

DOUG FOSTER
Sportswriter

Pigskin game smart choice for Aggies

The Texas A&M Athletic Department made a decision Tuesday that could have a large impact on the immediate future of Aggie football.

This decision, if it works out appropriately, could be the one move that puts A&M in the ranks of the elite of college football.

That decision was accepting an invitation to play next August in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic in Anaheim, Calif., to open the 1992 season. Just another game on the schedule, right?

Not exactly.

The Aggies, who will be the visiting team in the game, will line up against a team from the West Coast. Speculation is the team will be either Stanford University, led by coaching legend Bill Walsh, or the University of California. Either way, a victory for A&M could strike the initial note to a national championship tune.

Even though neither of those teams is among the perennial top five in the polls every season, they are teams that receive quite a bit of respect nationwide.

Since the days of Jim Plunkett, Stanford has been considered a very tough team and has recently moved their program back into the national spotlight. And, by soundly beating Clemson in the Citrus Bowl, Cal has proven they are worthy of some national attention.

Not only does the idea of playing a

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Aggies start 1992 season in Pigskin Classic

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M accepted an invitation Wednesday to open the 1992 football season in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic.

The game is scheduled to be played in Anaheim, Calif. on Aug. 26.

Pigskin Classic officials are hoping to pair the Aggies, who finished 10-2 last season, with a West Coast team. At the top of the list of possible opponents are Stanford University and the University

of California.

California is doubtful because of conflicts with its summer school schedule.

Officials hope to have a team lined up later this week.

A&M head football coach R. C. Slocum said his team will take on any team the game's organizers come up with.

"They asked if there was anybody we wouldn't play, and I told them we'd play anybody they want to line up against us," Slocum said. "We're not ducking and

dodging.

"We're looking for opportunities to show that we can play on a national basis."

"It's an honor to be selected to play in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic. I think it is a credit to our program to kick off the collegiate football season on national television against a top opponent.

"It does not matter who we play. We'll be excited about the challenge."

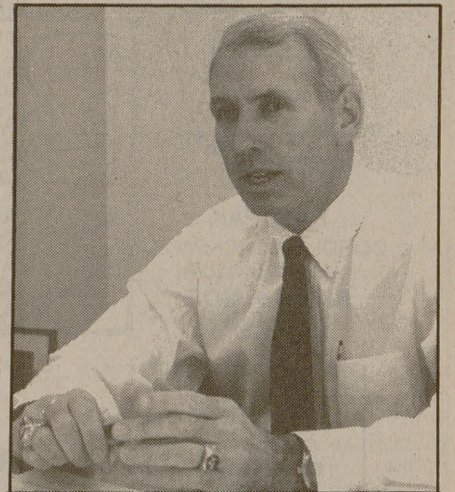
A&M Athletic Director John David Crow said playing

in the Classic is a great opportunity for the Aggies to be seen on a national level.

"I think it's a reflection on the type of job R. C. Slocum and his staff and players have done."

A&M participated in the Kickoff Classic in 1988 under former head coach Jackie Sherrill. The Aggies lost to Nebraska 23-14 in the season-opening game played in The Meadowlands, N. J.

A&M lost its first three games that season and finished the season 7-5.



R. C. Slocum and the Aggies will play in the Pigskin Classic next August in California.

'Once in a lifetime chance'

Hickey strives for Omaha, Olympic gold

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

A year ago, Texas A&M baseball player Mike Hickey was trying to earn playing time with the Aggies. This year, Hickey's sights are set a little higher — like maybe an Olympic gold medal.

Hickey was one of 90 players invited to try out for one of the 20 spots on this summer's Olympic baseball team.

A possible trip for Hickey to Barcelona, Spain, began last November in Homestead, Fla., where the tryouts were held. But he faced a small obstacle — a pulled groin muscle that limited his participation in the tryouts.

But there is still a chance he, along with sophomore pitcher Jeff Granger, will earn spots on the 1992 Olympic team.

"I'm not thinking about it," Hickey said. "It's a once in a lifetime chance. But only 20 players go."

"There's nothing to worry about be-



Battalion file photo

A&M baseball player Mike Hickey was an All-SWC selection last year who hopes to compete in Barcelona, Spain, as part of the 1992 Summer Olympic team.

cause it's something you can't control."

Last season, Hickey took control for the Aggie baseball team.

After transferring to A&M after playing at the University of Oklahoma his freshman year, Hickey made a name for

himself after collecting 10 RBIs in a game against Westmont College.

He finished the season hitting .348 with seven homers and 51 RBIs. He led the team in extra-base hits with 26 and was second on the team with 12 stolen bases.

For his efforts, Hickey was named to the All-Southwest Conference Team as a utility outfielder.

This season, Hickey thinks the baseball team can do better than last year's 44-23 record.

"I think we have a lot of players returning and we're looking forward to going to Omaha, maybe," he said. "I think we have a lot better team than we did last year."

"We're better because our pitching staff is a lot better."

The team's goal is simple, winning the national title in Omaha.

"Our biggest goal is to win the national championship," he said. "I think we can do that if we work hard."

Another reason for the team's improvement is their confidence level.

"We have more confidence than we did last year," he said. "We have had some time to come together and it helps the confidence."

Hickey has not set any individual

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