

Sports

Tuesday, March 29, 1994

The Battalion

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Aggies need bats to make it past 'frustrating' play

Mark Smith
Asst. Sports Editor



"In general, the mood is frustration."
— A&M head baseball coach Mark Johnson

Johnson's words describe the feelings of the A&M baseball team. A team that is not faltering because of turmoil or lack of talent, but because of the high expectations they have placed upon themselves.

The Aggies' have begun Southwest Conference play 0-6, their worst start in conference history. These are the same Aggies who were ranked No. 6 by Baseball America in the pre-season polls and started the season 9-0.

The losses have come against Texas and Rice, two of the SWC's best teams. The No. 5 Longhorns have amassed a 25-10 record (5-1 in SWC) and Rice is 22-11 (4-2 in SWC).

And, the SWC is the best baseball conference in the country. None of the seven teams in the conference have losing records and A&M is the cellar-dweller with a 18-15 overall record.

With the six conference losses, people ask, "Are the Aggies out of the SWC race?"

Rice head coach Wayne Graham said after this weekend's series A&M could not be discounted.

Johnson, however, thought the Aggies would have some serious work to do if they want to be in the SWC tournament.

"The bottom line is we're 0-6," Johnson said. "With 12 conference games left, we can't afford to lose any more (conference) series."

If a revival is to come for the Aggies, it

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A&M baseball to play St. Olaf

By Nick Georgandis
The Battalion

Texas A&M's baseball team will try to wake up their dormant bats as they take on the St. Olaf College Oles, a Division III school, at 7 tonight at Olsen Field.

The Aggie batters managed only three runs in three games while being swept at Rice this weekend, and their team batting average in the six conference games is a lethargic .191, compared to their opponents' .286 mark.

Head coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies' recent cold spell is simply a part of the overall season.

"We've had lots of close ball games and we haven't got a lot of breaks, but baseball's that kind of game," Johnson said.

"We're not wallowing in self-pity, the percentages simply haven't been going our way."

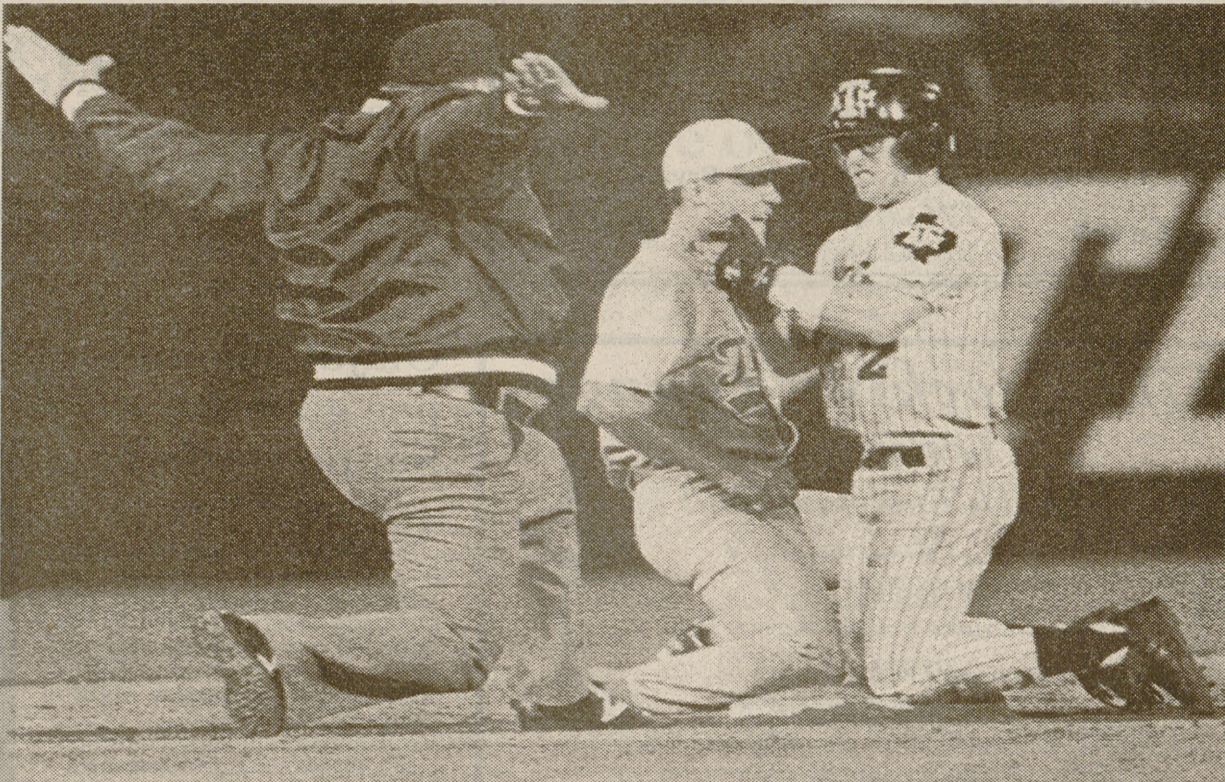
Starting for the Aggies tonight will be sophomore right-hander John Codrington, who comes into the game with an 0-3 record. Codrington has been hampered this season by his recovery from surgery this fall that removed bone spurs from his elbow.

Assistant head coach and pitching coach Jim Lawler said he will continue to use Codrington even though the pitcher is not completely recovered from the effects of the surgery.

"Even though (Codrington) is not 100 percent, he's close enough to use," Lawler said.

"We'll probably use Spencer McIntyre and Kevin Beirne as well, to see how they respond."

The Aggies will resume Southwest Conference play on Friday as they begin a three-game series at Olsen Field with the University of Houston.



Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

Texas A&M shortstop **Rob Harris** (right) claps in approval of the umpire's call after he slid safely into third base during the second game of the Aggies' series against the University of Texas. The game was March 19 at Olsen Field. The Aggies lost the game 7-8 and were swept by the Longhorns.

Johnson, Jones have meeting

The Associated Press

IRVING — Both Jimmy Johnson and owner Jerry Jones emerged Monday afternoon from an intense 2 1/2-hour meeting and both refused to answer when asked separately if Johnson is still the head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

"Nothing has been resolved. We'll be back again tomorrow to discuss where we go from here. We

basically talked about the last five years and were candid about our feelings," Johnson said.

But when asked specifically if he is still the Cowboys' coach, Johnson refused, saying "Jerry will talk to you later."

Minutes later, Jones also refused to answer the question.

The meeting began about 2 p.m. at

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Coach Magic pushes Lakers

The Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — First, Magic Johnson drilled the Los Angeles Lakers in his version of basketball boot camp, then he ran them in a game until their lungs burned and their legs buckled.

If the Lakers don't collapse from the pace he's pushing them, they might be a decent team — though not likely a playoff team this year.

For the moment, Johnson's victorious NBA coaching debut, 110-101

Sunday against the Milwaukee Bucks, gives him the highest winning percentage among active coaches. A few losses and he'll have the worst. He gave himself until early Monday morning to celebrate.

"Winning as a player, you get to enjoy it. Winning as a coach, you get to go watch films," he said. "I'll get up early, 5:30, and watch them. I will en-

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Resurrection Week Calendar

Wednesday, March 30

Coach Tom Landry and Jon Randles

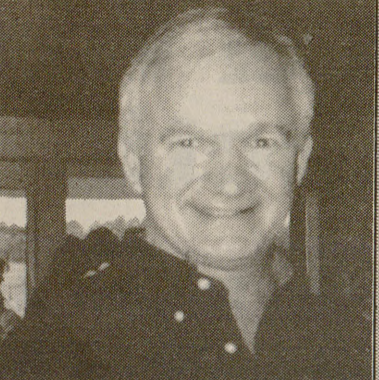


**7:00 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium**



Thursday, March 31

Crucifixion Scene and Speaker Frank Cox



**12:00 Noon
Rudder Fountain**

Resurrection Week 1994 Presents

STEVE CAMP

The Storm Tour

Top 20 Contemporary Christian recording artist

**Concert at 7:00 p.m. TONIGHT
Tuesday, March 29, 1994
Rudder Auditorium**

Tickets \$3 available at the MSC Box Office 845-1234 or at the door