SPORTS

The Battalion

Ake Monday, February 18, 1991

ands Confessions of a raqis former baseball were pre-no way to card junkie They were y in Wash-

Love makes you do funny

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get baseball I've paid outrageous sums of money for the little pieces of mind now should be ardboard, given plasma to get money for them and angered my ished for nd atrociiancée countless r attention ce Hussein

Sports Editor imes over my weakness for cardboard. I've even driven 500 miles to get free baseball cards at a Texas Rangers game.

Alan Lehmann

Crazy things. But I haven't been this way for long. A little over a year ago, I thought paseball card collecting was stupid. I used to laugh at others who spent big bucks on thin cardboard slices, and I owed that the sickness would never strike me

ey couldn't Last year it did. Stuck in my hometown over Spring Break, I decided to check out the baseball card shop near ny house, just for laughs. But I wasn't laughing long. I had lways been a big baseball fan, and I was

suddenly surrounded by cards of all my favorite players. I bought a Rangers team set, 1990 Fleer. iren I didn't realize until later that the five

bucks I spent on it was an outrageous price. But I didn't care, I still wanted to have Rangers cards to admire. So I started hanging around the card shop, and by the end of the week, I was hooked. I bought a Ruben Sierra rookie card (1987 Fleer) and a couple of boxes

y have en quences," inual mee of 1990 cards, trying to put together tiation for # Fleer and Score sets. My obsession started innocently

comes may enough, as I opened each pack of linquencya slowly and examined each card. I or," she sai enough, as I opened each pack of cards enjoyed looking at the pictures and examining the statistics on the backs.

e reported University **Rude awakening**

ared 23 ph But then I bought my first Beckett Baseball Card Magazine, the 'bible' of vith 75 sin abused. baseball card price lists and checked the alue of my newfound treasures. I d from page looked on in horror as I saw that most of the cards that I had just shelled out for vere worth next to nothing in the

Beckett guide. of the regionore killing Thinking it was a mistake, I took the cards that I had duplicates of back to the ant to see t baseball card shop, hoping to swap some of them for more Sierra cards. I had all the good cards, a Dwight Gooden, a Jose another pro-late student s to work to the soldier the soldier the soldier anseco, a Jacksons. Canseco, a Cal Ripken and two Bo

I was dismayed when the card dealer shook his head and told me my cards

t the troop ed. "Does" "I'll give you a quarter each for the Bos," he said, "but I've got plenty of the others."

I protested that the Bo cards were rom page worth almost a dollar each in Beckett, but to no avail. He just pointed to a stack of Bos and said he already had more

By Douglas Pils The Battalion

FORT WORTH — In keeping with the plan for the 1991 Southwest Conference Indoor Track Championships, Texas A&M's track and field teams improved upon last year's performance, while Arkansas and Texas ran away with the men's and

women's titles, respectively. Finishing fourth, the Aggie men's team slipped a notch from last year's performance, but their 53 points was a five-point improvement from a year ago. Arkansas won its 11th straight indoor championship with 151 points as it heads to the Southeastern Conference next year.

Baylor was second with 93 points on the was third with 60 points. The women's team took fifth place, an improvement from sixth last year, with 30

points. Juniors Gwen Buck and Amy Paulsen paced the Aggies with second-place fin-ishes in the high jump and the shot put. Buck cleared 5-8 3/4 as senior Sandra Hines, who went in as the meet favorite, was scratched from the event with an in-

Paulsen, a freshman from Norfolk, Ne-braska, tossed the shot 48-2 to surprise the field.

Texas won it's seventh straight women's title with 141 points, followed by Arkansas with 80, Baylor with 76, Houston with 67 and A&M

Placing three hurdlers in the top four of the men's 55-meter hurdles turned out to be the Aggies' highlight of the finals, which were held on Saturday.

Senior Richard Bucknor, running in his ast SWC meet, started slow but finished the last three hurdles strong for his third consecutive championiship in 7.32 seconds. Ar-thur Smith of Baylor took the second spot, but senior Greg Williams and junior Nic Pollard finished third and fourth with times of 7.40 and 7.41, respectively

Bucknor, who transfered from Central Arizona Junior College and hails from Kingston, Jamaican, said he wasn't real happy with the race, but he's glad it's over. "It wasn't the best race I could've run,"

Bucknor said. "My start wasn't that good and I was slow over the first couple of hurdles, so I had to work hard on the last few hurdles

"I'm happy it's over. My coach in high school went to Texas, so I feel good about being able to go back and tell him that I won five SWC championships."

Pollard said that while he was pleased with the race, things could've gone better. "I felt pretty good," Pollard said. "It's ex-

citing to see everyone do well, but it could have been better if (Ricky) Barker had made it to the finals."

Barker, a decathlete in the outdoor sea-son, finished seventh in the long jump and just missed qualifying for the finals after making it to the semifinals.

Aggie head coach Ted Nelson, coaching in his first SWC championship after the retirement of longtime coach Charlie Thomas, said the teams over-acheived their goals but some golden opportunities were missed.

"We did good and even did a little better than we thought," Nelson said. "But with a little bit here and there we could have done better

"We missed a few chances in the pole vault, I was dissappointed with the high jump and we were close in the 600 yard dash and the 400 meters. Those are all small things, but if you add those things, we could have been third."

Nelson praised the efforts of the wom-en's team, especially Paulsen's shot put. "Amy Paulsen competed very well in the shot against some really tough competi-tion," he said. "They did good, we just need to move up a couple of parches to move up a couple of notches.

Other Aggies scoring points were:

Women Long Jump — Sheryl Pavelka, Jr-2L, fifth, 19-2.

Shot Put — Robin Westbrook, Jr-2L, sixth, 43-0 3/4.

5000 M - Michell Byrne, Fr-HS, sixth,

17:34.74 3000 M - Melissa Weaver, Jr-1L, fourth, 9:47.49.

800 M — Ginger Hoot, Jr-2L, sixth,

Pole Vault — Dan Signorelli, Jr-2L, sec-ond, 16-10 1/4.

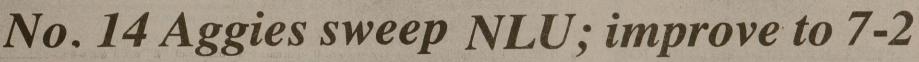
Long Jump - Kevin Sims, Sr-2L, sixth,

career. Bucknor garnered the only Aggie victory at the Southwest Conference

High Jump - Lee Pool, Fr-HS, sixth, 6-

600 yard — Mike Miller, So-Sq, fourth, 1:10.45, Rick Smith, So-1L, sixth, 1:13.34. 400 M — Howard Davis, Sr-2L, fourth,

55 M — Kary Vincent, Sr-Sq, third, 6.33. 4x400 relay — Richard Murphy, Fr-HS, Miller, Davis, Ray Griffiths, Jr-2L, fourth,



By Steve O'Brien The Battalion

The boys of summer got a taste of Old Man Winter Saturday afternoon, and for the Aggies it was a feast.

A&M gobbled up Notheast Louisiana in both games of a twinbill in front of 979 fans at Olsen Field as the temperature dropped to 50 degrees. A driving rain delayed the opener an hour and nine minutes.

A&M head coach Mark Johnson was leased with how his team responed to the challenge.

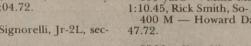
"We're talking about a positive reaction to a negative situation," Johnson said. "Tonight I thought our guys did a real good job with that.'

The two victories on Saturday completed

23-8.

2:17.3. Shot Put — Steve Collier, Sr-1L, fourth, 55 hurdles - Kalleen Madden, So-1L,

fourth, 8.26. 4x400 relay — Kina McMillian, Jr-2L, Pavelka, Kafi Carter, Fr-HS, and Stacy Stuart, Fr-HS, sixth, 4:04.72. 11 3/4



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion A&M runner Richard Bucknor clears the final hurdle of his collegiate indoor Indoor Track Championships Saturday in Fort Worth.





Sports Editor Alan Lehmann

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Aggie tracksters

improve, still fall

inability t A couple of little boys — they couldn't have been older than 10 — laughed at hamper

my ignorance. "Rookie cards are the only ones that in put your and not see are worth anything," one of them said. "Don't ya know anything?"

I didn't, but I soon learned. I rounded up some rookie cards — a player's first card in a regular issue set is his rookie card — and took them in for trade. I s to find it. didn't get as much in return as I had er searches hoped for, but I got enough to wet my ice Depart n A&M geappetite.

Rookie Fever

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I had rookie fever. I ripped through packs of cards, seeking the all-important rookies and tossing all others into a pile. Blinded by greed, I no longer cared about cards with beautiful pictures or thrilling stats. Heck, I even lost interest in Ranger cards.

All I cared about was getting more rookies so that I could trade them in for more packs of cards so that I could get more rookies.

But, one day I looked around my room at the hundreds of crumpled up vrappers and realized that I had gone oo fai

I told myself that I would sell my valuable cards and stop this foolishness. So I took my rookies down to the card

shop, and got a rude suprise. The dealer wouldn't pay as much for tookies, even though they had gone up a Beckett. It seemed that everyone else as selling their best cards too and there as a glut on the market.

Dejected, I looked down at a basket l of commons — cards that have little 10 value because they are in short hand — and spotted a Geno Petralli marked for only a nickel. te Ranger catcher had always been a

nental favorite of mine. e Bob Uecker, Petralli has survived

major leagues for a long time with sible talent. Furthermore, he once for Dr. Pepper, just like my dad. 1 a collection of his cards, and at I could get a dozen of them for a hot rookie.

care that Petralli's cards are hing to other collectors, I to sell them. And even if the

IN **R**rd industry falls apart THE v, I'll still enjoy having them.

a three-game sweep of NLU after a 13-2 victory in the series opener Friday night.

The Aggies pushed their record to 7-2 and NLU dropped to 3-5. A&M hosts Westmont College today and

Tuesday to conclude the eight-game home-stand. Both games start at 3:00 p.m.

In the opener Saturday, A&M righ-hander Steve Hughes got the win and evened his record at 1-1. He came out of the bullpen in the fifth inning to relieve starter Jason Bullard as the Aggies won 8-5.

Hughes threw five shutout innings, giving up four hits and striking out five.

"I thought it was an outstanding perfor-mance by (Hughes)," Johnson said. "I made it a point to tell the team I thought he did a great job."

Even though the Aggies were behind when Hughes entered the game, he wasn't worried.

"I had confidence in our hitters that they were going to come back and win it for us, Hughes said. "I just went out there and

tried to shut them down." A&M equalled its season high with 13 hits in the game, but they still had to come from behind to win.

NLU had built a 5-2 lead after four innings before a three-run fifth brought the Aggies back.

During the comeback, Aggie right fielder Dan Robinson drove in two runs on a twoout double and finished the game 3-for-4.

'That's a positve," Robinson said. "Every chance we get we need to come back like

that." "The ball just looked a little bigger today. Hopefully it'll stay big the rest of the season

The Aggies took the lead in the sixth with a RBI single off the bat of second baseman Sittichoke Huckuntod.

That was a real boost for us," Johnson said. "We got some clutch hitting and when we had a man on second base we seemed to make something happen. It's encouraging."

In the nightcap, right-hander Jason Hutchins threw a seven-inning complete game shutout to lead A&M to 4-0 victory.

Hutchins got his first decision of the season, making his his record 1-0.

Leading the offense for A&M were center fielder Brian Thomas and shortstop Jason Marshall.

Marshall went 2-for-3, pounding an RBI double in the second inning to start the scoring for A&M.

Thomas scored on Marshall's double,

JAY JANNER/The Battalion

NLU's Jay Nelson (1) tries to convince the umpire that A&M's Sittichoke Huckuntod is out at second base, while Tim Fiene awaits the call. Huckuntod safely stole the base Friday at Olsen Field and the Aggies won 13-2.

and in the fourth inning Thomas hit a solo home run over the right field wall to make A&M's lead 3-0. Robinson drove in the final run of the game with a sacrifice fly in the fifth

In Friday night's action, A&M starter Ronnie Allen allowed only one run in seven innings of work, as the Aggies bit into NLU pitching with a 13-hit attack. With the vic-tory, Allen goes to 2-0 and improves his ERA to 1.29. In one inning of work, left-hander Jay Hogue allowed one run and right-hander Chris Messick closed the game in the ninth.

3-for-4 with two RBI's and designated hitter David Rollen drove in two runs with a double in the fifth inning.

In one inning of work, left-hander Jay Hogue allowed one run and right-hander

The Aggies' weekend feeding frenzy comes after a disappointing two-game split with Southwest Texas earlier in the week.