

# Last year's infielder dons '91 pitcher's role

## At WITTE'S END

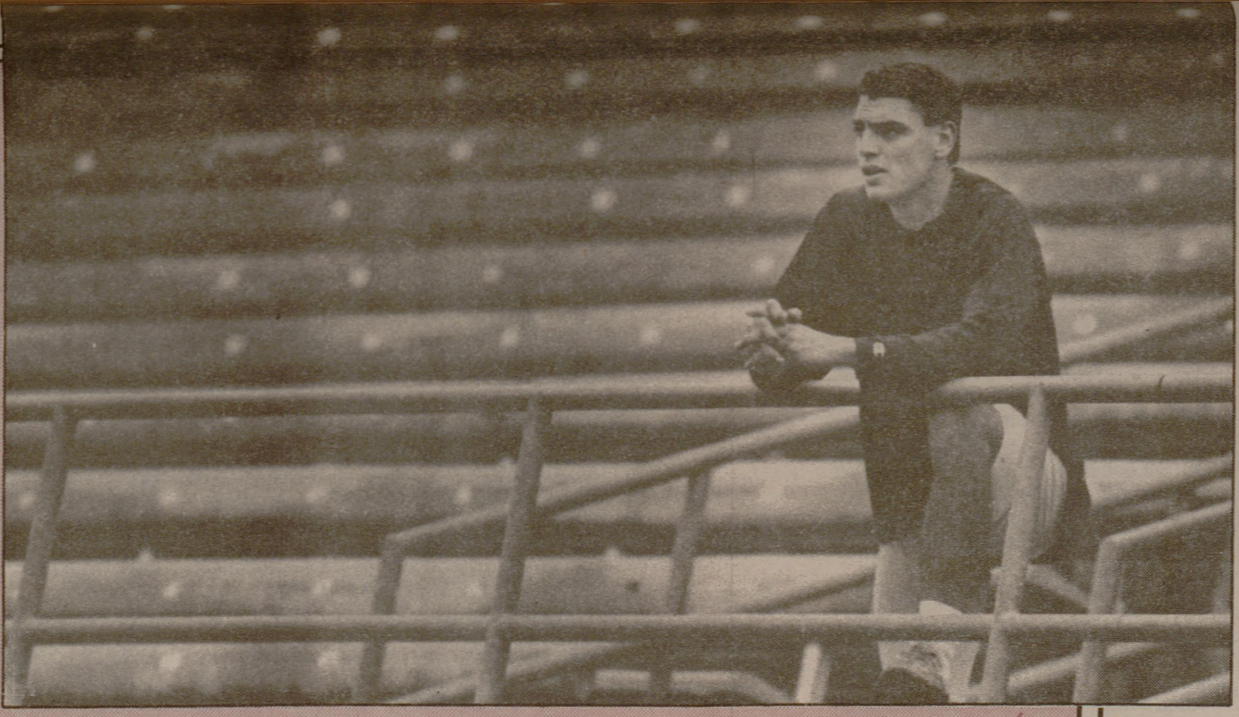
By Cam Lockley  
Of The Battalion Staff

Last season Trey Witte was a fixture at second base. But this season, he may be called on to fix the Aggie bullpen crisis. Witte, a junior agricultural economics major, played in 55 of the 60 Texas A&M baseball games last year. Witte will be making a lot of changes this season. A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson said Witte will leave second base and split time between pitcher and designated hitter. "Trey might be our answer out of the bullpen this year," Johnson said. "He'll play a key role on our team and get plenty of at bats." Witte hit .253 with three home runs last year, following a stellar 1989 campaign in which he hit .321 as a freshman. Witte's hold on second base was put in question when standout second base-

man Sittichoke Huckuntod transferred to A&M. Huckuntod left Central Missouri State, where he was a two-time All-American as well as the Division II Academic Player of the Year, because CMS dropped the engineering curriculum he was pursuing. Johnson was impressed by Huckuntod's ability to make things happen both offensively and defensively. "He's a sparkplug," Johnson said. "He makes the big plays on defense and has great speed on the bases." While Huckuntod's physical ability impressed Johnson, so did Witte's ability to adapt. "Good things are going to happen to a player with his unselfishness and positive outlook," Johnson said of Witte. Witte said that being on the field has its advantages over designated hitting. "The only thing I like about playing the field is you have something to do right away," Witte said. "You don't sit

and sulk about your last at bat. You can pretty much get it off your mind. "Pitching is the same way — you have to be in the game the whole time. I think it's better for you." Although Witte hasn't pitched in his college career, Johnson said in a season preview that Witte throws the ball hard and has a good slider, but that it is just a case of Witte getting comfortable on the mound. Witte agreed with Johnson, and said it was going to take some time. "I'm working as hard as I can, but I don't know what to expect," Witte said. "I still have a little ways to go. I'll get a couple of appearances under my belt and each time I'll get a little more comfortable." Witte said that pitching is going to be his toughest challenge for the year, which he described as 75 percent mental and 25 percent physical. "Every pitch is obviously you," Witte said. "It's going to take a matter of ad-

justment." The toughest challenge Witte sees for the team is just picking themselves up after the end of last year, when the Aggies dropped five of their last six games and failed to make the SWC Tournament. "We didn't play good and that's pretty much what everybody is remembering, especially ourselves," Witte said. "We've got the people to do it. It is just a matter of executing what we all know we can do." The season is just beginning and Witte is ready to play. Witte said it is going to be fast and furious in the Southwest Conference and sees Arkansas and Texas as A&M's toughest competitors, with Houston not far behind. "Last year kind of turned out ugly toward the end," Witte said. "I think everybody has been waiting all summer to get back out there and prove how good a team we are."



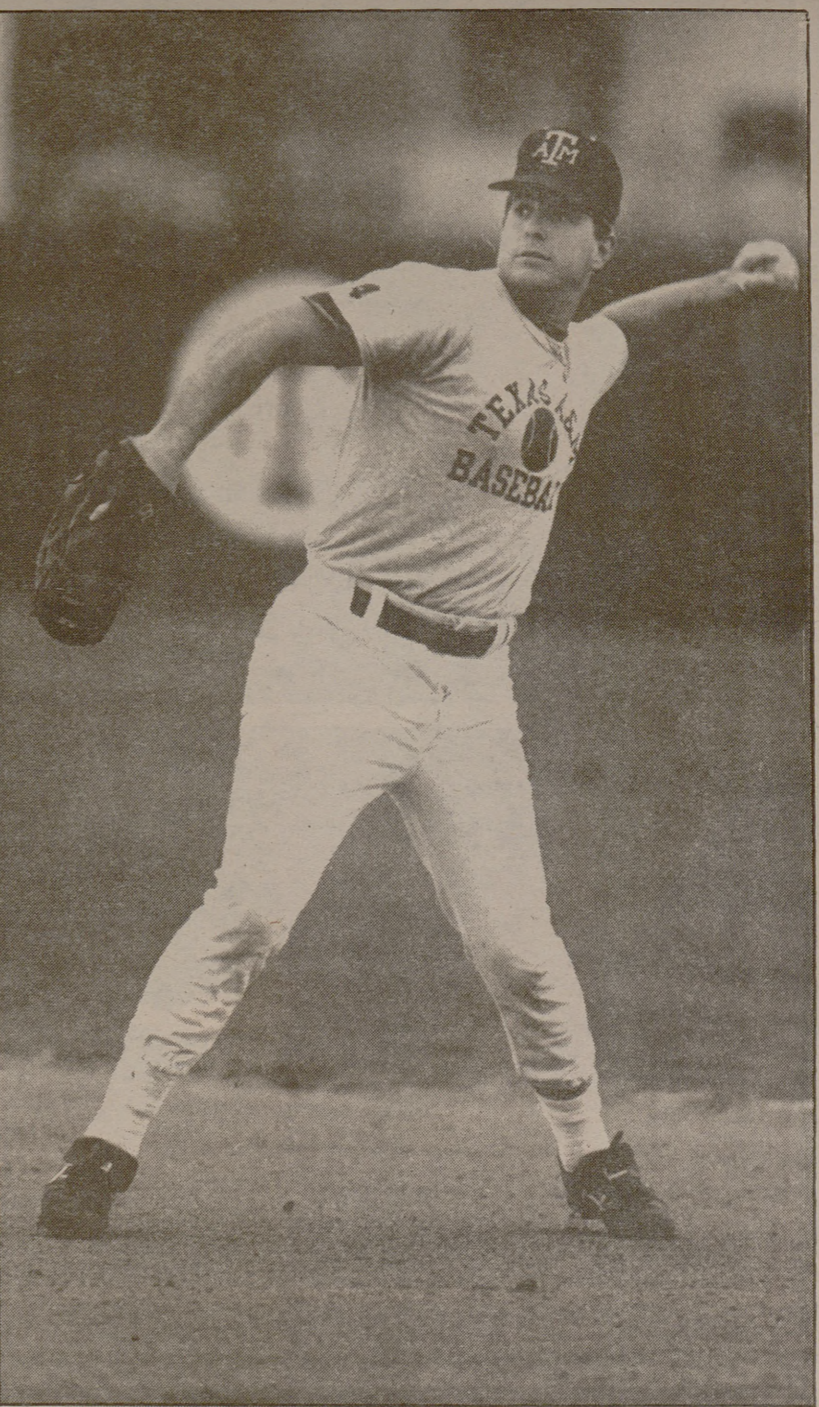
KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Trey Witte, who played second base last year, looks to come out of the bullpen in 1991.

# Colby to muscle up for Aggies

By Anthony Andro  
Of The Battalion Staff

Conrad Colby lives for pressure. "They say pressure's just a lack of confidence in your ability," Colby said. "If you can't take pressure at this level, you'd better get out of the game." Hearing these words from the big six-foot first baseman has to make a Texas A&M baseball fan smile. "A lot of guys don't want to be at the plate with two outs in the ninth inning," he said. "You've got to thrive for that." Colby will have his chance. He will probably be batting fourth in coach Mark Johnson's batting order this season. "I like the four spot, I've been there all summer," Colby said. "I'm comfortable there." Colby is a junior sports management major who transferred from A&M last fall after playing two years at Rancho Santiago junior College in Santa Ana, Cal. For Colby, the decision to come to Texas A&M was an easy one to make. "I wanted to get out of California and see another part of the country," he said. "I think I made the best choice and I don't regret it." The other choices Colby had were to stay home and go to Cal-State Fullerton or give professional baseball a try. "What it came down to was the Royals or college," said Colby, who was drafted in the 42nd round by the Kansas City Royals following the 1989 season. "My mom left it up to me and I didn't feel the Royals were my best choice." Leaving California was a new experience for Colby, who said that he has lived in California all his life and that the longest he had been away was a little over two months during the summer. Colby said he has noticed a big difference between California and Texas. "The people are a lot different," he said. "Everyone (in Texas) was kind of too friendly. It shocked me at first. Now I understand where they are coming from." There also were some difficulties with school after Colby's transfer from junior college. "Big change. Big, big change from junior college," Colby said. "It hasn't been an easy adjustment. I've got to work hard and just battle through it. It kind of hits you like a ton of bricks." Even though classes are more difficult, Colby likes the school. "I love it," he said. "All I heard was that it was really different. It's different. I enjoy it. I think I fit in pretty

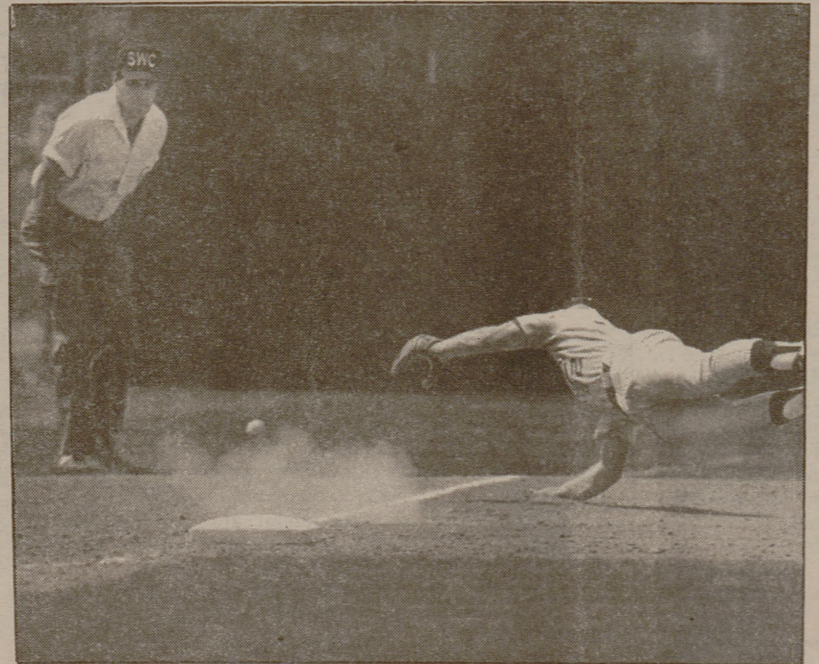


KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Junior transfer Conrad Colby is pegged to play first base.

well." One area Colby had no problems with was the adjustment to his new teammates. "I can't say enough good things about them," he said. "It's perfect, I guess you could say." Aggie baseball coach Mark Johnson said Colby reminds him of another former Aggie — former All-American John Byington. "Conrad's mentally into each at bat such as a John Byington," Johnson said. "Byington and Colby both have their game plans and study pitchers." Although Colby has played in front of big crowds at the Connie Mack World Series in Arizona, he is looking forward to playing in front of the fans at Olsen Field. "I experienced (big crowds) a little bit in high school after my senior year," he said. "I've heard the games here are pretty wild." If Colby can perform under pressure like Byington, he will get to see how wild the fans can get.

playing ball in Canada. "Hopefully there are a few guys here who will be able to provide some power," he said. "We've got some hitters on this club. It will be interesting to see what will happen this year." Aggie baseball coach Mark Johnson said Colby reminds him of another former Aggie — former All-American John Byington. "Conrad's mentally into each at bat such as a John Byington," Johnson said. "Byington and Colby both have their game plans and study pitchers." Although Colby has played in front of big crowds at the Connie Mack World Series in Arizona, he is looking forward to playing in front of the fans at Olsen Field. "I experienced (big crowds) a little bit in high school after my senior year," he said. "I've heard the games here are pretty wild." If Colby can perform under pressure like Byington, he will get to see how wild the fans can get.



S. WEAVER/The Battalion

Third baseman Travis Williams returns to the hot corner this year to anchor the Texas A&M infield. Last year, Williams .273 average was fourth-best on the Aggie squad. His eight homers tied for the team lead and he led the team with 40 RBI's.