



1990 Texas A&M Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	Day
February 9	Univ. of Texas-Arlington	3 p.m.	Fri.
10	Univ. of Texas-Arlington (DH)	1 p.m.	Sat.
13	at Sam Houston State	2 p.m.	Tue.
16	Univ. Texas-Pan Am	3 p.m.	Fri.
17	Univ. Texas-Pan Am (DH)	1 p.m.	Sat.
20	Lamar University (DH)	1 p.m.	Tue.
23	at Louisiana Tech	2 p.m.	Fri.
24	at Louisiana Tech (DH)	1 p.m.	Sat.
25	at Northeastern Louisiana (DH)	1 p.m.	Sun.
26	at Northeastern Louisiana	1 p.m.	Mon.
March 2	LSU	3 p.m.	Fri.
3	LSU (DH)	1 p.m.	Sat.
6	Southwest Texas State (DH)	5 p.m.	Tue.
7	at Sam Houston State	2 p.m.	Wed.
10-13	Aggie Invitational • Iowa State • Washington State • St. John's	TBA	Sat.-Tue.
16	Missouri	3 p.m.	Fri.
17	Missouri (DH)	1 p.m.	Sat.
20	Southwestern (DH)	5:30 p.m.	Tue.
23	Texas Tech	7 p.m.	Fri.
24	Texas Tech (DH)	2 p.m.	Sat.
27	Hardin Simmons Univ. (DH)	5:30 p.m.	Tue.
30	at Baylor	2 p.m.	Fri.
31	at Baylor (DH)	12 p.m.	Sat.
April 3	Sam Houston State	7 p.m.	Tue.
6	Rice	7 p.m.	Fri.
7	Rice (DH)	2 p.m.	Sat.
10	Stephen F. Austin (DH)	5:30 p.m.	Tue.
13	at Texas	7 p.m.	Fri.
14	at Texas (DH)	2 p.m.	Sat.
17	Texas Southern Univ. (DH)	5:30 p.m.	Tue.
20	TCU	7 p.m.	Fri.
21	TCU (DH)	2 p.m.	Sat.
27	Houston	7 p.m.	Fri.
28	Houston (DH)	2 p.m.	Sat.
May 4	at Arkansas	7 p.m.	Fri.
5	at Arkansas (DH)	2 p.m.	Sat.
17-19	SWC Tournament at Austin Texas	TBA	

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(Continued from page 8)

of them are pitchers. Sophomore third baseman Travis Williams saw more action than any of the other returning position players. He played in 49 of the Aggies' 65 games, and hit .271 with six home runs.

When All-American John Byington was hurt, Williams stepped in and was named the Most Valuable Player of the Aggie Invitational Tournament. Williams will start at third base this season.

Sophomore Trey Witte played in 40 games as a second baseman and designated hitter. He hit .321 with 14 runs batted in. He'll start the season at second base.

Sophomore shortstop Jason Marshall played in 26 games and hit .417 in 29 at-bats. Marshall returns as a solid starter, and Johnson said he's improved his defense.

Pitchers Ronnie Allen, Pat Sweet and Steve Hughes are the only returning Aggies who pitched at least 50 innings last season.

Allen, a righthander who is expected to be the ace of this year's staff, posted a 9-1 record last season with a 4.66 earned run average.

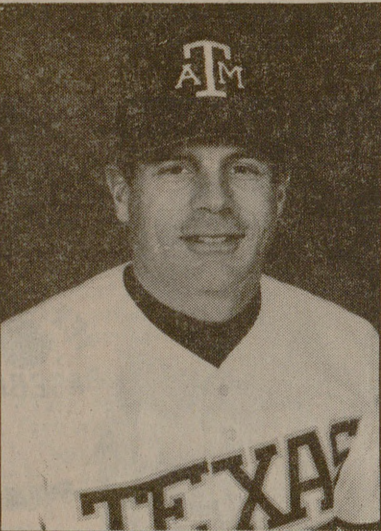
Lawler said Allen has made changes in his mechanics, and that Allen will be a more dominating pitcher this year.

Sweet is a solid lefthander, who relies on control and ground balls for outs. Last year, Sweet showed his durability by leading the Aggies in games started and innings pitched. He posted a 10-3 mark, pitching 116 innings in his 17 starts.

Hughes pitched 53 innings of relief last season, and won both of his decisions. This year, he is expected to work in middle relief and as spot starter.

Other returning players include Tim Holt, John Wood, Jeff Bernet, Scott Daniels and Blake Pyle. Returning pitchers Brent Gilbert, Sean Lawrence and Kerry Fruedenberg also will throw for the Aggies.

Holt is expected to win the center-field spot this season. Coach



Mark Johnson

Johnson said that he likes Holt's defensive talent, but questions his ability to hit.

Wood has been battling Pyle for the catcher's role this fall. Johnson said that he likes Wood's throwing arm and leadership, but would like to see the senior improve his offensive production.

Bernet will start at first base this year. Although he only played in 18 games last season, the sophomore had an excellent fall, Johnson said.

Pyle, who spent time at both

catcher and first base last season, will challenge Wood for the catcher's spot.

Pyle proved that he could hit last season, compiling a .378 average in 22 games. If the Aggies need him, he may also spend some time in the designated hitter's role.

Johnson concedes that the Aggies won't hit as well this season as they did last year, but he likes his pitching staff.

"I feel good about the depth of our pitching staff," Johnson said.

Wood, who has worked with the pitchers, agrees.

"Our pitching staff is as deep as anybody's," Wood said. "They'll carry us."

Wood also likes the junior college transfers.

"They come from good programs, and they're ready to play," he said. "They've got experience and it won't be like having freshmen out there."

With the loss of their top eight hitters, the Aggies' pitching and defense will have to be better this year than in 1989, when A&M scored an average of 9.8 runs per game.

"We'll have a lot more low-scoring games this year," Allen said.

Coach Lawler isn't worried about the quality of hitting or defense. And he sees the whole new lineup as a blessing.

"Our hitting will come around, and our infield is solid," he said. "Actually, I think it's a blessing that we have no big hitters coming back."

"If we had just one guy, like John (Byington) back, he'd have to try to carry the team, and we'd lean on him. With a whole new lineup, we start fresh."

With eight starters gone, the amateur draft hit the Aggies hard. Only time will tell if that makes the young Aggies become hard hitters.

Marshall stepping in at shortstop
Soph maintaining concentration as season starts

By ALAN LEHMANN
Of The Battalion Staff

Jason Marshall has some big cleats to fill. The sophomore shortstop from Abilene will be counted on to take over for All-American Chuck Knoblauch.

Marshall played in 26 games last season, mostly as a backup. Although he was highly-recruited out of high school, Marshall didn't mind waiting for playing time behind Knoblauch.

He said it was a fun learning experience, and it gave him a chance to observe A&M's outstanding 1989 infield.

"If I could mold the perfect player, I'd want (John) Byington's intensity at the plate, Chuck's (Knoblauch) in the field, and (Terry) Taylor's fluid motions," Marshall said. "Taylor's natural abilities are unreal."

All three were taken in the June amateur draft, and have signed professional contracts.

Marshall knows that a lot will be expected of him this season, but he also expects a lot from himself.

He said his goals for 1990 include being named to the All-Southwest Conference team, keeping his errors down and hitting around .330.

Last year he hit .414 in 29 at bats. He also had 10 runs batted in, indicating his clutch-hitting ability.

"I don't think people expect me to hit for a high average, but I have high expectations and I think I can hit," he said.

However, Marshall's highest concern going into this season is mental, rather than physical.

"I think that my biggest goal is to stay on an even emotional keel the whole game," he said. "I need to take the same mentality into every game, and raise it when I have to."

Marshall said he might be too intense to play at his best every day because it drains his energy. It's a trait he picked up in high school, he said.

"It rubbed off from my (high school) coach," Marshall said. "He'd run out and meet you halfway if you

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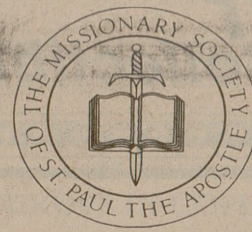
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INFO TABLE
Feb. 6, 7, 8
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Student Union

FILM SHOWING
Wednesday, Feb. 7
MSC 231

INTERVIEWS
Thursday, Feb. 8
Career Planning/Placement Ctr
10th Floor, Rudder Tower