



STEVE O'BRIEN
Sportswriter

LeMond brings cycling home for amateurs

United States amateur cyclists hoping to move to Europe and become professionals are caught between the frontrunners and the stragglers.

And it's hard to tell what the future holds.

But whatever it is, it's a much brighter future than a few years ago. For young American riders, racing professionally in Europe has become a reality — Thanks to Greg LeMond.

A three-time winner of the world's most grueling sporting event, the Tour de France, LeMond blazed a path for bike racers across the Atlantic Ocean in 1978 when he and Eric Heiden boarded a one-way flight to Europe.

The destination was France. Their goal was to be the best.

But it wasn't that easy for LeMond. Americans were only supposed to be good at football and basketball. Cycling was Europe's sport.

"Greg was 19 at the time and didn't speak French, and it was exceedingly difficult for him," said Jack Simes, the director of the U.S. professional cycling federation. "Not only did he have to deal with the racing but the cultural shock of being in a different world."

LeMond fought through the long races and the stereotypes that at times seemed as insurmountable as the Alps he climbed everyday. And he was American in every way.

Ice cream and chili dogs were part of his diet. He used smaller races as warmups for the Tour de France and Tour of Italy.

Slowly, he began to show signs of greatness. In 1983, he won the World Championship. In 1984, he finished third in his first Tour de France. He won his first Tour in 1986 and never looked back.

And now, almost 15 years after he first stepped down in Europe as a wide-eyed teenager, it's time for young American cyclists to take LeMond's lead and make cycling truly American.

"At this point, I would not complain about the exposure that cycling has gotten as far as recent years, coming from where it has," Simes said.

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A&M fights rain, poll to get respect

5 straight wins do little to help Aggies' cause

By Chris Whitley
The Battalion

The Aggie baseball team has found itself back on the Southwest Conference track, even though the Collegiate Baseball poll voters think otherwise.

A&M's sweep over Houston Friday and Saturday added some momentum to a team that has had a sluggish start. Yet now that the Aggies have won five straight games and improved their record to 9-4, they are not ranked in this week's

A&M-SHSU postponed

Texas A&M's baseball game with Sam Houston State today in Huntsville has been postponed because of a wet surface. The game has been rescheduled for Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Huntsville's Holleman Field.

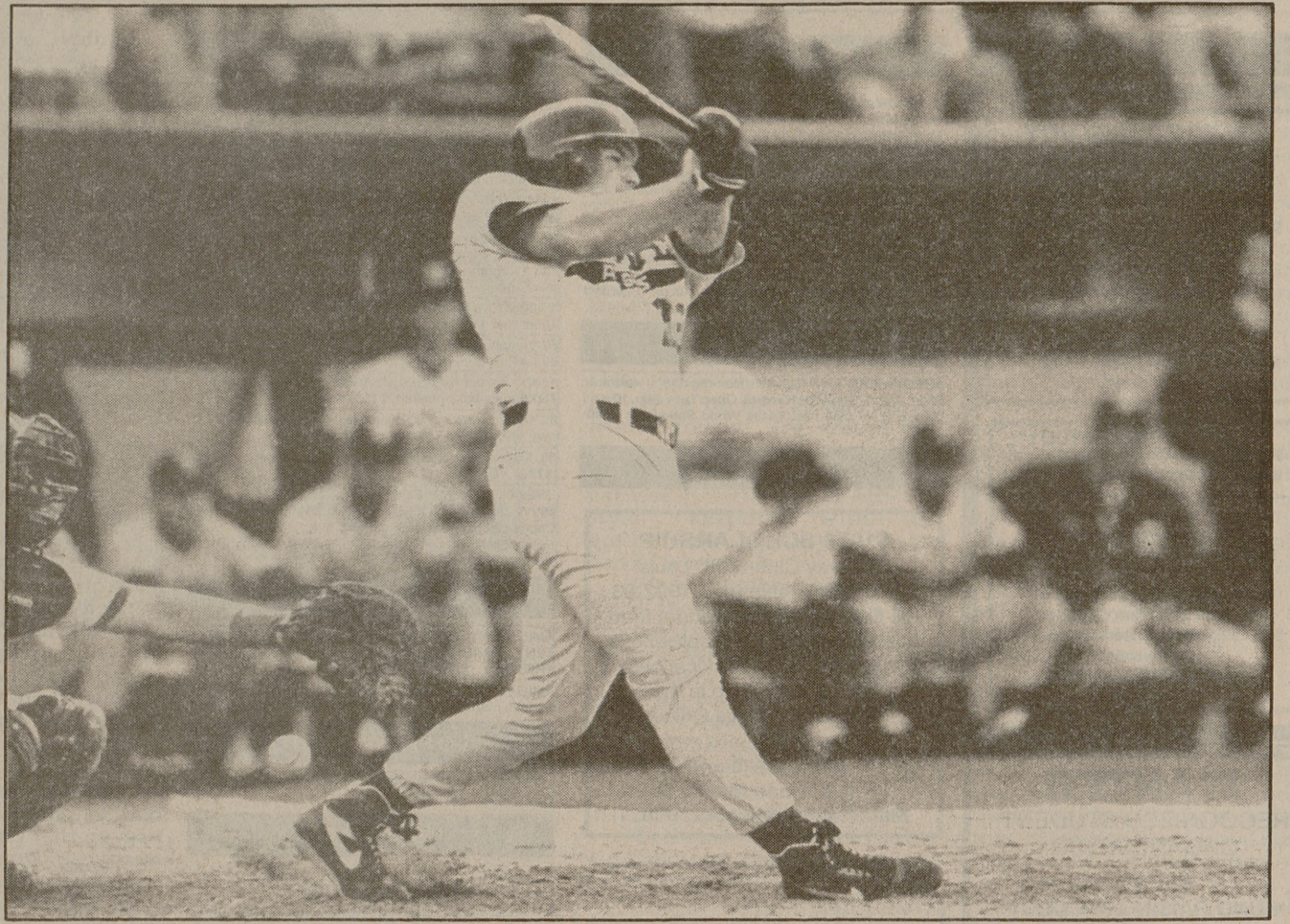
Collegiate Baseball poll

The Aggies did manage to jump one spot in the Baseball America poll this week. A&M is ranked No. 24 in the poll.

After rain canceled their games against Stephen F. Austin, the Aggies had to open the season with a SWC opponent, Rice. The Owls, who had a few wins under their belt, caught A&M off guard and won two out of three games.

The next weekend, the Aggies traveled to Tucson to play 14th-ranked Arizona and again lost two out of three games. When they arrived back in College Station, they found themselves out of the same poll which pegged them 19th in the preseason.

A&M head coach Mark Johnson said the timing for the Houston sweep was



ROBERT REED/The Battalion

A&M's Conrad Colby fouls off a pitch in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader against Houston. The Aggies swept the three-game series from the Cougars and vaulted into second place in the Southwest Conference standings.

perfect.

"We needed to have a good stretch this weekend," Johnson said. "We got off to a slow start.

"We had two weekends there where we lost two out of three in some close ball games."

"I think the guys feel better about themselves. It was a big series, and we came through in the clutch."

After an opening 5-2 victory over the

Cougars Friday night, A&M picked up late comebacks in Saturday's doubleheader to complete the sweep.

In the first game, a base hit by Rob Trimble in the bottom of the seventh scored Scott Smith, allowing the Aggies to win, 3-2.

Then with the Aggies down two runs in the second game, base hits by Mike Hickey, Conrad Colby, and Brian Marshall spurred in three runs in the seventh

to take the game, 5-4.

Johnson said he saw signs of progress last weekend.

"We're still not hitting the ball quite as well as we should," he said. "But we came through in quite a few different spots defensively, at the plate, and on the mound."

Up next for A&M is Sam Houston State in Huntsville tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Holleman Field.

Mavs become Warriors' 8th straight victim, 138-131

DALLAS (AP) — Chris Mullin scored 29 points and Tim Hardaway added 27, including five-of-seven from 3-point range, as the Golden State Warriors won their eighth straight game, 138-131 over the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night.

Hardaway scored nine consecutive points in the closing two minutes of the third period, including two 3-pointers, to give the Warriors a 104-94 lead.

Dallas, which was led by rookie Mike Iuzzolino's career-high 22 points, cut Golden State's lead to 133-126 with 23.8 seconds left on Brian Howard's three-pointer. Derek Harper hit a 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds left to re-

duce the Warriors' advantage to 135-130 but Dallas could come no closer.

The winning streak equalled Golden State's longest since January, 1989.

Sarunas Marciulionis, who had 22 points, scored 10 points in the third period, including a twisting layup at the buzzer, and the Warriors converted eight of their last nine shots of the quarter.

Dallas had an 86-85 advantage with 5:25 left in the third quarter before Marciulionis scored six points during a 10-1 run for a 95-87 advantage.

Golden State led at halftime, 73-69 behind Mullin's 22

points. Mullin was 10 for 12 in the first half as the Warriors hit 70 percent of their field goal attempts.

Mullin connected on eight of nine first quarter field goal attempts and scored 18 points, the most in a quarter by a Mavericks opponent this season. But Dallas got 15 points from Blackman and went 18 of 20 from the free throw line to forge a 39-39 first-quarter tie.

Golden State won the teams' previous meeting, 143-141 on Jan. 18 in Dallas.

Forward Brian Quinnett, acquired Thursday from the New York Knicks for center James Donaldson, was in uniform for Dallas but did not play.

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