

1993 Aggie Baseball Awards

The 1993 Texas Aggie Baseball Team announced the winners of the team's annual player awards on Tuesday.

Marion Pugh Most Valuable Player

Bryan Thomas - The senior centerfielder and co-captain led the team with a .379 ave., 79 hits, 69 runs, 55 RBI, 16 doubles, nine triples, 50 walks, eight hit by pitches and seven game-winning RBI.

C.E. "Pat" Olsen Outstanding Pitcher Award

Jeff Granger - The junior left-hander set an A&M record by striking out 150 batters in 127 innings en route to a 15-3 record with a 2.62 ERA. He holds the A&M three-season career strikeout record of 401 as well as the single game strikeout record of 21.

Wally Moon Award

David Minor - The redshirt freshman won the most improved player award by coming up with several clutch plays as a pinch hitter. He hit .304 for the year and had 19 RBI on only 14 hits.

Marion Pugh Spirit Award

Robert Harris - The zealous 5-8, 163-pound sophomore shortstop known for his spirited level of play was the unanimous choice.

-From Staff and Wire Reports

Kent nets two recruits for A&M tennis

By MATTHEW J. RUSH

The Battalion

After a disappointing spring, the men's tennis team is looking to regroup.

Consistency has epitomized Texas A&M tennis over the last several years, but the team has been unable to put together a solid season that would put them among the collegiate tennis elite. All of that is quickly about to change.

Last week, Coach David Kent and the men's tennis program signed two players that will significantly bolster the Aggies' attack for 1994. Robbie Krause of South Africa and Californian Trenton Rhodes look to make an immediate impact on next year's tennis squad.

"We have indeed been there every year, we just need to raise it another level," Kent said. "I'm cautiously optimistic about this year's team."



Kent

Californian, South African will provide squad with much-needed depth, mens' coach says

Kent believes that these two new players will significantly boost the Aggies already solid attack.

"I'm real excited about these two recruits," Kent said. "Last year we needed more depth. Last season was a little disappointing, but we needed more strength in the lower part of our order. We needed four or five Mark Weaver's to seriously compete."

Weaver, who will be a senior, led the Aggies with 24 victories last season and finished 32nd in the National Rankings, the highest by any Southwest Conference player.

Kent will look to Bernie Martinez and Weaver to share the leadership roles and to help break in these two new recruits.

"We've got the quantity, we just need the quality now," Kent said. "Mark can help us improve with his leadership by example and Bernie will lead by personality."

Krause, the 17-year-old from Rhode-

port, South Africa, eagerly awaits his arrival on the collegiate tennis scene.

"It'll definitely be tough to be far away from home, but at the same time it will be a learning experience," Krause said. "I'd like to make an immediate impact."

Krause has been characterized by Kent as a consistent baseline player who wears down opponents. His style of play has earned him the number one ranking among South African players.

Krause believes that the addition of him and Rhodes will make A&M dominant in the near future.

"It'll be tough to adjust to the college tennis scene, but in a couple of years we can be a top-level collegiate team."

Rhodes, on the other hand, stand in sharp contrast to the South African. He adds to the explosiveness of the lineup that already features Weaver and Martinez as well as Blake Arrant, Ricardo Roderate and Eric Horan.

"He's a slam-bam type player," Kent

said. The 18 year-old from Corona del Mar, California is no stranger to Texas as he grew up in the Lone Star State.

"I chose A&M because of its reputation," Rhodes said. "I like the coach as well as the guys on the team."

Rhodes wants to make an immediate impact as well, but says he would like to improve his game as his first season's goal. He also knows that the team has tremendous capabilities.

"Being at a big school and being far away will be a big change," Rhodes said. "We've got a great chance at being a top-25 team."

Kent said that all of the talent will be locked in place after their arrival, but he also said that the adjustment period may take longer than expected. Kent also speculated on the future of this year's team that is very young and equally talented.

"We need a good fall season and the young recruits need some collegiate experience," Kent said. "With those two, and Chad Raymond from Seattle, we've got the capability of having a great year. We're setting our sights high."

Minor league infraction

Tobacco ban hits nerve in Nashville ballpark

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ZEBULON, N.C. — The first day of the ban on tobacco products in the minor leagues went down swinging at a ballpark built several years ago on a razed tobacco field.

"If I stop chewing, OK now I'm going to eat a ton of sunflower seeds and gain 50 pounds and die of a heart attack. Thank you very much," said Carolina Mudcats manager John Wockenfuss, 44, a former big leaguer for more than a decade and a chewer for half his life.

Wockenfuss was chomping on a wad of bubble gum before the Mudcats' Double AA game with Nashville on Tuesday instead of his customary tobacco, and wasn't enjoying it one bit.

"This stuff just isn't cutting it," he

said, blowing a big bubble at Five County Stadium, about 20 miles east of Raleigh.

The Mudcats are one of nine minor league teams scattered across North Carolina, the nation's top tobacco producing state.

In fact, beyond the Mudcats' outfield fence is a field of leaf two months from being harvested.

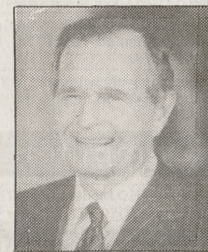
"You can't play the game without a chew, that's beyond me," said Carolina outfielder Tom Green. "It will be interesting to see if tempers start flaring in the dugout when people can't chew. It's like people who quit smoking, they are on edge a little bit."

Two weeks ago major league baseball said all uniformed personnel in the minor leagues would be banned from chewing or smoking tobacco during games for health reasons. The order is extended to players, managers, coaches and umpires.

Baseball was first love, Bush admits

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — Former President Bush says his first love was baseball, not politics, and says that hasn't changed over the years.



Bush

In a guest column in the upcoming issue of "The Sporting News," Bush said the passion began with the Boston Red Sox when he was a child.

"The Boston Red Sox were my favorite team and Lou Gehrig was my favorite player," Bush said.

"They say that you never forget your first love," said Bush in the "Sports Voice" column. "Well, as a little kid, I hated broccoli, but I loved baseball. What I love most about baseball is the 'feeling' ... almost a fever of sorts ..."

"But whatever it is, baseball remains a bonding force between men and women of all ages, races and religion."

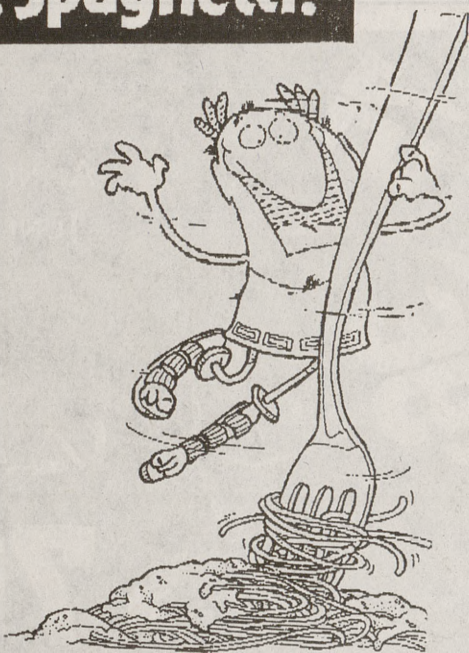
A first baseman and captain of the Yale University teams in 1947 and 1948, Bush said he no longer plays ball but enjoys watching his family participate in the sport.

"That is part of the beauty of baseball," he said. "It gets handed down from generation to generation. It has spanned many decades, several wars and, yes, many presidents."

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