

## New minor league gives chance to play

MARY MACMANUS

Asst. Photo Editor



Baseball fans have more to look forward to this summer with the start of the newly formed Texas-Louisiana Professional Baseball League.

This privately-owned AA minor league, which is not affiliated with any major league teams, will give people in Texas a better chance to see professional baseball and will also give major league hopefuls more places to play.

People in the six Texas cities, which will host teams in the league, cannot easily go to a professional ball game at the moment.

Jack Lazarko, director of baseball operations for the Texas-Louisiana league, said it is difficult for people to go to the Astrodome or the Ballpark in Arlington, and it gives people a chance to see pro ball closer to home.

Many of the cities getting teams, such as Harlingen, Amarillo and Corpus Christi, are not close enough to cities that have even minor league teams to see pro ball.

As many people from these cities can testify, there is not much to do in these towns for entertainment so the new baseball teams will give people a place to go.

"These cities and a lot of areas are hungry for baseball," Lazarko said.

With more people being able to see good, cheap family entertainment, the popularity of baseball will also increase.

League games do not even start until the end of May, and people in the host cities are excited about the start of the season.

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## Aggies to take on Bearkats

### Beirne to start against Sam Houston State at 7 tonight

By Drew Diener  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M baseball team will continue its non-conference schedule when it hosts Sam Houston State tonight at 7 p.m. at Olsen Field.

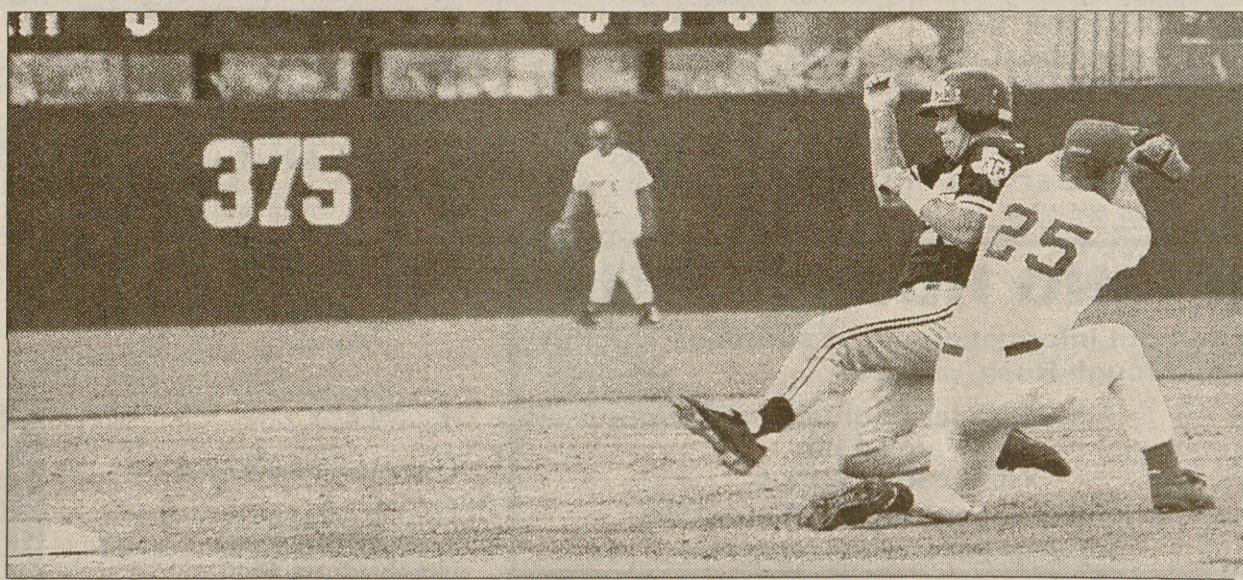
A&M head coach Mark Johnson said that the game will be pivotal for the Aggies (21-16 overall and 2-7 in the SWC), who dropped six out of eight games before taking two of three from the University of Houston last weekend.

"Our biggest opponents are ourselves," Johnson said. "On the whole, we haven't gotten to the brink of where we feel comfortable with our game and everybody's playing relaxed."

Johnson said that the Aggies must improve on the sloppy play that they have exhibited of late, most recently in the Houston series when the team committed a total of nine errors.

"We have always characteristically been a team that has not given the game to the other team," Johnson said. "I think we have fallen into a category where we are giving games up."

En-route to an 8-3 loss to the Cougars Saturday night in the series finale, A&M made four errors.



Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

Texas A&M designated hitter Billy Harlan (middle) slides into third past UH's J.J. Matzke (25) during the second game of the A&M-UH doubleheader on Saturday. Harlan stole third safely.

Johnson said that he expects improvement in the team's play tonight against the Bearkats.

On the mound for the Aggies will be freshman Kevin Beirne. Beirne enters the contest with a record of 0-1 and a 5.65 ERA in six appearances. Much of Beirne's troubles on the mound this season have stemmed from his control problems. He has walked 16 batters in 14 1/3 innings of work. How-

ever, when Beirne stays in the strike zone, he is tough on batters, holding them to a meager .196 batting average.

Johnson said that Beirne will not pitch the entire game and said that he expects junior All-American Chris Clemons to see some time in relief.

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## LSU pulls out of football contract, owes A&M \$400,000

By Kristine Ramirez  
The Battalion

Texas A&M's annual football bayou bash with Louisiana State University will end after the 1995 football season and will cost LSU \$400,000.

LSU has decided to pull out of the last two years of the remaining four years of its contract with A&M that runs through 1997.

A&M Athletic Director Wally Groff said if LSU will not play A&M in 1996 and 1997, then A&M will exercise the penalty clause of the contract. He said

LSU will have to compensate A&M \$400,000 because the clause in the contract stipulates \$200,000 a year.

Groff said he was shocked when LSU Athletic Director Joe Dean called and said they wanted out of the last two years out of the contract. Getting out of the contract would be fine if LSU could find a comparable replacement for A&M to play instead, Groff said.

After 200 phone calls, no suitable

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## Arkansas gets first national title with 76-72 win over Duke

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Arkansas won its first national championship Monday night, keeping a president happy and placing its coach where he always felt he belonged.

Scotty Thurman's 3-pointer with 50 seconds left as the shot clock expired gave the Razorbacks a 76-72 victory and deprived Duke, the dominant team of the decade, from a third title in four years.

With President Clinton once again

watching his beloved Razorbacks in person, Arkansas came up with a gutsy performance to give coach Nolan Richardson a championship ring to wave in front of his critics whom he openly challenged throughout Final Four weekend.

It also offset an unbelievable final college game by Grant Hill, one of three Duke seniors looking for a third title. He engineered an early second-half run that gave the Blue Devils a 10-point lead, but

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