

Tuesday, April 30, 1991

The Battalion

Big 8 backs out of SWC duels



DALLAS (AP) — A proposed basketball challenge series between the Big Eight and Southwest conferences has fallen through for next season, although it may be resurrected for 1993.

"The Big Eight didn't want to do it," Houston coach Pat Foster said. "Our conference office worked hard on it, so they should not get any criticism."

SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby has told league coaches they can schedule games at the beginning of next February, when the SWC-Big Eight series would have been played.

"With Arkansas out of the league, that hurt," said Missouri assistant athletic director Joe Castiglione, who does the Tigers' scheduling. "That was one of their marquee names out there. To my knowledge, nothing has been done or will be done this year."

Big Eight officials said they were concerned games at neutral arenas would not draw well, and that few would be televised.

The SWC had hoped the series with the Big Eight, patterned after one between the Big East and Atlantic Coast Conference, would help replace some of the national exposure lost through Arkansas' departure to the Southeast Conference.

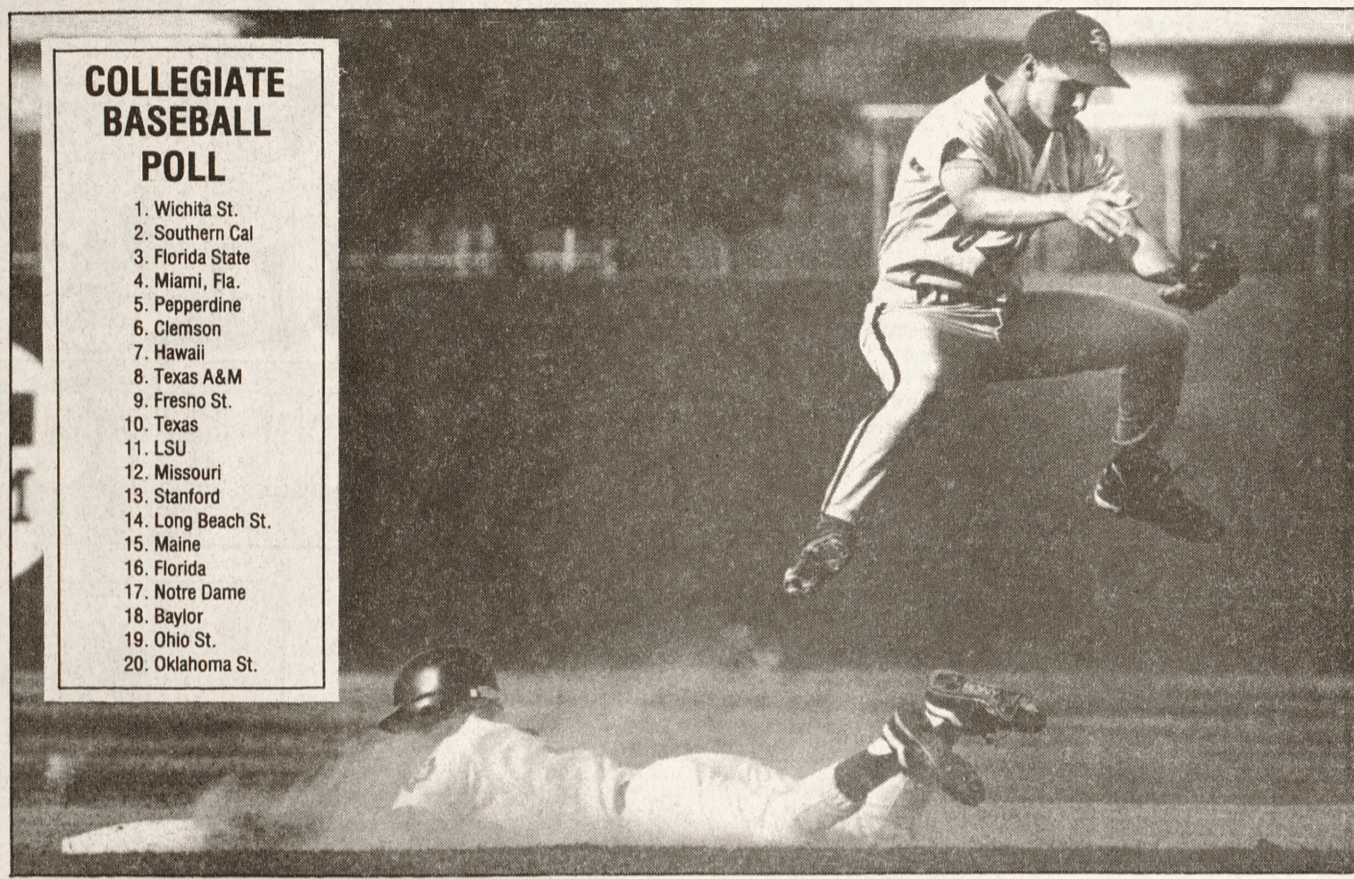
The plan had been for four games at neutral sites and four games at on-campus arenas.

Games between individual schools could still take place, and Missouri's Castiglione said the Tigers would play a home game against Texas A&M in November. Missouri also would like to play Texas, he said.

"We are keeping some open dates," Longhorn coach Tom Penders said. "We are not interested in playing on the road. We would play a game at a neutral site or at home."

The Longhorns also have scheduled an away game with Oklahoma.

Hot Aggies jump to Top 10



COLLEGIATE BASEBALL POLL

1. Wichita St.
2. Southern Cal
3. Florida State
4. Miami, Fla.
5. Pepperdine
6. Clemson
7. Hawaii
8. Texas A&M
9. Fresno St.
10. Texas
11. LSU
12. Missouri
13. Stanford
14. Long Beach St.
15. Maine
16. Florida
17. Notre Dame
18. Baylor
19. Ohio St.
20. Oklahoma St.

The A&M baseball team slid into this week's Collegiate Baseball/ESPN Top 25 poll Monday. The Aggies have won six consecutive games and have clinched a spot in the Southwest Conference tournament, to be held May 16-18 at Olsen Field.

gone from last place in conference standings to a tie for first with Texas.

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M baseball team did something Monday it had not been able to accomplish all season — it cracked the top 10.

This week's Collegiate Baseball — ESPN poll has A&M coming in at number eight, the highest ranking the Aggies have achieved since being ranked number eight in February of 1990.

Several times this season the team has pushed the top rankings, but each time teams such as LSU, Texas Tech, and Baylor have gotten in the way.

After a string of difficult losses, the

Aggies found themselves in unfamiliar territory — out of the polls and in the Southwest Conference cellar. Things were not looking bright for the team's post-season hopes, but a turnaround was on the way.

The Aggies broke out of their five game mid-season slump by sweeping a rain-delayed series with Rice, then going the distance against a strong University of Texas team ranked number three nationally. After many tense innings, the Aggies took all three games from the Longhorns, the first SWC sweep of a Cliff Gustafson coached team since 1972.

In less than two weeks A&M had

Concerns about overconfidence on the team were eased after a three game sweep of TCU which virtually eliminated the Horned Frogs from tournament contention, while clinching the fifth consecutive 40 win season of A&M, plus the host berth in the SWC post-season tournament.

With only a three game series with the University of Houston standing between the Aggies and the SWC championship, the team is on its way to completing one of the most remarkable turnarounds in A&M history

K. Ivy/The Battalion

Green hired as A&M assistant

From Staff and Wire Reports

New Texas A&M head basketball coach Tony Barone announced Monday the hiring of James Green, an assistant to former coach Kermit Davis Jr.

Green, the first of two assistants Barone will hire, previously served three years as an assistant to Davis. In his first year as an assistant, the Aggies finished 8-21, while winning only two Southwest Conference regular season games.

Green, along with assistant coach Billy Kennedy, has remained at A&M despite the resignation of Davis, who stepped down after an investigation into rules violations in the A&M basketball program.

Barone said he was impressed with Green's personal qualifications.

"I have only hired one other person in my coaching career who I didn't know previously," Barone said.

"He has all the characteristics I look for in an assistant," he said. "He has a tremendous work ethic, flexibility in dealing with unique situations, a desire to accept challenges, a love for Texas A&M and above all, a tremendous sense of loyalty."

Green said he is glad to have the chance to stay at A&M.

"I'm looking forward to working with coach Barone in building a solid program on and of the basketball court," Green said. "Texas A&M is a great place for employment because of its great traditions and the good people they have here."

Barone will name another full-time assistant at a later date.

"I'm excited about the future." Green coached at Jim Hill High School in Jackson, Miss. before coaching before being hired by Davis at the University of Idaho.



James Green was named an assistant coach for new A&M coach Tony Barone.

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