

## Tales from a Lady Ags' fanatic

Guess what, Ags? We've got a title-contending team out there.

No, it's not our nationally acclaimed football or baseball team, it's the inhabitants of G. Rollie White Coliseum who are shaking up the Southwest Conference this semester.

In case you haven't noticed, and judging by the home attendance so far, you probably haven't, the women's basketball team is leading the SWC with a perfect conference record going into this weekend.

I'll admit that I had never been to a Lady Aggie game before I was assigned to cover the A&M-Houston Flight exhibition game in late November.

But I learned quickly that these ladies can flat-out play.

The Lady Ags ran over short-handed Houston Flight like a Mack truck, and I was hooked. What, you ask, makes this team so much fun to watch?

It all starts with outstanding point guard Lisa Branch,

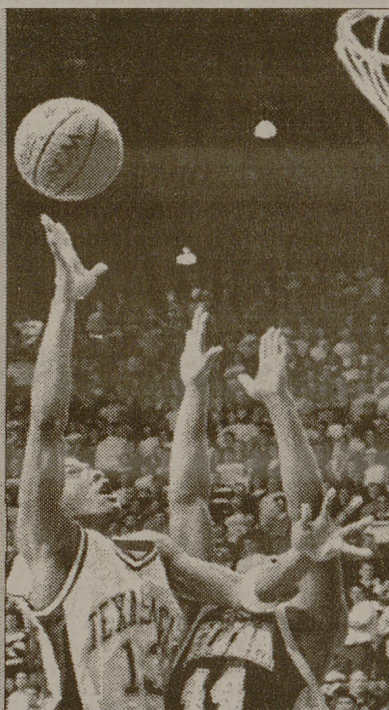
See Title/ Page 6



Nick Georgandis Sportswriter

## BASKETBALL

### Texas A&M Men's Basketball vs. SMU Mustangs at noon Saturday G. Rollie White Coliseum



## Cowboys march to Georgia

The Associated Press Harper, Cowboys gear up for Bills in historic game

ATLANTA — Everybody can't be the top cat, the go-to guy, the star of the show. Somebody has to warm up for Springsteen. Somebody has to open for Streisand.

When Alvin Harper was drafted by Dallas in 1991, he was a first-round pick equipped with flash and dash, an All-American at Tennessee. And when he got to the Cowboys, he found the team already had Michael Irvin, firmly entrenched as the centerpiece at wide receiver.

No problem. Harper simply became the second banana in the Dallas passing game. And he found out how comfortable that role could be. If Irvin's 88-catch explosiveness attracted double

coverage, that meant defenses couldn't concentrate on Harper and that was fine with him.

Wouldn't he prefer to be the main man, though?

"That would be great," Harper said. "That's fine and dandy, but sometimes I see Michael over there complaining about being double-covered. I actually like my situation, seeing man-to-man coverage."

Harper caught 20 passes in his rookie season, then 35 last year and 36 for 777 yards this season. Along with Pro Bowl tight end Jay Novacek, who had 44 catches, he provides a viable alternative to the razzle dazzle of Irvin.

And if nobody notices, hey,

that's fine. "I get enough recognition," Harper said. "I'm not a big pub guy. I just go along and do my

thing." Harper's speed provides a nice alternative across the field from Irvin. For the short game, there's Novacek, a workmanlike, plodder who provides important blocking protection and follows routes meticulously.

Novacek enjoyed his best game this season against Buffalo, with eight catches and 106 yards Sept. 12. In last year's Super Bowl, he was the Cowboys' leading receiver with seven catches for 72 yards.

Dallas also likes to throw to its running backs. NFL rushing

See Super/ Page 6

## Conference coaches deliver pitching call

By Mark Smith THE BATTALION

Starting pitching wins games, which is why head baseball coaches in the Southwest Conference are worried.

The coaches of the SWC discussed this and other topics concerning the upcoming season during a teleconference Thursday.

All of the coaches cited a lack of experienced pitching as one of their major concerns going into the 1994 season.

"We're basically returning just two pitchers," University of Houston head coach Bragg Stockton said. "We've recruited a lot of unknowns and have worked with

them. "Our big question is 'Can the new pitchers do it on the weekends when we have conference games?'"

University of Texas head coach Cliff Gustafson expressed mixed feelings about his pitching staff.

"Our pitching should be more balanced than it was last year," Gustafson said. "With (Brooks) Kieschnick gone we can't rely on just one pitcher."

Texas A&M head coach Mark Johnson is faced with a situation similar to Stockton's, but has several quality starters to help rebuild the staff.

"We're going to have to circle our wagons around (Chris) Clemons and (Trey) Moore," Johnson said.

A&M lost two ace pitchers to the major leagues last year when juniors Jeff Granger and Kelly Wunsch forewent their last year

of college eligibility to enter the professional draft. Moore started 15 games during the 1993 season, accumulating a 2.77 earned run average and a 12-0 record. Last year, Clemons earned a 3.79 era and a 6-2 record on seven starts.

Johnson said he was pleased by Moore's performance last year, but did not think that he could repeat such an outstanding season.

"Trey is a two-way guy," Johnson said. "He can hit and throw. From a statistical standpoint, I question whether he could duplicate last year."

In 1993, Moore worked not only as a pitcher but also as designated hitter. Last season he hit .314 with four home runs and 24

runs batted in. Johnson emphasized Moore's importance to the team. "He is a very important part of our line up," Johnson said. "He will be our Friday night starter."

John Codrington, who Johnson hoped to be in the top three pitching positions, developed a bone spur in his arm and had to have surgery. Codrington was 4-0 in four starts last season and compiled a 5.23 era.

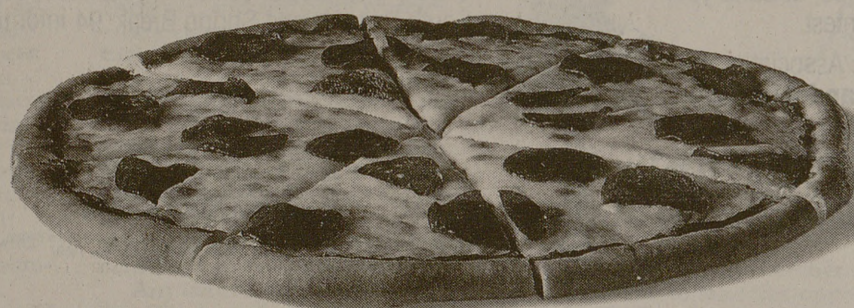
"John is starting to throw without effort now," Johnson said. "He is should be able to make it back."

The exact make-up of the pitching staff is an uncertainty that Johnson has to consider.

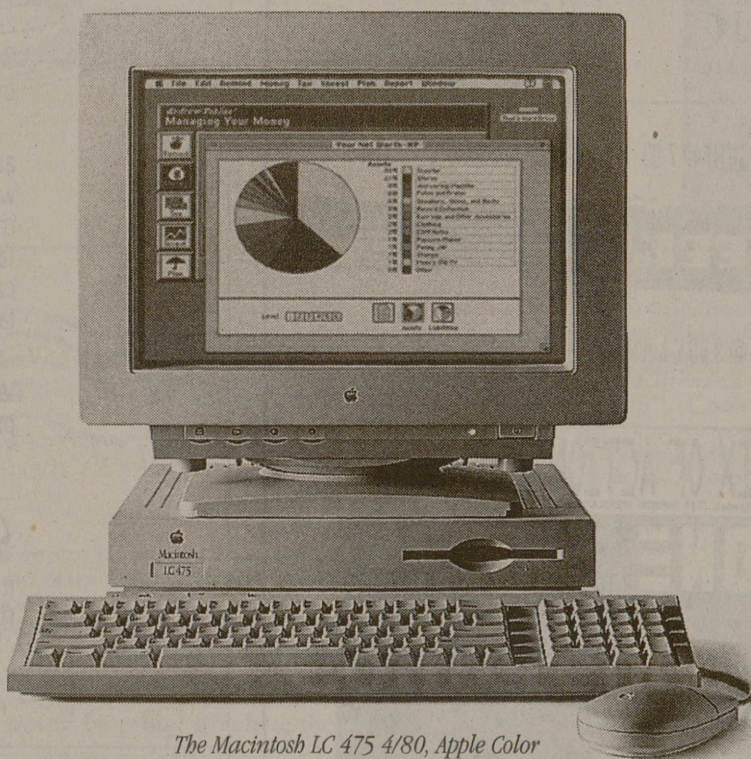
"I don't feel bad about the staff," Johnson said. "It's just who is a starter and who is a reliever."

About a dollar a slice.

About a dollar a day.



Thin crust pepperoni. Extra cheese. No anchovies.



The Macintosh LC 475 4/80, Apple Color Plus 14" Display, Apple Keyboard II and mouse.

Introducing the new Apple Computer Loan. Right now, with this special financing program from Apple, you can buy select Macintosh® and PowerBook® computers for about \$30\* a month. Or about a dollar a day. (You could qualify with just a phone call.) And if you apply by

January 28, 1994, your first payment is deferred for 90 days. It's an incredible deal no matter how you slice it. So, why should you buy an Apple® computer? It does more. It costs less. It's that simple.

Introducing The New Apple Computer Loan



## MICROCOMPUTERCENTER

Computer Sales and Service

Located in the Memorial Student Center

Open Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Phone 845-4081

\*Monthly payment is an estimate based on an Apple Computer Loan of \$1446 for the Macintosh LC 475 system shown above. Price and loan amount are based on Apple's estimate of higher education prices as of October 21, 1993. All computer system prices, loan amounts and monthly payments may vary. See your Apple Campus Reseller for current system prices. A 5% loan origination fee will be added to the requested loan amount. The interest rate is variable, based on the commercial paper rate plus 3.35%. For the month of October 1993, the interest rate was 8.51%, with an APR of 9.80%. 8-year loan term with no prepayment penalty. The monthly payment shown assumes no deferral of principal or interest (deferral will change your monthly payments). The Apple Computer Loan is subject to credit approval. © 1993 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Macintosh and PowerBook are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc.