

### Farris set for life, A&M still set back

**MARK SMITH**  
Sports Editor



Imagine, if you will, a situation. You are in the living room of your parents' house sitting on the couch. Your hands are sweating and you laugh nervously over some joke your father says.

The doorbell rings. You get up and open the door. Three men in expensive looking Italian suits are there. You usher them in and have them sit down.

You chat with them for a moment about little things, the weather, the NBA finals.

Eventually you get down to business. One looks at you and says, "We'll pay you \$750,000 to come play baseball for our minor league team. We think you've got talent and we're willing to pay for it."

You're only 18 years old. You've lived at home all your life. You've got a scholarship to one of the biggest universities in the country.

What would you do, take the money or go to school?

Well, this might be something like what Mark Farris went through. He just graduated from Angleton High School and he has seen more money than I probably will in my entire lifetime.

In our society, education is everything. We forget that life isn't all books and learning. Some of the greatest knowledge comes from experience.

Farris has a chance to see what professional baseball is like. That is an opportunity that few people ever get to enjoy. Even more fortunate for him, he gets paid an ample amount of money to do it. Some people would do it for free.

Perhaps the only drawback to the situation is the effect on A&M's quarterback depth. The only quarterbacks A&M has are junior Corey Pullig, who started all 12 games last season, senior Steve Emerson, who was switched to linebacker and then back to quarterback, and Stormy Case, who is a walk-on and serves mainly as the holder for the placekicker.

Head football coach R.C. Slocum thought Farris had a chance to

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## Farris teams up with Pirates

### Big bucks lure A&M quarterback prospect to bat for Pittsburgh

**By Dave Winder**  
SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

After working out for more than 20 Major League Baseball scouts this spring, Angleton's Mark Farris still expected to compete for Texas A&M's backup quarterback position.

Then he was drafted in the first round of the MLB 1994 Amateur draft by the Pittsburgh Pirates and offered a five-year contract estimated a \$1 million with a team record \$820,000 signing bonus. A clause in his contract ensures eight semesters of college tuition, paid for by the Pirates.

After thinking it over, Farris decided he could not pass up the money.

"It was a tough decision to make," Farris said. "Because A&M never really put any pressure on me. Coach (R.C.) Slocum told me whatever happened we would still be friends and he wanted me to do what was best for me."

Slocum, head football coach, said he was happy for Farris, but was worried about his team's depth at quarterback.

"It's fortunate for him, but unfortunate for us," Slocum said. "This leaves us critically short. My hope was that Mark Farris would come in and challenge for the quarterback position." Slocum said he understood Farris' decision, however.

"If someone offered me three-quarters of a million to play baseball I'd probably have to consider it too," Slocum said. Jokingly, he added, "If they play baseball, I'm not even going to fool with them anymore."

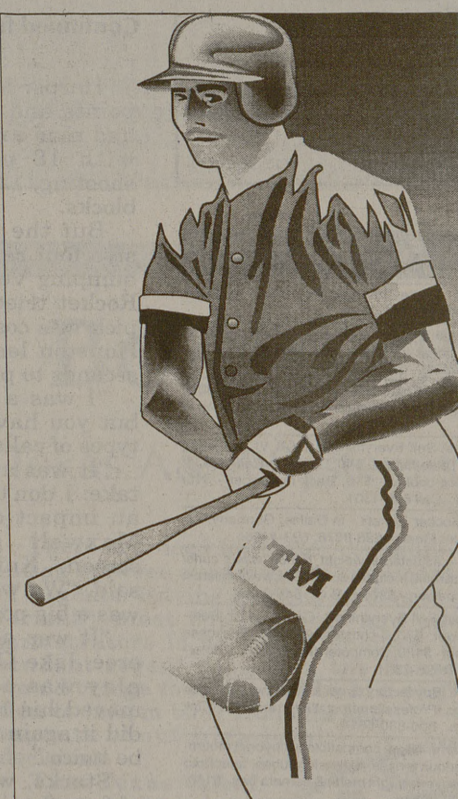
Farris said the mass exodus of Aggie coaches had nothing to do with his decision to play baseball.

"Coach (Gary) Kubiak and I were pretty close, but his leaving did not affect my decision at all," Farris said. "Coach Slocum was still there, which still made the decision pretty hard."

Kubiak was A&M's quarterbacks coach, but left to pursue a career with the San Francisco 49ers.

Farris, one of the state's top football prospects, threw for over 1,700 yards and 21 touchdowns last fall. But his .484 batting average, three homers, 20 RBIs and 13 stolen bases were just as impressive.

Farris will report to the Pirates Class A team in Welland, Ontario, where he will most likely play third base.



Jose Luis de Juan/THE BATTALION

## New York fights for Stanley Cup

### Rangers have one game left to shake their 54-year curse, 'choke' collar

NEW YORK (AP) — There are no games to look past. There may be no parties to plan. If the New York Rangers don't win Tuesday, they will be remembered forever as choke artists supreme.

"There were opportunities, but now they're just missed opportunities," Craig MacTavish said Sunday, one day after his Rangers lost 4-1 to the Vancouver Canucks in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup finals.

Game 7 will be Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden, where the Rangers have never celebrated hockey's ultimate triumph.

"We played well enough early in the series to give us three games to do it. We have stretched it to the third game," MacTavish said. "We approached Game 5 like we had two more games and that hurt us."

Were the Rangers guilty of looking ahead? Or, given the opportunity to finally lift a 54-year curse, are they choking?

The Rangers haven't won the Stanley Cup since 1940. And coach Mike Keenan has been making excuses for why that spell hasn't been broken yet in 1994.

The Rangers had a chance to wrap things up in Madison Square Garden but couldn't do it and Keenan blamed the hype and the fans and the media. Then they had a chance to wrap it up in Vancouver, where they had already won twice in the series, but they couldn't and Keenan blamed the officials.

Keenan has complained about distractions, but he is the focus of one himself. Reports continue to surface that he will leave the Rangers to become the Detroit Red Wings' general manager.

"It hasn't even been a topic in the dressing room," Lowe said.

The main topic? Playing better than they have the last two games.

"It's sort of like the Super Bowl now," Stephane Matteau said. "If you play one bad game, your season's over."

Unfortunately for the Rangers, they're not playing the Buffalo Bills.

They're playing the resilient Canucks, who already have proven they can come back from a 3-1 series deficit. They won the last three games

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## World Cup not sold on Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas hasn't scored many points with national World Cup organizers, who say the city has caused the most problems of the nine U.S. sites for this summer's tournament.

World Cup and the city have spent months battling over security fences, police overtime pay and contracts.

"There are more problems getting things done here than in any other city," World Cup USA 1994 president Alan Rothenberg told The Dallas Morning News in Sunday's editions.

In addition to playing host to six soccer matches, Dallas also is the tournament headquarters for world soccer's governing body, World Cup referees and the international television and radio corps.

"You're dealing with contracts and major dollars," said Ida Papert, the volunteer chairwoman at the local World Cup office. "There have been some pretty ugly battles."

World Cup complaints about Dallas most frequently involve the 8-foot chain-link fence that rings most of the Cotton Bowl field.

Tournament officials said the fence will block fans' views and offend sports enthusiasts by suggesting they are



hooligans.

The city agreed last week to take down the fence's west side, where the television cameras are.

"We want to put on the best games we can," said Bill Stroube, executive director of the Dallas venue for World Cup USA.

"As soccer fans, we want to showcase international soccer in Dallas, the excitement and the passion. And we want to bring Dallas together."

That last objective may be the toughest of all, officials said.

World Cup USA has major contracts with the Cotton Bowl and the Automobile and Centennial buildings, which comprise the International Broadcast Center.

The World Cup facilities are in the middle of the Fair Park area of downtown Dallas. The City Council, park board, landmark commission, the museums on site and the Friends of Fair

Park all claim a stake in Fair Park's fate.

Meanwhile, World Cup has contractual obligations with the Federation Internationale de Football Association, the governing body of world soccer.

"We have about 20 or 30 separate entities involved," Stroube said. "It's the most complex situation in the entire World Cup."

Dallas is the only World Cup site that hasn't sold out any games. Hoteliers set aside about 300,000 room-nights for World Cup business — that shrank to less than 100,000. Mall and restaurant activity also is expected to be much lower than projected.

Nye Lavalle, the chairman of a local sports marketing group, said the World Cup arrogantly supposed that the internationally popular event could sell itself.

"They felt everybody in the United States should just bow down and roll over," Lavalle said. "They really didn't market it or promote it."

Dallas hasn't done a good promotion job either, Lavalle said.

"It's difficult to do anything here," he said. "This is a very hard city in which to garner any kind of community support for anything."

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