

10TH ANNIVERSARY Newcomers add own brand of talent

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Coppell, where he was an All-District selection three times and was All-State as a senior.

Being a young player in a lineup of veterans can mean a fair share of good-natured abuse, but Smith said along with that comes a tutorial process that can only be learned by being on the field.

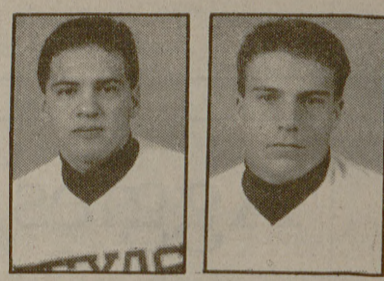
"There's a big support from those guys," he said. "BT (Brian Thomas) and Tim Holt have really helped me with my fielding and hitting. The razing stuff is pretty much over with, but you still get a little of it in practice."

Head coach Mark Johnson said that the experience that is being passed along to his younger players from guys like Thomas, Holt, Jason Marshall, Travis Williams, Mike Hickey and Conrad Colby is a special aspect of this team.

"You really like to have some young guys that can play and some older guys to help them along," Johnson said. "We went over to Galveston after the Rice game, and played a team that is just getting started at the school down there."

"All the old guys were grabbing the young guys as they came off the field and telling them things here and there."

"It was really heartwarming to watch the older guys support the younger guys," Johnson said. "The young guys look up to the



Eric Gonzalez and Scott Smith are two new faces this season on Texas A&M's baseball team

old guys."

The youth that the three new starters bring to the Aggies is something that Smith said adds excitement to the 1992 team.

"We've got some great talent, both young and old," Smith said. "Gonzalez has a lot of power, especially for his size. Trimble and I are both young and he's going to be a good catcher. He's got all the tools to be a dominant player."

Gonzalez's journey to A&M took him through some thrills and spills. He was an All-State performer at Robstown and a two-time Junior College All-American at Texas Southmost JC in 1989 and 1990. Gonzalez signed with the first team that came knocking -- the Houston Cougars.

He would never even enroll at the university. Gonzalez failed a class during the fall of 1990 that he needed to get into Houston. He

proceeded to go back to Southmost and earn his associate's degree.

Last fall, in his first semester at A&M, he earned an Academic Achievement Award by posting a grade-point-average of 3.0 or better as a sports management major.

What Houston lost as a ballplayer A&M gained in a student-athlete. Athletes can no longer hide from the academic side of life.

Johnson said Gonzalez represents the direction that athletes must take. Gonzalez said he realized that he needed to concentrate on school.

"At first, I took school lightly and I only wanted to play baseball," Gonzalez said. "I realized that I could make good grades."

Gonzalez said he rushed his decision to go to Houston. He now believes that A&M is the best place.

"At first I always wanted to come to A&M, but I got scared," he said. "I signed with Houston and got it over with and it was a good decision."

"A&M is a lot better and happy things turned out the way they did."

All three are going to make mistakes that come with inexperience, Johnson said.

Trimble, Smith and Gonzalez are just happy to get the experience. They've all paid their dues in one way or another. It's time to shine.

Barone finds a test in UMKC

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with yourself, you tend to gain confidence."

The Aggies will put their winning streak on the line tomorrow when they travel to Missouri to take on the University of Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos, a team who defeated the Aggies earlier this season, 85-79.

Barone knows it will be a tough game for the Aggies because of Kangaroo guard Tony Dumas. In their last meeting with UMKC, Dumas had 29 points.

"(Tony) Dumas is a great player," Barone said. "He had 17 points in a row at the end of the last game. We were up, and he just knocked us out of the game."

The Aggies trailed the December contest by eight points at half-time before coming back to tie the game at the end of regulation at 72. But the Kangaroos outscored

A&M 13-7 in overtime to come away with the victory.

For the Aggies, sophomore guard David Edwards scored 23 points. Forward Damon Johnson scored 22 points for the Aggies. Johnson is now injured and is not expected to play for the remainder of the season.

With just six games remaining in the regular season, Barone is looking for continued improvement in his team.

"I just want to continue to improve," Barone said. "If we start looking and adding up what we can do the rest of the way, that would be very dumb."

"We have to take care of today's practice and that is the most important thing for us."

Edwards leads the Aggies in scoring, averaging 15 points a game. Senior forward Sherrick Anderson is the only other Aggie averaging in double figures, scoring 11 points a contest.

Aggies will resume SWC chase tonight

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his experienced hitters will come through as the season progresses.

"We've got a couple of guys who aren't hitting well, but they are going to," he said. "Mike Hickey, Conrad Colby and Brian Thomas are all going to hit over .300, even though they are not doing it right now. That early slump is characteristic of good hitters because they are just not quite ready yet, so I'm not worried about them because they will come around."

After the weekend series with the Cougars, the Aggies will travel to Huntsville on Tuesday to take on the Sam Houston State University Bearkats.

Whitley

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high-stakes races will be held here. I can see the day when a fourth jewel of horse racing's triple crown will occur here -- the Texas Derby.

Before parimutuel horse racing came to Texas, people had to look elsewhere to watch the sport. Louisiana Downs, Oaklawn in Arkansas, and Remington Park in Oklahoma are only successful because Texans cross the border en masse to place \$2 bets.

While the hierarchy in the

state legislature were whining and complaining that they couldn't pay their bills, millions of tax dollars were rolling into neighboring states from Texans.

Now, we can watch an exciting sport in our own backyard, and reap the benefits from others doing the same thing.

Even people who don't like horse racing will be intrigued by the sport. On the day of the Kentucky Derby, millions of people who have no interest whatsoever in horse racing, enjoy watching the race on television.

They see the partygoers all fancied up in their suits, their

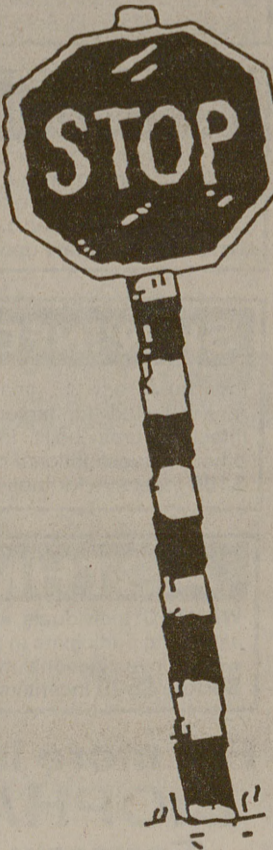
funny hats, and their mint juleps. Afterwards, they watch an exciting race of majestic thoroughbred horses and become enamored with it.

That's the draw to horse racing. That and maybe winning a few bucks.

Texas will benefit greatly from the sport. Cities like Grand Prairie will benefit from the jobs that will come as a result. Citizens will benefit from the entertainment provided.

A successful race track might make the city of Grand Prairie a more inviting place to be. I hope so. I live there.

What You Are Doing and Answer These questions for the: 1992 AGGIELAND



Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. If the Aggieland staff chooses to use your answer, you will be quoted in the yearbook. After you have answered the questions, please return your answers to the Aggieland Office in 011 Reed McDonald ASAP. Include your name, classification, major, and phone number with your answers. Thanks for your cooperation Ags.

1. What was your most outrageous party stunt while attending A&M?
2. What is the strangest place you have ever gone to the bathroom while at A&M?
3. Where do you go out to have fun and why do you go there?
4. Have you had a homesick experience while attending A&M? Please describe.
5. What will you do after graduation?
6. Where would be the ideal place for you to live after graduation?
7. What is your favorite building on campus and why?
8. What is the most exciting thing you have done while you have been at A&M?
9. What is the most spontaneous thing you have done while at A&M?
10. Have you had any long distance relationships while attending A&M? How did it turn out?
11. What will you remember most about A&M after graduation?
12. What does Aggie Bonfire mean to you?
13. (Seniors) How did it feel to walk through the H2O fountain during Elephant Walk? (Juniors) Describe what you did to the seniors during Elephant Walk.
14. Describe what Aggie spirit means to you.
15. How did you feel when the Aggies beat SMU and confirmed going to the Cotton Bowl?
16. Describe the emotion at the 1991 t.u. game.
17. How did you christen your Aggie ring? How long did it take, etc.
18. What are your feelings about the sexual harassment issue in the Corps?
19. Was senior bootline worth the wait? Why or why not?
20. Have you ever participated in roll call at Aggie Muster? What was it like?

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TAKE A NEW LOOK

POST OAK MALL

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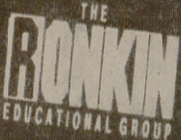
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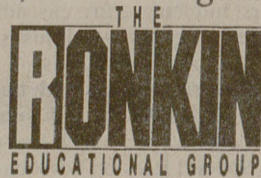
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