

SPORTS

Monday, May 3, 1993

The Battalion

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Minor leagues hold key to true spirit of game

The recent demolitions of Toronto's Exhibition Stadium in 1989 and Chicago's Old Comiskey Park in 1990 marked the passing of an era in professional baseball. Change, however, is looking back to the re-litigated days of baseball's past.



MATTHEW J. RUSH
Sports Writer

Say goodbye to the cathedrals of baseball like Ebbets Field, the Polo Grounds and Shibe-Mack Stadium. These venerable establishments, which hold the true history and lore of the game, have been replaced by multi-purpose, cookie-cutter arenas such as Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium, San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium, and Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia. These parks are not for the game of baseball, but are solely for the purposes of revenue all year-round.

When the new elaborate stadiums are erected, few will reproduce the mystique of the Wrigley Fields, the Tiger Stadiums and the Fenway Parks. Gone are the unique ball yards with advertisements splashed across the walls. Gone are the organs, the grass playing surfaces and the players who play the game because of their love for it. All of these baseball legacies are replaced by high-tech scoreboards, synthesized, oversampled sound machines, astroturf and

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Aggies no longer bridesmaids



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

A&M's Trey Moore dives back to the bag as Texas first baseman Braxton Hickman takes the throw from pitcher Brooks

Kieschnick. Moore earned the victory in the Aggies' second win over the Longhorns Saturday in Austin.

A&M earns first outright SWC title in 15 years

By MICHAEL PLUMER

The Battalion

AUSTIN - The Texas A&M baseball team came within two bristles of sweeping the University of Texas at Disch-Falk Field Sunday, but fell to the Longhorns by a score of 3-1.

The Aggies (47-7, 15-3), though, were merely playing for pride. A&M had clinched the outright Southwest Conference championship with a victory over Texas (44-12, 11-7) Friday night, winning 6-2 at Olsen Field. That was followed by a 9-1 A&M win Saturday night in Austin, although the Aggies suffered a loss in personnel during their second win of the series.

Rightfielder Stephen Claybrook separated his shoulder in the second inning while sliding into second base. His status is day-to-day.

The Longhorns also found themselves short one player for the third game. First baseman Braxton Hickman was hospitalized with viral meningitis, and his return

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Granger's field of dreams comes true in SWC clincher

By DON NORWOOD

The Battalion

The weather was perfect. The atmosphere was perfect. And for Jeff Granger, the outcome of Friday's game with the University of Texas was as close to perfect as it gets.

When the ace lefthander shackled the Longhorns 6-2 to insure top-ranked Texas A&M of its first outright Southwest Conference Championship since 1978 and

raise his record to 12-2, it marked the pinnacle of a career full of high points. That much was obvious on the face of Granger following the contest, as he remarked on his and the team's performances with wide-eyed amazement.

"It can always get better," Granger said, pondering his future. "But there's no other feeling that can be better (than right now)."

"It's great to be associated with a winning program. It's great to be able to do

it (win the title) here at Olsen Field."

The numbers more than back up Granger's dominance in his complete-game win. He gave up only six hits and four walks, while striking out twelve. All of this against the fifth-ranked 'Horns.

The secret of his success was no secret at all - heat. From the outset, Granger showcased his array of fastballs and sliders, as Texas batters were behind the ball all night. An as A&M coach Mark Johnson said, that ability to blow pitches past

batters kept the Aggies out of trouble.

"I thought he kept them off-balance," Johnson said. "He had a good slider, good velocity. He seemed to pitch better in a jam."

Fortunately for Granger, the only serious jam came in the seventh inning, when he struck out catcher Joel Williamson with Peter Gardere on third and Stephen Larkin on second. Texas was able to scratch out their only two runs in the top

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Loose Diamonds

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Pear Shape

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
1.02	F	Si1	\$3575 ⁰⁰
.73	G	Si2/I1	2178 ⁰⁰
.71	H	Si2	2250 ⁰⁰
.42	H	VS1	820 ⁰⁰

Emerald/Princess

Weight	Cut	Color	Clarity	Price
1.14	Emerald Cut	H	VVS2	\$5600 ⁰⁰
.66	Princess Cut	H	VVS2	1850 ⁰⁰

Oval

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
2.81	H/I	Si21	\$11,977 ⁰⁰
1.53	I/J	Si2	5800 ⁰⁰
1.09	H	Si1	3631 ⁰⁰
1.03	I/J	Si1/VVS2	3512 ⁰⁰
.77	I	Si1/Si2	2267 ⁰⁰
.71	E	Si	2586 ⁰⁰
.56	G	Si2	1175 ⁰⁰

Round Diamond

Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
9.51	K	I1/I2	\$29,500 ⁰⁰
2.48	F	I1	9610 ⁰⁰
2.34	J	Si2	8900 ⁰⁰
2.10	H	Si2	10,500 ⁰⁰
1.64	J	Si1	6600 ⁰⁰
1.37	K	VS1	4795 ⁰⁰
1.12	D	Si2	4500 ⁰⁰
1.03	G	VS1/VVS2	5300 ⁰⁰
.96	E	Si2	3900 ⁰⁰
.92	I	Si1/Si2	3208 ⁰⁰
.86	I/J	VS2/VS1	2932 ⁰⁰
.75	E	VS1/VVS2	3475 ⁰⁰
.72	D	Si1	2700 ⁰⁰
.72	G	Si1/Si2	2300 ⁰⁰
.71	J	Si2	1850 ⁰⁰
.71	G	Si2/I1	1750 ⁰⁰
.65	H	Si2	1763 ⁰⁰
.52	J	Si1	1108 ⁰⁰
.52	H/I	Si2/I1	700 ⁰⁰
.50	J	VS2	1065 ⁰⁰
.46	J	Si2	980 ⁰⁰
.47	G	Si2	890 ⁰⁰

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