

Setting the standard

Texas' coach needs 32 wins to break record

By Kristine Ramirez
THE BATTALION

The Southwest Conference will witness another milestone this season when University of Texas head coach Cliff Gustafson breaks the all-time win record in college baseball.

The Texas coach needed only 32 wins to become the all-time winningest coach in college baseball history.

And the Longhorns are currently 6-0 this season.

Gustafson has a record of 1,301-309-2 in his 26 years at Texas. The legendary Southern California Coach Rod Dedeaux had the record of 1332-571-11 in his 45 years.

Gustafson said he's not concerned about breaking the mark. "That's not a big concern of mine. I'm concerned about having a good team," he said.

Gustafson said he does not consider himself in the caliber of Rod Dedeaux.

"I have so much respect and awe for what he has accomplished," he said. "He has no peers and never will."

He said he never expected to come close to breaking the record.

"It never occurred to me that this would happen on a collegiate level, I just hoped to have a job for a while," he said.

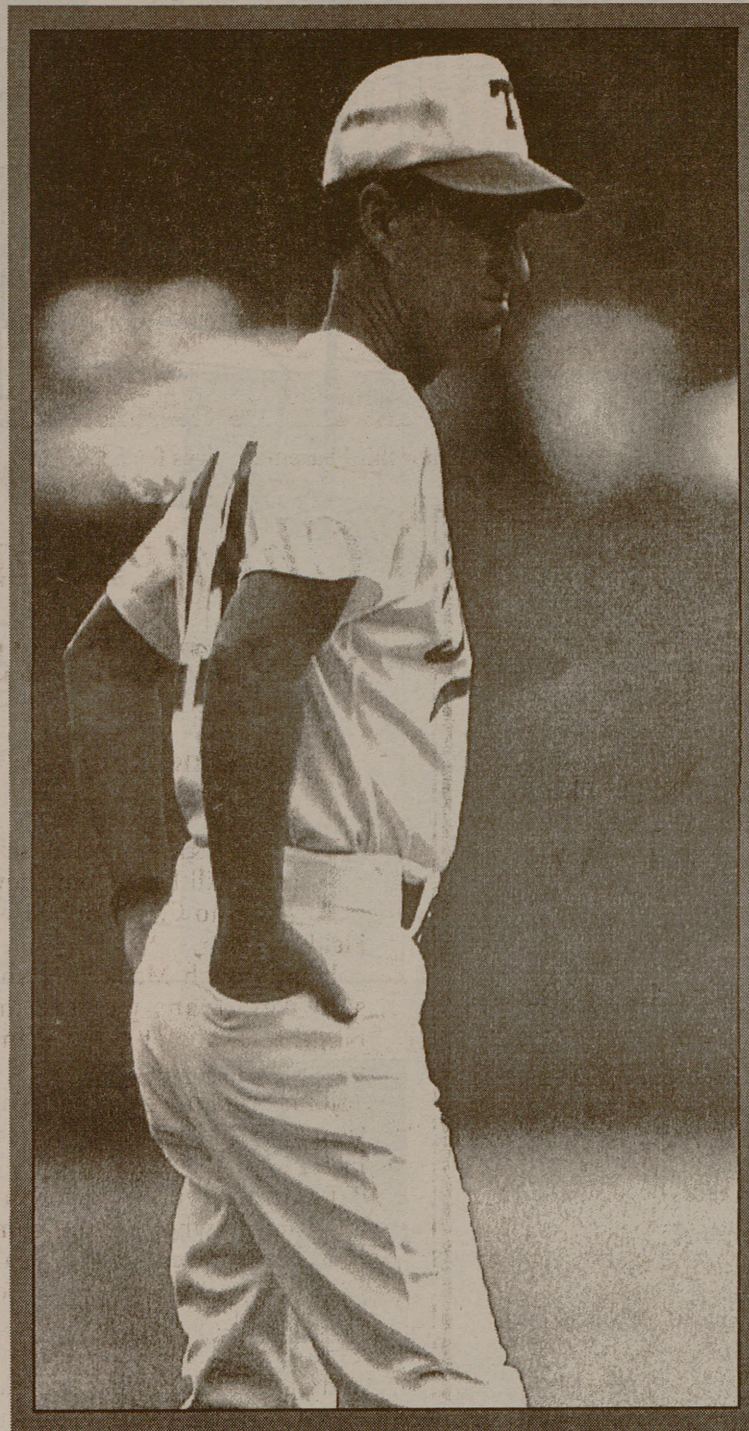
In his 26 years as head coach, he has won two national championships (1974 and 1983), been to the College World Series 17 times, participated in the NCAA playoffs 24 times, won 21 SWC regular-season titles (19 outright) and won the SWC post-season tournament 10 times in the 16 years the tournament has been played.

Gustafson was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Hall of Fame in 1992.

He attended the University of Texas and said he is happy to live in the Austin area.

Gustafson also said he never wanted to coach on the professional level because of he never wanted to travel.

"I've been happy," he explains. "This is the place I wanted to



raise my family."

Gustafson credits his predecessors for creating a tradition of baseball excellence at Texas.

"Texas' success is not something I started," he said. "It started in 1910 when they hired Billy Disch."

Bibb Falk during the next 25 years as head coach continued the winning tradition.

Gustafson said he hopes to make a run this season for his 22 SWC title and 25 NCAA playoffs.

"We hope to have a good winning record and make a bid

for the SWC title."

He said Texas A&M is a front runner in the SWC race.

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"A&M was chosen by the media to be the favorite and I think that is a deserved ranking," he said. "Texas will be a contender."

"I don't know how strong. It would be difficult to rank anyone low."

He said Rice and Texas Christian will have strong teams and Baylor will bring back the nucleus that won the SWC tournament.

Gustafson ranks the top three in the conference as A&M, Texas and Rice.

Gustafson said he was concerned with the future of the Southwest Conference especially with recent rumors of a possible merger with Big Eight conference.

"I have a concern with that," Gustafson said. "I hate to see it happen. We have a very fine baseball conference."

"I personally would like to see the SWC baseball conference to remain intact."

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