



CHRIS WHITLEY
Assistant Sports Editor

Horse racing would be Grand in state economy

The city of Grand Prairie sits quietly next to the thriving, metropolitan city of Dallas. It has been referred to as the "dead spot in the road between the West End and Six Flags."

Unlike its flourishing neighbors in suburbia, such as Arlington and Irving, nothing much happens in Grand Prairie. Its citizens work in Dallas, shop in Irving, and go out to eat in Arlington.

A night out on the town in GP involves eating at Luby's or Denny's and seeing a movie at its one theater. Other than that, the only things going are the annual Western Days parade in May and the pro bowler's tournament in January.

That might have changed on Jan. 18.

On that day, the citizens of Grand Prairie went to the polls to determine their city's fate. They were given an opportunity to bring entertainment, hotels, restaurants, and most important of all, tourist's tax money to their fair city. And all for the price of another half-cent on their city sales tax rate.

The voters could not pass it up, and, consequently, Grand Prairie is the leading candidate for a Class 1 horse racing track in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

It's another example of the renaissance the "Sport of Kings" is experiencing in Texas. Ever since the state's voters approved parimutuel wagering on horse and dog racing, people in the horse industry have been licking their chops at what could be a potential goldmine.

Texas was one of the leading states in thoroughbred horse breeding before racing was approved. Now, horse enthusiasts have come out of the woodwork to support the few smaller tracks that are already running.

Trinity Meadows, a small track outside of Weatherford, blew away state wagering records this season just from people commuting from Dallas and Fort Worth.

Think what kind of revenue a Class 1 track would bring in.

Plus, Texas has a chance to become a hotbed for horse racing. When more tracks open up, more

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Aggies welcome UH to Olsen

A&M hopes to rebound in SWC after losses at Rice

By Doug Foster
The Battalion

After opening the Southwest Conference season by dropping two of three games to Rice University, A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson told his players to relax because there were 33 more conference games left before the season was decided.

Johnson and his squad will try to get their conference season back on a winning track today when they open a three-game weekend series with the University of Houston at Olsen Field.

The Aggies and the Cougars will square off tonight at 7 p.m., and the two clubs will meet again on Saturday in a 2 p.m. doubleheader.

After defeating Mary-Hardin Baylor in a twinbill on Tuesday, the Aggies are now 6-4 this season.

The Cougars will enter the series hitting more than .300 as a team. Johnson said he was going to have to get good performances from his pitching staff to counter

Houston's offense. He also said the A&M team has improved from their performance in the first conference series.

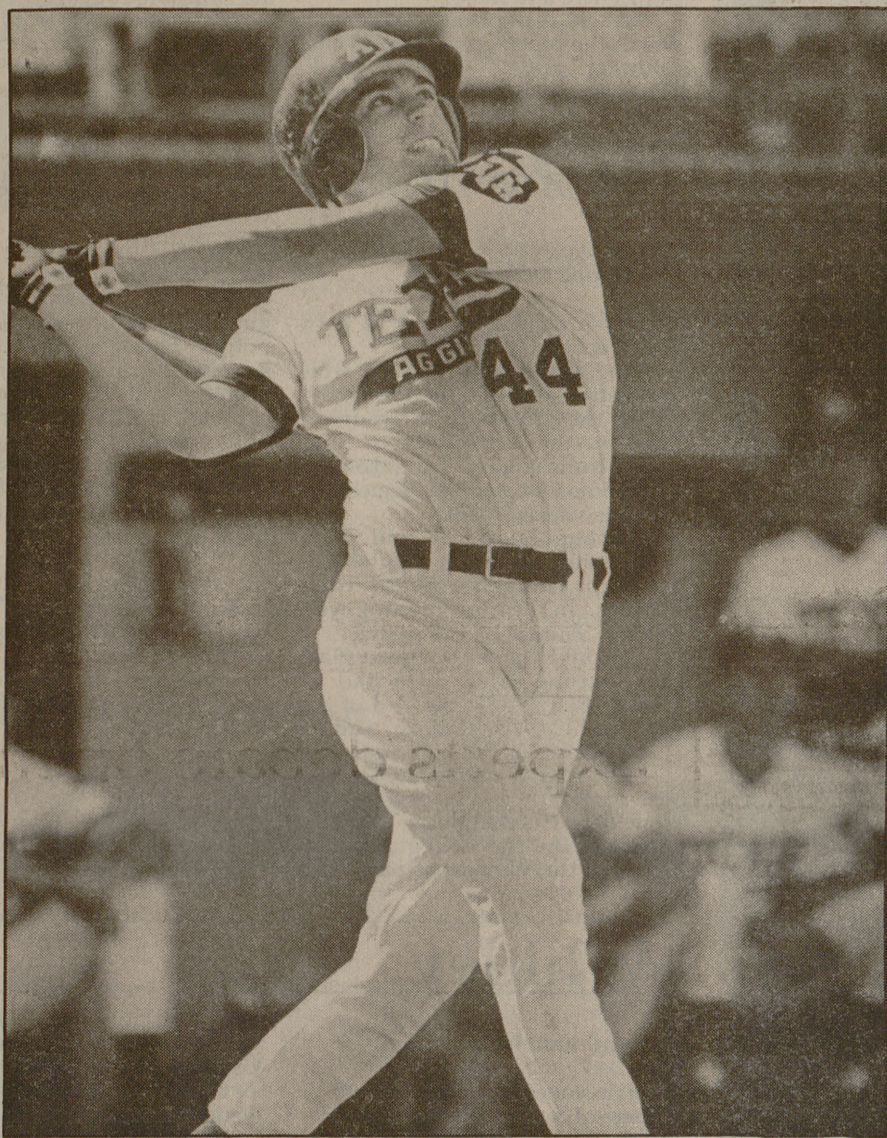
"I'm concerned about Houston, because they hit well," Johnson said. "Every series is tough on you, but I think we have improved quite a bit. When we went down to Rice we were way behind because we had not practiced, but now we should be caught up. And the rain can't be an excuse any more."

Johnson said his pitchers are closer to being ready to play in big conference series.

"Jeff Granger threw real well in Arizona, and he gave us a big breath of fresh air, because he threw some real good pitches," Johnson said. "When you look at our freshmen, like Chris Clemons and Trey Moore, they are just freshmen and it's a lot to ask of them to come in and perform. But I think when they get some experience they will get comfortable on the mound."

Johnson said he's not concerned because he knows

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KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Redshirt freshman Rob Trimble takes over as A&M's catcher this season. Trimble, Eric Gonzalez and Scott Smith are the new members of the starting lineup.

Barone's Aggies take confidence to UMKC

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

No one is going to confuse this season's Texas A&M men's basketball team with some of the great college dynasties.

But, at least now the Aggies are playing with confidence.

This is because the Aggies have done something they haven't done in more than a year -- Win back to back ballgames.

Wednesday's win over Baylor coupled with last week's victory over Texas Southern improved the Aggies' record to 5-16, and 1-8 in Southwest Conference play.

With the wins come confidence said A&M coach Tony Barone.

"You tend to gain credibility with yourself when you win," Barone said. "When you gain credibility

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Trio in transition

Transfer, freshmen become A&M starters

By Douglas Pils
The Battalion

Three new faces fill the everyday lineup for the Texas A&M baseball team for 1992. One came to A&M as a pitcher, one got the call at the last minute and the other almost ended up with a rival team.

Catcher Rob Trimble, rightfielder Scott Smith and leftfielder Eric Gonzalez fill the empty holes in an otherwise experienced lineup. Trimble and Smith paid their dues redshirting last season. Gonzalez, who at 5-foot-4 was considered too short for Division I baseball, went the junior college route.

Trimble, whose father and grandfather were in the Corps of Cadets, came to the Aggie program as a standout pitcher. In high school he posted a 33-2 record and led Carthage to the state championship in 1990.

His redshirt year in 1991 was the first time he had ever tried catching and after last fall he had worked his way into a platoon system with La Harbor Junior College transfer Robert Lewis.

Lewis was declared academically ineligible after the fall, thrusting Trimble into the starter's role. He and Blinn Junior College transfer John Keller are now the Aggies behind the plate, with Trimble receiving the bulk of the starts. Still, there was a question as to how a redshirt freshman would handle the chores of developing a cohesive pitching staff and a feel for each pitcher's strengths.

"There was a lot of pressure before the season started," Trimble said. "After that first Rice game, I started to feel more comfortable. The toughest thing is getting the

chemistry down with the new guys. It hasn't been a problem with the older guys because I was here last year.

"I've got to make them confident in me. I've got to learn what there best pitch is, when to go out there and chew them out or when to pump them up."

Having been on the other end of the battery in high school, Trimble knows the ins and outs of a pitcher's mind.

"I know where there mind is at during certain situations," he said. "Being on the other side definitely helps the communication process."

The 1991 season was tough on Trimble and Smith -- they had gone from being stars on their high school teams to curious names on the scorecard.

"I came in thinking I had a chance to play," Trimble said. "It was hard to sit out, but I realize that it was the best thing for me now. It was a good time to learn. Blake Pyle (last year's starter) taught me a lot and the experience has helped my confidence."

Smith was ready to pack up and go play at Navarro College in Corsicana, when he got a call from A&M assistant Jim Lawler. It was the first time he had heard from a four-year university, and the call came from where he had always wanted to go to school. But this didn't make sitting out 1991 any less bearable.

"I didn't like it one bit," Smith said.

"You stay in tune because you play intrasquad games. But putting on that A&M uniform to go play is something else. It really feels natural."

Smith takes Dan Robinson's place in rightfield. He played high school ball at

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In Memory of Our Fellow Taiwanese who Died in the February 28 Massacre on Taiwan in 1947



In the 228 massacre about 20,000 Taiwanese, most of them local leaders and intellectuals of that era, were killed by the KMT (Kuomintang, Chinese Nationalist) in Taiwan. Is this event a fight between Taiwanese and Mainlander or a cultural struggle of evolving democracy against corroding dictatorship? Mr. Chen Farn-Ming, a famous Taiwanese historian and political critic, will be invited to give a speech titled: "The Background and Impact of 228 on Taiwan", at Richardson 101 at 7:30 P.M., Feb. 29, 1992.

Sponsored by Taiwanese Student Association

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SKIN INFECTION STUDY

Individuals age 13 and older wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as: abscess, infected burns, boils, infected hair follicles, impetigo, and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

ASTHMA STUDY

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