

No. 15 A&M opens 1990 season against UTA

Johnson brings rebuilt squad into new year

By ALAN LEHMANN
 Of The Battalion Staff

A new season. A new team.
 The Texas A&M baseball team opens its 1990 season today, hosting the University of Texas-Arlington, at C.E. Pat Olsen Field. The game starts at 3 p.m.
 The teams will complete the three-game series with a doubleheader Saturday, starting at 1 p.m.
 The Aggies begin the season having lost 14 players — all eight starting position players and six pitchers.
 It will be an entirely revamped team for the Aggies, who came one game away last season from earning a trip to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. The Aggies, 58-7 in 1989, were ranked No. 1 in the country for 11 weeks last season.
 A&M starts out 1990 ranked No. 15 in ESPN/Collegiate Baseball. Baseball America has the Aggies at No. 24 in its season-opening poll.
 Twelve lettermen return for A&M, including part-time starters Travis Williams and Trey Witte. Returning pitchers Ronnie Allen, Pat Sweet and Steve Hughes will anchor the Aggie staff.
 Allen, a sophomore who was 9-1 with a 4.66 ERA last year, will pitch for A&M Friday. He will face UTA's ace, Jeff Burrow. Burrow was 7-5 with a 3.74 ERA last year, but one of his wins was a 2-0 shutout over Texas ace Kirk Dressendorfer.
 A&M Coach Mark Johnson said that he will juggle his starting lineup right up until game time. He also said that most of the Aggies will have playing time sometime during the weekend series.
 The Aggie infield probably will include Williams at third base, Witte at second base, Jason Marshall at shortstop and Jeff Berner at first base.
 The probable A&M outfield is expected to be Chad Broussard in left field, Tim Holt in center field and Dan Robinson in right field.
 The starting catcher will either be John Wood or David Rollen. The designated hitter is still up in the air.
 A&M will start two left-handers in Saturday's games. Senior Pat Sweet, who had a 10-3 mark and 3.57 ERA last season, will throw in the opener. Junior Rich Robertson, a San Jacinto Junior College trans-



Battalion file photo

A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson leads his No. 15 Aggies in the first game of the 1990 season, today at 3 p.m. against UTA at Olsen Field.

fer, will pitch the second.
 The Mavericks will counter with left-hander Paul Paramo, who was 3-5 with a 7.11 ERA last year, and junior transfer Lee Jones.
 Coach Johnson comes into the game with the fifth highest winning percentage

among active college coaches. In his five seasons, Johnson has a .741 percentage.
 Several former Aggie baseball players will participate in the throwing of the first ball, including John Byington, Chuck Knoblauch, Keith Langston and Terry Taylor.

Pitcher Allen starts 1990 baseball season trying to avoid dreaded sophomore slump

By JAY PEDEEN
 Of The Battalion Staff

At the end of last baseball season, freshman pitcher Ronnie Allen was in a slump.
 That's why he really needs to avoid the infamous sophomore slump this season, he said.
 "I want to do better than I did last year," Allen said. "I don't want to fall into a sophomore slump like most people do."
 "Last year, I felt I did well in the beginning, but toward the end I started getting in a slump."

One of Allen's problems was inconsistency due to bad mechanics, and the elbow problems those mechanics gave him in high school, he said.

His last three regular-season Southwest Conference starts saw him shutting down TCU in a complete game, getting bashed around by Houston, and shutting out Arkansas in a complete game in consecutive weekends.

"Last year, I had to rely on my fastball a lot," Allen said. "With my mechanics being down, I really didn't have a very effective breaking ball, and then if I did it would be there one game and gone the other game. It wasn't really consistent."

"This year, I've been working out the kinks in my mechanics. I've got three pitches I can throw for strikes the majority of the time. I think that will help me out a lot."

For Allen, pitching in Houston's 11-3 rout was a nightmare.

"For me, pretty much everything I threw up there, they were hitting," he said. "It was just one of those days."

Several of "those days" gave Allen an ERA of 4.66 in 1989. Amazing run support helped him to a 9-1 record. But gone are the monster hitters and the mechanics problems of last year.

This season should be a better indicator of Allen's pitching ability. Allen credits Aggie pitching coach Jim Lawler with making him a better pitcher.

"When I came to A&M, Lawler was working with me, and through most of the spring I was working on mechanics," Allen said. "I wasn't throwing very hard — I was relying mostly on movement. This summer, I worked on mechanics a lot, and now I feel that I'm back into the power pitching status."

Allen almost didn't bring his power

pitching to Texas A&M.

In 1988, he was selected in the 11th round of the amateur draft by the Seattle Mariners, a team based just a few miles away from where he played high school baseball in Kirkland, Wash.

He was close to signing a professional contract.

"I pretty much had my bags packed," Allen said. "I was going to go."

Instead, he decided to get an education while he had the chance.

"In the long run, that's going to help me out," Allen said. "I can't bank on baseball all



Ronnie Allen

Battalion file photo

my life. I just felt that the college experience would be good for me."

Allen hasn't ruled out a career in professional baseball. His favorite team is the New York Mets, and he said he would like to play for them someday. However, he said he doesn't regret coming to A&M.

"I love it," he said. "On the field and off the field. Its great. The people are super."

See Allen/Page 9

MSC SCONA XXXV PRESENTS

"United States Foreign Aid:
 Purpose, Players & Politics"

Paul Coverdell, U.S. Peace Corps Director

Today: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Rudder Theater

UNITED STATES FOREIGN AID

purpose, players & politics



MSC SCONA XXXV

What is America's role
 in today's sweeping international events?

Bring the world into
 sharper focus

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

All Events Held in Rudder Theater

Free Admission to the Public

Friday, February 9: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Address

"Evaluation of Foreign Aid"
 Paul Coverdell - Director,
 United States Peace Corps

Saturday, February 10: 10-11 a.m.

Closing Address

"The Future of Foreign Aid"
 Dr. Betty Unterberger - Professor of History,
 Texas A&M University

THE SANDSTONE CENTER **COUNSEL LINE**

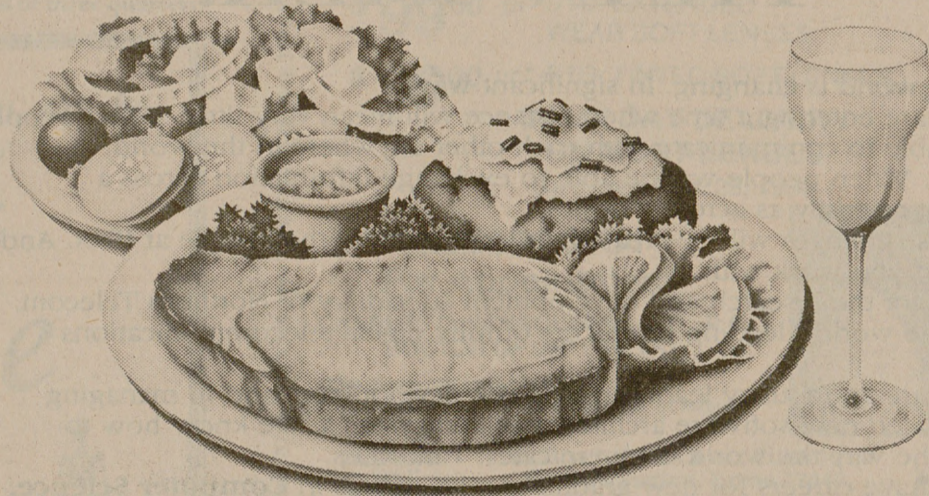
(409) 690-3030 OR 1-800-421-6322

Eating Disorders?
 Depression? Stress? Anxiety?
 Relationship Problems?
 Drug or Alcohol Problem?

Free
 Confidential Consultation
 24 Hours Every Day

Counselor on Campus, Thursday-Saturday, 9:00 p.m.- Midnight
 4201 Texas Avenue South, College Station, Texas 77845

Two Hearts Can Eat
 as One for Just \$19.95



Valentine's Day
 Prime Rib for Two \$19.95

This Valentines Day share a Prime Rib Dinner with someone you love. For an extra treat try our Prime Rib & Scampi or Prime Rib & Fried Shrimp for just \$21.95. Each Valentines Day Prime Rib Dinner comes complete with a glass of champagne, plus soup or salad, baked potato, or rice, or french fries, and horseradish.

BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB
 RESTAURANT & BAR
 A BIT WILD. A BIT CIVILIZED.
 AND QUITE A BIT OF FUN!

6090 GATEWAY EAST BLVD., EL PASO • 5804 N.I-35, AUSTIN
 9110 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY, HOUSTON • 607 TEXAS AVE., COLLEGE STATION