



**Richard Tijerina**  
Sports Editor

## R.C. will fall in love with this year's recruits

Tomorrow looks like it'll be more than simply Valentine's Day. It's going to be a recruiting day that A&M football coach R.C. Slocum will fall in love with.

This year's recruiting season has been even more successful than Slocum's inaugural 8-4 campaign that saw his Aggies finish as Southwest Conference runner-ups and participants in the John Hancock Bowl.

After harvesting several banner crops in the mid-1980s under former Coach Jackie Sherrill, the Aggies have been hurt in recent years. Most noticeably, last year A&M could sign only 13 high school players. None of them made an impact last season, and A&M's top recruit signed a professional baseball contract with the Cleveland Indians.

The big winner over the last few seasons has been Texas. But Coach David McWilliams has failed to do anything with his prized talent.

Enter Slocum, who took control of an Aggie football program still stained with the muck of an NCAA investigation. Slocum has turned A&M football around, and even transformed it into something it hasn't known for years.

An honest one.

It showed during this year's recruiting season, for even though the Aggies didn't win the conference, they looked poised to grab it in the seasons to come. Obviously, high school athletes

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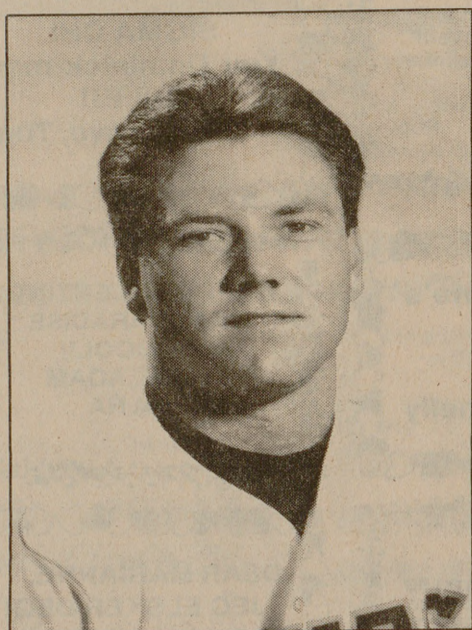
## Ags claw Bearkats, have hitting woes

By RICHARD TIJERINA  
Of The Battalion Staff

HUNTSVILLE — In a season not expected to be kind at the plate to Texas A&M baseball, the Aggies had to get by with the help of some timely hitting Tuesday against Sam Houston State University.

Left fielder Chad Broussard broke a 1-1 tie in the sixth inning with a three-run homerun, and the Aggies went on to defeat the Bearkats 4-2 in front of about 600 fans at Holleman Field.

A&M improved to 4-0 on the season. The Aggies were expected to struggle offensively in 1990, and they showed why



**Chad Broussard**

Tuesday against the 1-2 Bearkats. A&M managed only five hits in the game.

But Broussard's homerun made up for A&M's otherwise weak offensive showing.

The junior transfer from San Jacinto Junior College took a 3-1 pitch from SHSU starter Tom Jones and planted it over the left field wall. Broussard knocked in right fielder Dan Robinson and catcher Blake Pyle to give the Aggies a three-run lead.

"I was just trying to knock the runs in," Broussard said. "I only hit it about 301 feet,

but that's all right. I'll take it. I didn't think it would get out, but I guess the wind held it up long enough."

Broussard's homerun, his first of the season, proved important. Two innings earlier, A&M starter Kerry Freudenberg ran into trouble was taken out by Coach Mark Johnson.

After the Aggies had gone up 1-0 in the top of the fourth inning, Freudenberg walked three straight SHSU batters to load the bases with one out. But Freudenberg's replacement, senior Brent Gilbert, shut down any hopes of a Bearkats rally.

With a 3-2 count on pinch hitter Chris Stegent, Gilbert fooled the senior catcher with an offspeed slider. Center fielder Mario Cotton then narrowly missed a triple as his line drive down the first base line went inches foul. Gilbert got Cotton to ground out to Aggie second baseman Trey Witte to end the inning.

Gilbert, who earned the win to improve to 1-0, said he knew he had to come in and not allow SHSU any runs, even if the bases were loaded.

"With the bases loaded, I'm sure (Stegent) wasn't expecting a slider," Gilbert said. "It felt good. With the pitching staff we have, when you get your chance you have to make the most of it. There's always someone right behind you."

After getting out of the fourth-inning jam, Gilbert had no trouble making the most of his appearance. He breezed through three more innings before giving way to junior reliever Jason Bullard. Bullard earned his second save of the season.

"Brent was the key to the ballgame for us," Johnson said. "We couldn't afford to walk anybody, and he came in and really shut them down. That really was a lift for us."

The remainder of the game went quietly. After Broussard's homerun, it appeared the Bearkats weren't going to give the Aggies much of a fight the rest of the way. But SHSU made it interesting in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Down 4-1, Bullard struck out Cotton on three straight pitches for the first out. Jones, who had moved from pitcher to right field, then hit a sizzling line drive off Bullard's arm. It ricocheted toward A&M's Travis Williams at third base, and the Aggies didn't have a play.

Bullard remained in the game, and

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## Waiting for some maroon recruits



Battalion file photo

A&M Coach R.C. Slocum hopes to have one of the best recruiting classes A&M has ever had Wednesday on national signing day. The Aggies are expected to have one of the best classes in the nation.

## Lady swimmers lose to Texas

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies swim team lost its last meet of the season to Texas Tuesday night at the P.L. Downs Natatorium. The Lady Longhorns captured seven individual events, in addition to a relay to down A&M 67-35.

The Lady Aggies' only individual victory came from sophomore Laura Grimes, who finished first in the 100-breaststroke.

The Lady Aggies were at a disadvantage as Texas used all its top swimmers, while A&M Coach Mel Nash gave his reserves a shot before going into the Southwest Conference Championships.

"I was shocked that Texas swam as many good people in the events as it did," Nash said. "Texas is definitely one of the top

three teams in the nation."

Longhorn swimmer Dana Dutche claimed first place in both the 100- and 200 freestyle.

The meet was the last of the season for both Texas and A&M. Swimmers will now focus on preparing for next week's SWC Championships. The meet is scheduled Feb. 22-24 at the Texas Swimming Center in Austin.

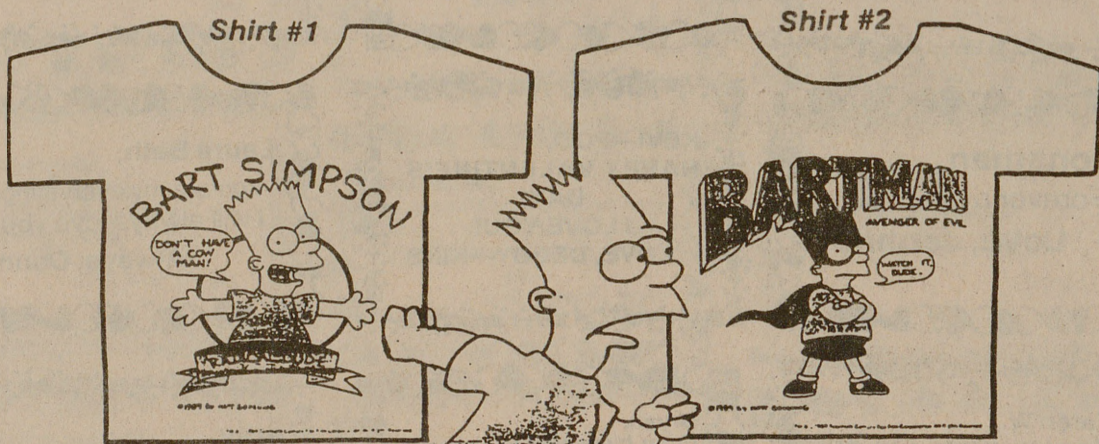
Nash said that Texas, Arkansas and Southern Methodist should finish in the top three spots but he said the Aggies will be aiming for fourth.

"It should be an exciting battle between (A&M), Houston and Texas Christian University," Nash said.

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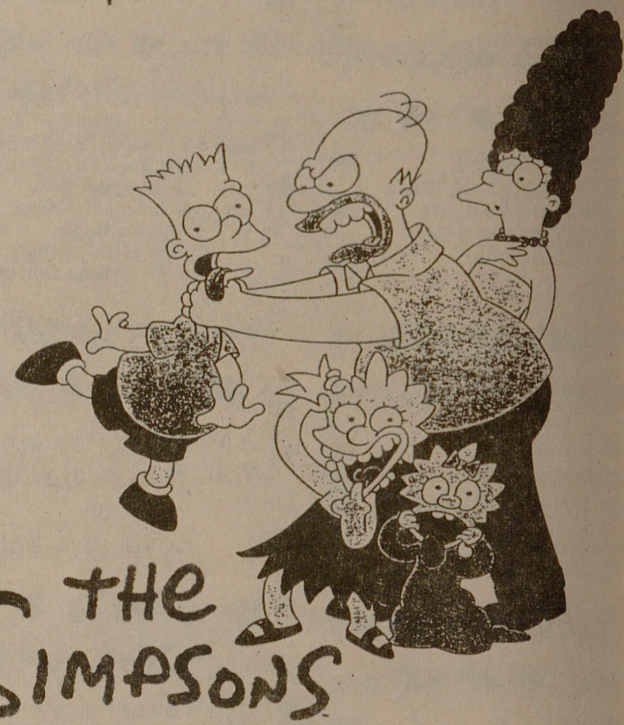
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