

Hickey, Smith out of A&M lineup for 4-6 weeks



ANTHONY ANDRO
Sportswriter

The Battalion News Services

The Texas A&M baseball team will be without second baseman Mike Hickey and rightfielder Scott Smith for the next two to six weeks.

Hickey, who was hitting .292 with two homers and 12 RBIs, broke a bone in his left hand sliding into third base during the Aggies' 9-8 loss to Minnesota Sunday in the final game of the Oscar-Mayer Classic.

Hickey is scheduled to have surgery on Thursday. He will have a pin inserted into his hand to help the healing process. Smith, a redshirt freshman and the

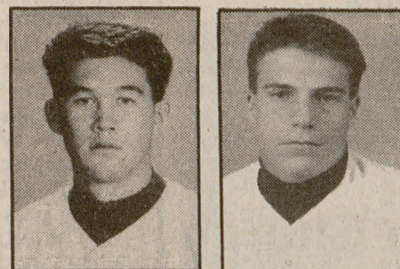
Aggies' second-leading hitter with a .368 average, broke a bone in his right foot Monday during a kinesiology class.

A&M hosts Baylor this weekend in a three-game Southwest Conference series. Head coach Mark Johnson said it will be tough to replace Hickey and Smith in the Aggies' lineup.

"We've had a rough 24-hour period," Johnson said. "Mike Hickey was the third batter in our lineup and his bat was starting to come around."

"More importantly, he was the pivot man in the double play combination and he continued to make strides at that position."

"Scott Smith has been one of our more



Mike Hickey and Scott Smith will miss A&M's series against Baylor and will be out for more than a month. Johnson said the loss of the two players

will give opportunities for other players to step forward.

"I said at the beginning of this season one of our strengths is the depth of this team."

The Aggies are 12-5 this season, 4-2 in conference play.

Hickey and Smith will miss the majority of A&M's SWC games, including the series with the University of Texas in Austin on March 20 and 21.

The two injured players may return in time for the Texas series at Olsen Field on April 10 and 11.

A&M moved up to No. 21 in the Baseball America poll, and improved to No. 25 in the Collegiate Baseball poll.

Basketball team needs to make best of season

It would seem like the season can't end soon enough for the Texas A&M basketball team. Most college teams measure a successful season with the number 20, as in 20 wins. The Aggies have a 20 in their record, except it's 20 losses the team has experienced this season.

A&M has struggled, to say the least. But their struggles haven't been limited to on-the-court problems.

The Aggies were hit with NCAA probation before the season started, overcome by carbon monoxide fumes when they went to Waco to play the Baylor Bears, and have had to deal with the death of coach Tony Barone's mother.

For these reasons, it would seem like the fair thing to do would be to go ahead and call off the final two games of the regular season and the Southwest Conference tournament, right?

Barone believes that the solutions to the problems go beyond any remaining wins and losses.

"I think what you do in this kind of season is fight and do the best you can and what happens is the wins and losses really become secondary," Barone said. "What becomes more important is effort. What becomes more important is attitude. What becomes more important is setting the stage for the future."

"The nature of this job and what it demands you to do requires you to do that."

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Softball team steps forward

Lady Aggies begin 1992 with road trip, injuries but jump to 12-4 start

By Doug Foster
The Battalion

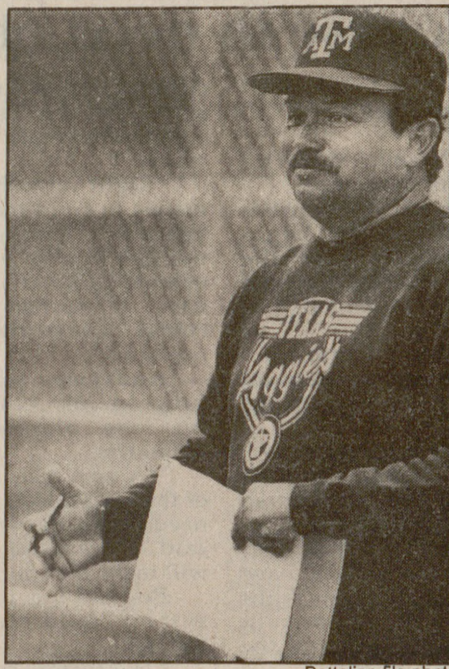
Despite losing an All-American pitcher to an injury early in the season, Texas A&M head softball coach Bob Brock said he sees many positive aspects of this year's team that could make them a serious contender.

Brock and his squad, who will be without pitching ace Missy Young for 2-4 weeks, will open their home schedule today against the University of Texas at Arlington in a 5 p.m. doubleheader at Lady Aggie Field.

A&M opened the season with a 12-game road trip and came home with an 8-4 record. The Aggies are currently the tenth-ranked team in the nation.

Brock said losing Young to an injury would be tough, but he feels his team has enough depth for others to step up and fill the hole created.

"When a team has a situation where its All-American pitcher goes out with an injury, they have a tendency to overrate that and cave in a little bit," he said. "We've got plenty of help on the team with our run scoring, and Jennifer



Battalion file photo

Bob Brock says his team has adjusted to the loss of pitcher Missy Young.

Mortensen (pitcher) has come in and picked up the slack.

"I also had not planned on pitching

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IN NEED OF A FACELIFT

Organization looks to improve A&M golf course

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

Texas A&M has built a reputation as a leader in golf course research and management, yet it has a substandard course.

Mike Poe, a Sugarland contractor and marketing director for Fore Card International, said the A&M golf course is in need of many improvements, but the funds for such improvements are not available due to the sluggish Texas economy.

"Texas A&M is recognized worldwide as the leading university in golf course research and development in the area of turf grass and in the area of students that major in golf course management," Poe said. "It's the core of golf course information in the state of Texas and across the country."

"All this combined and you've got a substandard golf course. The reason it's substandard is because state money is real tight right now. It should be the showplace of any university golf course in the country."

Fore Card is an organization formed by Poe designed to stimulate funds through memberships that will be allocated toward renovation of the A&M golf course.

Poe said he wants to recruit A&M students, faculty and alumni, as well as private companies, to support the cause.


Twenty percent of the annual membership fee of \$75 will be given to help in the development and modernization of the golf course. Annual membership fees for students will be \$60.

Privileges for members include free rounds annually at courses participating in the program and other various discounted prices throughout the year. Member courses include Fox Creek Golf Course, Bluebonnet Country Club and over 20 courses in South and East Texas.

"We're trying to build an organization of concerned former students, and any Aggies that want to see this golf facility be the best university facility in the country," Poe said.

Fore Card was given permission by

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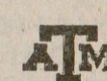
What is the Fore Card Golf Amenities Card?

- The owner of the Fore Card Amenities Card is entitled to play a number of Texas golf courses at a substantial savings. All of the participating golf courses offer our card holders a MINIMUM of one round of golf free of any green fees annually. In many cases the benefits are expanded to include two for the price of one green fees year round, more than one free round per year, discounts on driving ranges, discounts in the pro shops, discounts on lessons, etc.
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- Further, each card holder can take part in a statewide special events and tournament program that is designed exclusively for the Fore Card Texas A&M Golf Amenities Card. ALL net proceeds from the events and tournaments go to the Texas A&M golf course.

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