



Alan Lehmann
Senior Sports Writer

More money for baseball players not a new idea

Was there ever a time when the only kind of green that baseball players cared about was the infield grass?

I doubt it. But like most Americans, I'd like to think that once upon a time, the major leagues were made up of men who loved to play more than they lusted for pay.

The sad fact is that baseball players are as human as the rest of us, and they've always sought bigger paychecks. Greed seems to be a recent trend because players finally have gained the clout to seek (and receive) seemingly outrageous salaries.

Don't feel sorry for the owners. Only within the last decade have salaries caught up with revenue increases.

Until the early 1920s, baseball players were less educated than today's players, and were easily pushed around by owners. As a result, players barely made enough money to survive.

There is little data available on average player salaries of the time, but the biggest stars in the game were paid relatively small salaries.

Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson earned \$8,000 and \$10,000 a year, respectively, at the height of their fame. Ty Cobb held out for a raise in 1912, and got a little over \$11,000.

That seems like a tiny sum now, but considering the average worker made roughly \$500 per year, \$10,000 was a healthy sum.

The low salaries can be attributed to tight-fisted owners, the lack of mass media and an abundance of smaller baseball leagues.

Charles Comiskey, who owned the Chicago White Sox, was one of the most noted skin-flint owners. He allegedly paid his players so little that they accepted money from gamblers to "throw" the 1919 World Series.

The resulting scandal rocked the baseball world in 1920 and attendance suffered. Pro baseball, already on shaky ground, was looked upon as a shady sport and fans openly wondered how many other games were fixed.

But in 1920, America's perception of baseball changed. Babe Ruth, formerly a Boston Red Sox pitcher, was traded to the New York Yankees.

Ruth was converted to an outfielder so that the Yanks could take advantage of his power hitting. In 1920 he hit 54 home runs — more than any team in the major leagues.

No longer was baseball a game of dominating pitchers and slap hitters.

See Lehmann/Page 8

Ags Milton, Harris honored by AP

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Two members of the Texas A&M men's basketball team were awarded 1989-90 Associated Press All-Southwest Conference honors Wednesday.

Milton was named to the first team, and Harris was named as one of five top newcomers in the league.

They were the only two Aggies chosen by AP.

Milton, widely respected as one of the top point guards in the nation and the only senior on AP's first team, has shattered A&M record books since transferring from Central Florida Junior College in 1988.

He has recorded 205 assists this year, breaking A&M's single season record that was set by Darryl McDonald in 1987-88.

Milton also broke the single game assist record in the Aggies loss to Marshall University last December, with 15 assists.

"Tony has had a great year," assistant coach Larry Cockrum said. "He's always been a very consistent player for us and he deserves being all conference."

Harris, A&M's star forward who has blocked over 100 shots this season, was named to the AP's newcomer's team.

Harris too has shattered records since transferring to A&M from Mississippi County Community College last year.

"David has always done a great job, defensively," Cockrum said. "He's the only player in the SWC other than (Houston's) Akeem Olajuwon to block 100 shots in a single season."

Fifty-nine of Harris' 100 blocks came in SWC play, breaking former A&M forward Winston Crite's single season record of 40.

In addition to Milton, senior guard Travis Mays, the University of Texas gifted gunner from Ocala, Fla., join two members of the regular season champion Arkansas Razorbacks in the AP's SWC team.

Mays, who fought through the last fourth of the season with an injured shooting hand but still produced double digit outings, received eight votes from league coaches as the SWC Offensive Player of the Year.

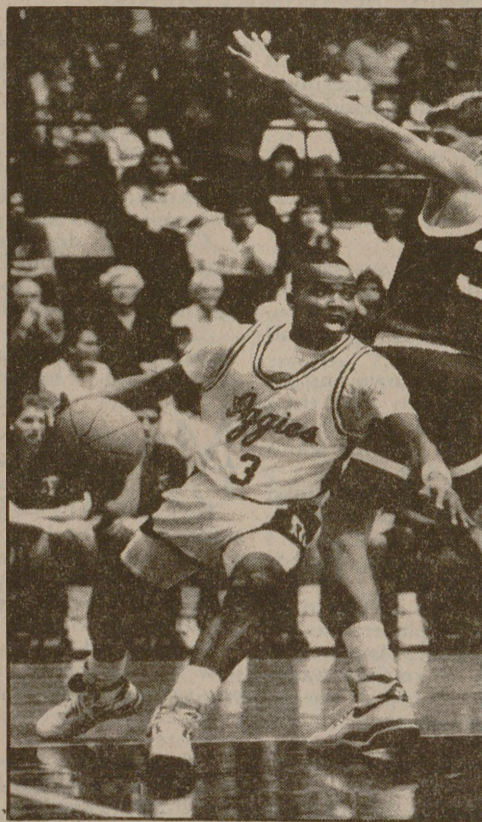


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

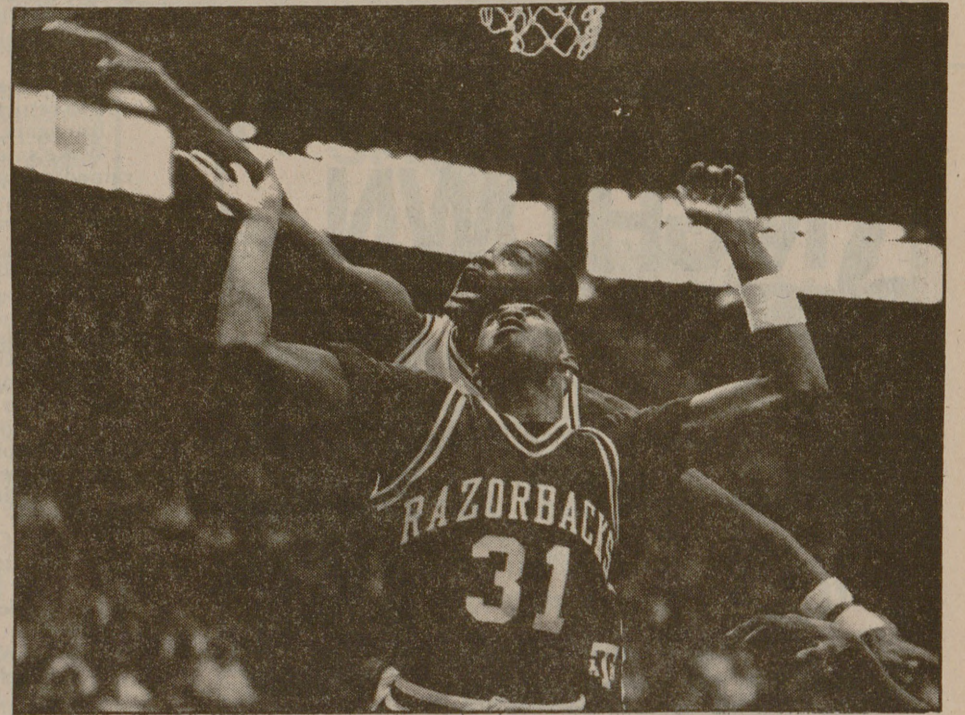


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

A&M basketball players Tony Milton (left) and David Harris (above) were awarded All-Southwest Conference honors Wednesday by the Associated Press. The Aggies begin the SWC Tournament on Friday against Texas.

Mays led the SWC with an average of 23.9 points per game.

Other members of the mythical first team as picked by the nine coaches included sophomores Todd Day and Lee Mayberry, the one-two offensive punch of the ninth-ranked Razorbacks and junior Carl Herrera, the University of Houston's scoring machine from Guanare, Venezuela.

Day averages 19.4 points, Mayberry 15

points, and Herrera averaged 16.1 points per contest.

Milton also was second in assists, doling out an average of 6.8 assisted hoops per contest.

The second team was also deeply talented and included Arkansas sophomore center Oliver Miller, Houston's junior Craig Upchurch, junior guard Joey Wright of Texas, Texas Christian's ace rebounder

and scorer Craig Sibley, and Baylor's Julius Denton and Southern Methodist's John Colborne, who tied in balloting for the fifth and final spot.

Sibley, Denton, and Colborne are seniors.

Tony Edmond of Texas Christian, whose quick hands led to numerous steals, was named the Defensive Player of the Year by the coaches.

Aggie bats grow cold No. 18 A&M falls to SHSU, 4-3

By RICHARD TIJERINA
Of The Battalion Staff

HUNTSVILLE — Left fielder Chad Broussard stepped to the plate Wednesday faced with the same situation the Aggies faced so many times last season: two outs, two strikes and trailing in their last at bat.

Down 4-2 in the ninth inning, Broussard responded with a solo home run on a full count to bring No. 18 A&M to within one run of Sam Houston State University, but the Aggies couldn't scrape one more run and fell to the Bobkats 4-3 at Holleman Field.

A&M dropped to 15-6 on the year.

It was a different Aggie team than the night before, when A&M pounded out 23 hits — 11 of them for extra bases — in a doubleheader sweep over Southwest Texas State at Olsen Field.

A&M had eight hits Wednesday. The Aggies seemed to have felt the effects of playing a road game after a late doubleheader the night before that didn't

| A&M vs. SHSU | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|---|---|-----|---|
| | ab | r | h | rbi | |
| Texas A&M | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Holt, cf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Witte, b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Williams, 3b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Robinson, rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rollen, dh | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Broussard, lf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Thomas, 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Marshall, ss | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Wood, c | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sam Houston State | ab | r | h | rbi | |
| Jones, rf | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Cotton, cf | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Copes, lf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Talio, c | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Turlington, 3b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kridler, dh | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Vollmering, 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Carmichael, ss | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ferrell, 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Verastegui, ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

end until 10:30. A&M played Wednesday just like the weather: cold and sluggish.

"We just couldn't get our bats going in this game," said third baseman Travis Williams, who scored on a solo home run in the

fifth inning, his fourth of the year. "Our bats were pretty cold."

If the Bobkats were waiting for the Aggie bats to warm up as the game went on, they didn't have to worry. A&M never got on track.

The Aggies had bases loaded twice, but failed to capitalize either time.

A&M got its first run in the second inning. David Rollen lined a single between SHSU first baseman Clint Turlington and second baseman John Carmichael. Broussard followed with a line drive off the Bobkat starter's elbow. Broussard was thrown out, but Rollen advanced to second.

Aggie first baseman Brian Thomas singled to move Rollen to third, and shortstop Jason Marshall knocked him in on a sharp single between first and second base.

But A&M's 1-0 lead was short-lived. The Bobkats responded with a run in the bottom half of the inning. Designated hitter Gene Kridler drove Aggie starter Brent Gil

See Cold Bats/Page 8

Lady Ags fall to Lady Cougars in SWC Tourney

By VINCE SNYDER
Of The Battalion Staff

The Lady Aggies' basketball team was hoping for a little sun to shine on them as they entered the first round of the Southwest Conference Women's Basketball Tournament Wednesday night against the Lady Cougars, but bad weather prevailed once again.

A&M lost a hardfought battle with UH, who came away with a 77-69 victory at Moody Coliseum in Dallas.

"I thought we played much better tonight," A&M coach Lynn Hickey said. "We were concerned that we would come out and play like a team tonight."

It was a close game from the start with the lead changing hands seven times. Houston was able to milk a seven-point lead over A&M in the first half, but not after A&M tied the game nine times during the first 13 minutes.

The Lady Cougars were able to connect

See Game/Page 8

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