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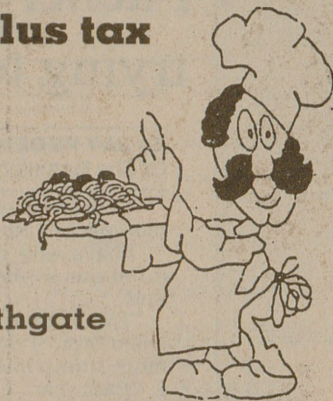
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**Last year's stars come home**

**Former Aggies return to Olsen and get in shape**

By RICHARD TIJERINA  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's baseball practices have seen some familiar faces in recent weeks.

Even as the 1990 season begins Friday, 11 former Aggie players have returned to Olsen Field to start getting in shape for professional baseball's spring training, which starts in a few weeks.

Eight of the 11 players were from last year's 58-7 A&M team, including outfielder Kirk Thompson, second baseman Terry Taylor, shortstop Chuck Knoblauch, third baseman John Byington, first baseman Mike Easley, and pitchers Anthony DeLaCruz, Tim Hermann and Keith Langston.

Also coming back were third baseman Scott Livingstone and pitchers Rob Swain and Sherman Corbett.

All have been drafted by professional teams, and still are trying to break into the major leagues.

However, Knoblauch has been invited to the Minnesota Twins' major league spring training, and Livingstone has been invited to the Detroit Tigers' spring training. Both will have the chance to break into the majors this season.

The only thing preventing Knoblauch and Livingstone the chance of breaking into the majors, Cannon said, is the ongoing possibility that owners will hold a lockout of spring training next week.

Owners have said they will not start spring training as scheduled next Thursday unless players agree to an outline for revenue sharing. Both sides met earlier this week, but failed to come up with a compromise for the 28th time.

Talks between the two sides have been scheduled to resume next week.

Albright, Hermann and Langston all were taken by the Tigers. Byington was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers, DeLaCruz and Easley by the Cleveland Indians, Duke by the Cincinnati Reds, Centala and Thompson by the Kansas City Royals and Taylor by the California Angels.

"We were joking around the other day that we might as well have an All-Star alumni game," A&M sports information director Alan Cannon said. "They've been working off and on at Olsen, trying to get back into



Photo by Jay Janner

**Former All-SWC Aggie shortstop Chuck Knoblauch, now with the Minnesota Twins, works out Tuesday at Olsen Field. Several former players have returned to get in shape.**

shape."

Cannon said the majority of the players that have returned live in Texas, and chose to come back to Olsen Field because of its superior facilities.

"They help each other out," Cannon said. "And Coach Johnson

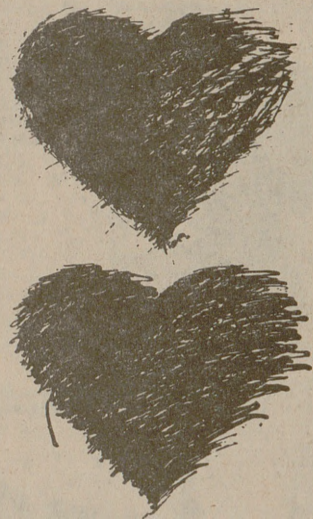
really is pulling for all of them. Their being here goes both ways too. They get to use the great facilities and practice with a great program, but they also rub off on the younger guys still on the team.

"It's great that they come back the way they do. It's a nice payoff!"

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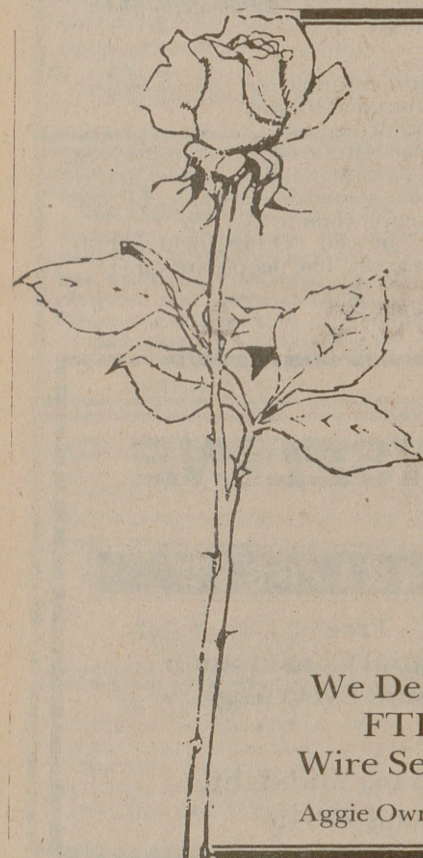
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**Thornton: 'We have to be more consistent' Ags, Mustangs meet in Dallas in SWC matchup**

By CLAY RASMUSSEN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Look at Southern Methodist basketball and you might see a hint of the trouble Texas A&M is experiencing.

The Aggies and Mustangs clash Saturday night at Moody Coliseum in Dallas. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Both teams are suffering from offensive inconsistency. After Wednesday's 72-67 loss to fourth place Texas Christian, A&M head coach John Thornton said that although his defense has been nothing short of spectacular, the Aggies offense has done nothing more than sputter.

He said SMU is suffering the same types of offensive problems.

"Like us, SMU has a little bit of a problem with their consistent guard play," Thornton said. "They have at times gotten great plays from a freshman named Gerald Lewis, who shot well down here, but wasn't able to do anything against TCU."

After a promising performance in the league's first half of play, Lewis has been in a shooting slump.

He scored only three points against Baylor, and recorded only two against TCU.

Still, he is dependable in a clutch

situation. In the SMU-Rice game, Lewis hit a 20-foot jump shot with 17 seconds left to send the game into overtime.

However, Thornton said the Aggies will have to be more concerned with the Mustangs' center, John Colborne.

"They count on Colborne big time," Thornton said. "He's more like a power forward playing around the basket, but he can always shoot the three pointer. He's a very solid inside player."

Colborne leads SMU in scoring average with 17.4 points a game.

But even Colborne had to battle back from the worst slump of his season. Defenses consistently shut Colborne down from the inside, limiting him to only 27 total points in the last three games.

Colborne finally was able to break inside against Baylor, scoring a season high 24 points.

Thornton's Aggies also are suffering from a lack of production on the offensive side of the court.

Although pleased with his defense, Thornton said A&M can't win with just it alone.

"We as a group have to be consistent on both ends of the floor," Thornton said. "The other night (against TCU) we had a great de-

fensive effort, but then we'd come down and turn the ball over on the transition."

Senior guard Tony Milton, who scored 24 points against TCU, continues to lead A&M and provides most of their output.

In order to beat SMU, Thornton said A&M needs to achieve the following goals:

- Control the ball — against TCU, the Aggies 16 turnovers.
- Force SMU's offense to rush its shots — if allowed to set up their offense, the Mustangs rarely turn the ball over.
- Get the forwards inside and rebound — A&M hasn't been able to pull down the offensive rebounds and are missing out on second and third shooting opportunities.

Thornton said he hopes to achieve these goals by placing some new faces in the Aggies starting lineup.

"We might shake up the lineup a little," Thornton said. "I want to look at some other people now and see if I can get any play out of them."

A&M is 11-13 overall and 4-6 in Southwest Conference action. SMU is in eighth place in the conference with a 7-13 record, 2-7 in SWC play. The Mustangs are coming off a 63-49 loss at the hands of Notre Dame Thursday.

**Lady Ags tie for third**

By VINCE SNYDER  
Of The Battalion Staff

After defeating Texas Christian University on Tuesday, the Texas A&M women's basketball team moved into a three-way tie with two other teams for third place in the Southwest Conference.

Now they take that third-place ranking on the road.

The Lady Aggies travel north to play Southern Methodist Saturday at Moody Coliseum.

Tipoff is set for 3:30.

With a 84-70 win over the Lady Horned Frogs at G. Rollie White, A&M has inched its way closer to the top of the SWC standings.

"It was a very important win for us, and we were able to protect our home court advantage," A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said. "TCU has a fine, fine team, and I wouldn't look forward to having to play them again."

A 12-2 run in the first half of Tuesday's game helped the Lady Aggies pull away from TCU and go on to post a 35-27 lead at half-time.

TCU cut A&M's lead to two points, 45-43, midway through the second period. But the Lady Aggies responded with another run, this time outscoring the Lady Frogs by a 16-6 count on their way to a final 14-point margin of victory.

The Lady Aggies are tied with both TCU and Texas Tech, with all three teams sporting a 6-4 league record.

However, SMU has not been so lucky. The Mustangs lost to TCU, 71-53, last Saturday in Fort Worth. With that loss the Mustangs fell to 2-15 overall and 1-9 in the SWC.

"We've gone there lots of years

See Lady Ags/Page 9

**Jordan aiming for 3-point title Saturday**

MIAMI (AP) — Michael Jordan, winner of two All-Star slam-dunk titles, will shoot for three Saturday night.

Not three titles, but three points. The acrobatic Jordan decided to skip the slam-dunk contest and enter the 3-point shootout for the first time. The two events will be part of All-Star Weekend at Miami Arena.

"I made the decision for the good of the team and myself," the Chicago Bulls' star said. "It's very exhausting being out there and dunking and competing. It takes its toll, and I'm going to try to save something for the second half of the season."

Jordan's concern with the slam-dunk competition wasn't so much the height of the rim as the height of fan expectations. He has discovered that Michael Jordan is a tough act to follow.