanted to do in college. He told his high school coach he wanted to play baseball, not football. "It wasn't any fun," Holt said. "I like playing football, but our team just never won We had good talent

just never won. We had good talent and everything —'we just didn't win. But we were always good at baseball, from the time I was a freshman until I graduated ... We always made it to

Holt said he was glad to play his college baseball at Texas A&M. "I liked A&M," he said. "I came

down here for the A&M-Texas series three years ago, and I looked at the field and the way they played. I liked it. I was really interested. When I had the chance to come here, I jumped at it.

'It turned out well. It's a nice place to be.

Last year, his first after being redshirted as a freshman, Holt batted 190, but he only had 21 at-bats. He played in 20 games, often as a pinch-runner or defensive replacement.

This season, he'll get more of an opportunity to play.

Kirk Thompson, last year's start-ing center fielder, is in the minor leagues with the Kansas City Royals

organization. Replacing Thompson won't be easy, but Holt said it'll be something he will have to deal with.

'It'll be tough, but I already know what people are going to say about me and about our team this year, just because of the team last year,' Holt said. "We had such a good sea-

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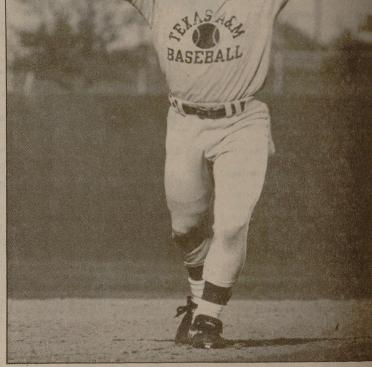


Photo by Jay Janner

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"F high

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Tim Holt will step off the bench and into centerfield.

son. Every little mistake we make, we're going to be compared with last year's team.

"They're going to say, 'Well, if soand-so were here he would have done that,' and, 'If so-and-so were here he would have done this.' But we already know that, and that's going to happen.

"We just have to go out and play our game each time we go out, and concentrate on what we have to do.

Coach Mark Johnson called Holt the team's best defensive outfielder. If his hitting improves from last year, Holt could stay in center field

all season. His goal for this year is not very

lofty. "I just want to play consistently,"

he said. "I've got to concentrate going out to each game - on cons tent play.'

Holt knows it will be a tough set son, since the Aggies lost so maplayers. But he said he isn't over worried.

"I think we're going to surpris lot of people," he said. "We're go to win some games just because the characteristics of our team. erybody out here is a winner. E body out here can play.'

And if Tim Holt can stick in c ter field and help the Aggies back on top of the Southwest (ference, someday no introduct will be necessary.

For him or his hometown.