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Powerful bats key to Aggies' '95 success

Bad break for A&M at NCAAs

SPORTS

Staff and Wire Reports

The NCAA Track and Field Championships got off to an ominous start Wednesday for Texas A&M when junior decathlete Richard Harrison broke his foot while competing in the high jump.

Harrison, who came into the meet with a strained Achilles tendon, had competed in four of the 10 decathlon events when he suffered the injury.

"This is really unfortunate for Richard, it seems like he just can't get a break at an NCAA meet," A&M head track and field coach Ted Nelson said. "He's really worked hard the last couple of years and it's really too bad that something like this happened." In other events, junior Curt Young recorded a season-best

In other events, junior Curt Young recorded a season-best time of 50.84 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles. His time was not fast enough to qualify for the semifinals, however.

Today, four more A&M competitors will begin competing in the preliminaries. Junior Anjanette Kirkland will go into the 100-meter hurdles with the best time in the nation this year at 12.89 seconds, fourth best in the world. Kirkland finished third in the event last season, and both runners who finished ahead of her last season are competing this year.

Also competing tomorrow will be Young and sophomore Larry Wade in the 110-meter hurdles and senior Dante Bolden in the 100-meter dash. Bolden barely qualified for the field of 24 with a time of 10.38 seconds.

Wade goes into the hurdles with the fastest legal collegiate time this year, 13.65 seconds. □ The Texas A&M baseball team hit .321 during the regular season.

By Lee Wright The Battalion

The 1995 baseball season for Texas A&M began and ended with question marks.

It began with thoughts of "What happened?" after the Aggies' dismal 1994 campaign, including a 6-12 Southwest Conference Record.

It ended however, with thoughts of "What could have happened?" after the Aggies came within one game of their second College World Series berth in three years.

The A&M baseball season concluded on Sunday with a heartbreaking loss to the University of Miami, 5-2, in the championship game of the Atlantic II Regional tournament.

"The tough competition in the Southwest Conference this season prepared us for postseason play."

– Jim Lawler Texas A&M pitching coach

The loss ended a four-game winning streak in the regional for the Aggies.

The Aggies. The Aggies hitters had no trouble producing in the series, despite the high level of competition they faced. Texas A&M head pitching coach Jim Lawler attributed the Aggies' offensive success to the quality SWC pitching they faced all season.

faced all season. "The tough competition in the Southwest Conference this season prepared us for postseason play," Lawler said. "We were used to playing good teams with outstanding pitching staffs."

For the most part, the regular season mirrored the regional for the Aggie hitters. A&M finished with a .321 team batting average, third highest in school history. The hitting attack led the Aggies to a 15-9 SWC record, good for second place behind Texas Tech, and a 40-20-1 record overall.

Spearheading the attack for A&M were the team's co-Most Valuable Players, John Curl and Chad Alexander. Curl had the most prolific offensive year of his career, hitting .418 with 18 home runs and a .788 slugging percentage. Alexander set a new team record for hits in a season with 106, shattering the existing record of 96. Both players were named first-team, all-SWC.

Never was the Aggies' offensive prowess exemplified more than in the SWC Tournament held at Olsen Field in May. During the tournament, the Aggie batters slugged 12 home runs in five games. shattering the old record of eight set by the University of Houston

in 1982. The A&M pitching staff rebounded from an injuryplagued 1994 season to keep the Aggies in striking distance throughout the season.

Justin Atchley, a senior lefthander, received the C.E. "Pat" Olsen Outstanding Pitcher Award. He led the Aggies with 16

games started, seven complete games, 113 and 1/3 innings of work and only 18 walks. Atchley ended the season with a 9-6 record and a 5.00 earned run average.

The Wally Moon Award, given to the most improved player on the A&M roster, was presented to Tim Clarkson, a junior transfer who did not pitch until the 23rd game of the season.

He ended the regular season with a 4-1 record and a 3.86 ERA. He was also named to the regional all- tournament team after a completegame shutout against Miami



Senior first baseman **John Curl** and his Aggie teammates came within one win of reaching the College World Series in 1995.

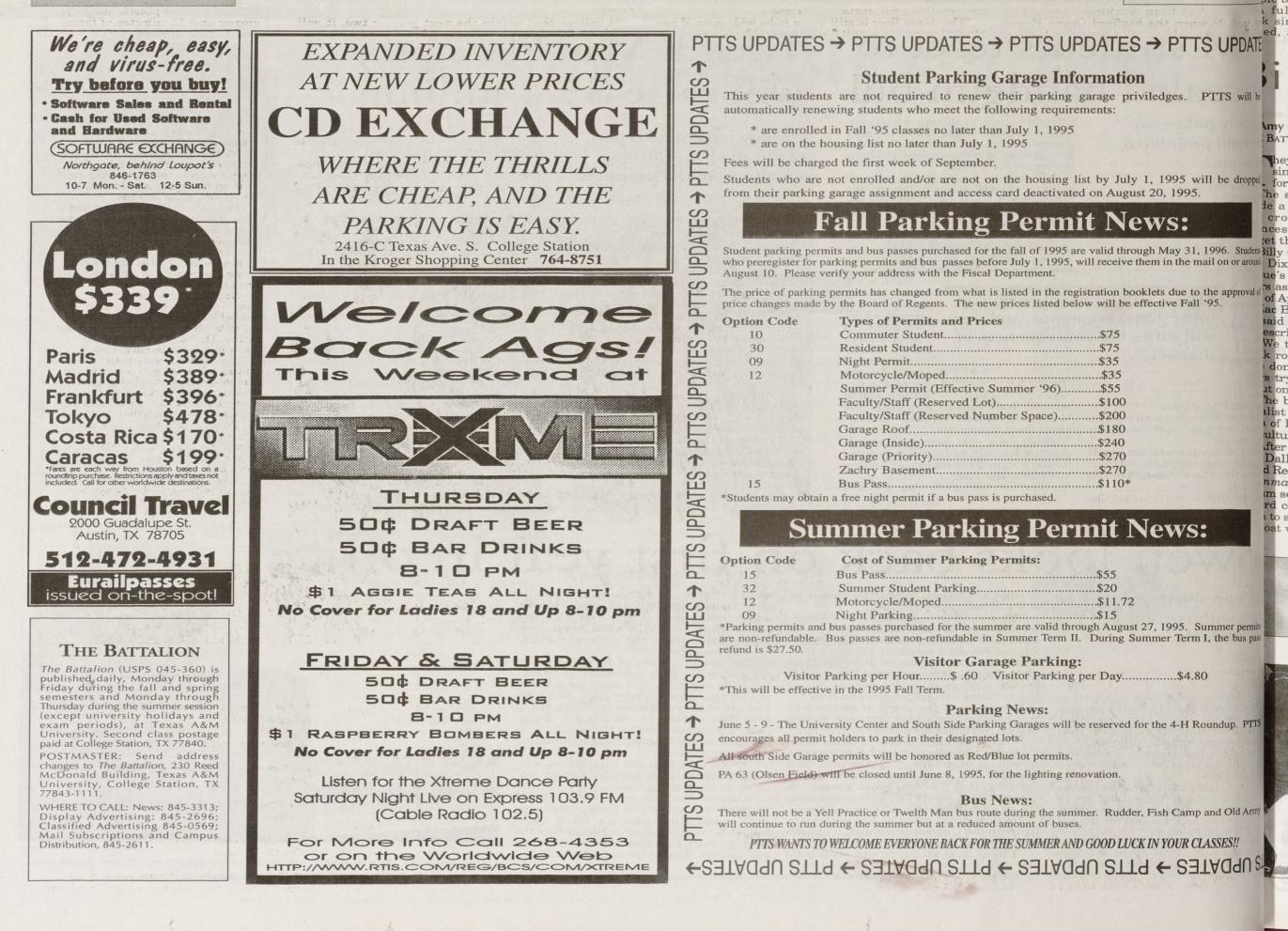
that forced Monday's championship game.

onship game. "A lot of guys stepped up and had big games during the regionals against very good teams." Lawler said.

Not only the players set records in 1995. Aggie fans set a new attendance record at Olsen Field on April 28 when 7,147 fans packed the stadium to see

the Aggies' game against the University of Texas.

The Aggies finished the season ranked No. 12 in the country and will lose seven players, including starters Curl and shortstop Robert Harris to graduation. In addition, pitching staff will lose Atchley, Spencer McIntyre and Brian Parker.



Playing the name game in pro sport



What's in a management of sports. That my (devoted fans, clever **BAT** members and the guy ESPN's "Sportscenter", players have acquip poignant and often, we morous monikers. **ntow** But which sport has to

best nicknames? ing Is it the National Foren

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Although football he the most-watched sport in h a frica, fans do not usually rnat attached to the playniaut they do in other sports and could be the pounds that and helmets that shall be players from more the gout opposing team.

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Ivan "Pudge" Rodrinne many of the best play ch the major leagues have I ju what lackluster images be See WRIGHI, Peen See WRIGHI, Peen