

sports GLANCE

Tech plummets, UT vaults in latest poll

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Top 25 teams in the Collegiate Baseball poll, with records through April 14 (voting by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors):

Rank	Team	Record
1.	Cal-St. Fullerton	36-4
2.	USC	31-9-1
3.	Wichita State	27-5
4.	Florida	31-10
5.	Louisiana State	33-8
6.	Miami, Fla.	29-7
7.	Florida State	33-8
8.	Clemson	33-7
9.	Texas	30-13
10.	South Florida	32-9
11.	Alabama	29-12
12.	Texas Tech	36-9
13.	UCLA	23-15
14.	Georgia Tech	25-12
15.	Cal.-Northridge	37-10
16.	Tennessee	23-12
17.	North Carolina St.	32-10
18.	Georgia Southern	32-8
19.	Mississippi St.	24-12
20.	Stanford	23-17
21.	Arizona St.	27-16
22.	Missouri	26-11
23.	Oklahoma St.	26-12
24.	Arkansas	31-10
25.	Long Beach St.	26-15

Johnson to miss three games for ref bump

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Magic Johnson, who recently criticized teammates for irresponsible behavior, was suspended for three games and fined \$10,000 Monday for bumping a referee in the Los Angeles Lakers' game a day earlier.

Johnson will sit out games at Dallas on Tuesday night, at San Antonio on Thursday night and at home against Minnesota on Saturday night. He will be eligible to play again in the regular-season finale at Portland.

"I accept the league's fine and suspension and I want all the fans, the media, and everyone associated with the Lakers to know that my actions were unprofessional and wrong," Johnson said in a statement issued by the Lakers before he left for Dallas with the team.

"I apologize to Scott Foster, to all the referees, and to the league and I hope they know, as I do, that the incident was accidental and that I respect them in their professionalism in what is a very difficult job."

SCORES ROUNDUP

NL

Cincinnati at Chicago (n)
Cardinals 6, Pirates 4
San Diego at Colorado (n)

NBA

Knicks 125, Raptors 79
Heat 110, Nets 90
Indiana 90, Charlotte 87
Seattle 112, Houston 106
Sacramento 90, Denver 86
San Antonio at Portland (n)

AL

Cleveland 8, Boston 0
Toronto 8, Detroit 2
Chicago 11, Kansas City 10
Oakland 8, Texas 3
California at Seattle, (n)

Petru won't stop short of perfection



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M shortstop Rich Petru awaits anything hit his way in the infield of Olsen Field during a recent game. Petru has stepped into former All-SWC performer Robert Harris' shoes easily this season.

By Lisa Nance
THE BATTALION

When on the baseball field, junior shortstop Rich Petru gives new meaning to the game of hardball.

"I try to play hard every night," Petru said. "If I had to pick something that people in the stands or my teammates thought of me, it would be that I play hard. Whether or not I win the game with a home run or go 0-for-4, I'd want them to know that I played hard and gave it my all on every play. I feel like I am playing with heart and praying hard."

"That's the mark I want to leave, that of playing hard and playing with a lot of heart."

— RICH PETRU
Texas A&M junior shortstop

"That's the mark I want to leave, that of playing hard and playing with a lot of heart."

Petru's hard work and heart are already established with his teammates. Senior second baseman Paul Barber said that he has definitely made his mark defensively.

"What makes him stand out in my mind when I'm out there with him is some of the defensive plays he's made this year," Barber said. "They've just been incredible. There are plays that he gets to and I'm thinking 'Don't throw it, don't throw it, there is no way,' and the next thing you know, he's got them by a step and I'm thinking, 'Wow, how'd he make that play?'"

Petru is motivated to do his best by the competition of the game.

"I like the overall competition," Petru said. "I like to compete, and I like to get out there and lay it all on the line and see what happens. Baseball is a hard game because it can break your heart, and that's what they say it was meant to do."

Petru hasn't seen that many heartbreaks in his career as an Aggie. This season he is hitting .351 and has three home runs. He has started 37 of 39 games and has 34 runs batted in.

In his sophomore season, he started 25 games at second base, two at shortstop and two at third base. He started the final four games of the NCAA

regional tournament, turning in solid defensive performances in all games.

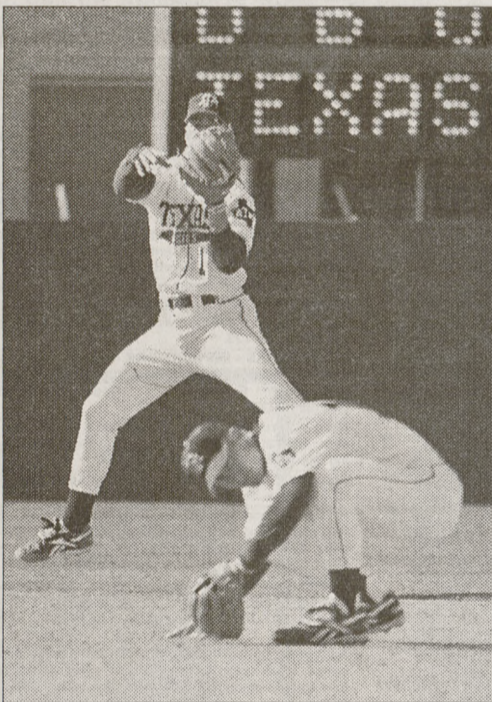
His freshman year, he started the very first game of the season at second base and stayed at that position for 44 games, starting in 41 of those. He had three home runs as a freshman and had a season-high, six-game hitting streak.

But along with the good come the heartbreaks at times. Petru remembers last season's regional tournament as the highlight and the biggest heartbreak of his career as an Aggie.

"Over the past three years, the highlight was last year, getting to the regional in Miami," Petru said. "It was also the worst time,

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Wins = Postseason Ags need to stay hot for continued play



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A&M second baseman Brian Benefield hits the deck while shortstop Rich Petru relays the ball to first.

By Lisa Nance
THE BATTALION

After a three-game sweep over the Horned Frogs of Texas Christian University, the Texas Aggie Baseball team will play a nonconference game against the Bearkats of Sam Houston State tonight at Olsen Field.

The Aggies improved their record to 30-14 and 8-7 in SWC action after defeating TCU in all three games of a weekend series at home. They bring a five-game winning streak with them into tonight's game against the Bearkats, who are 21-22 in the season and 12-9 in Southland Conference play.

SHSU enters tonight's game after taking two of three from Southwest Texas State this past weekend in San Marcos.

The Aggies are at the end of their schedule, and wins are crucial if they

want to see postseason action. Paul Barber, tonight's probable starter for A&M, said that in order for the Aggies to win, they will have to continue to play at the level they reached over the weekend.

"We're going to have to keep what we're doing right now and take it on across the line," Barber said. "Right now, we're playing well. Our pitching is going well and our hitters are hitting the ball well. We've got to keep that up."

The Aggies are 56-31-1 against SHSU, and have faced the Bearkats twice this season. Sam Houston won the first meeting at home, 9-8 on a home run from Ryan Rosplock in the bottom of the ninth inning. The Aggies won the last meeting 17-6 at Olsen Field.

The Aggies posted three solid wins over TCU

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The one that got away: The White Shark's agony



PHILIP LEONE
SPORTSWRITER

He's tall, tanned and Australian. I'm a short, red-necked Italian-Texan.

He has seven Ferraris, a handful of Suburbans and a helicopter. I drive an '88 Dodge pickup with a bad paint job and a droopy headliner.

He's the No. 1 golfer in the world. My best score is a 103 on the municipal course back home.

He's known as the "Shark." I'm known as ... I'd rather not say.

This may come as a shock, but Greg Norman and I have absolutely nothing in common — except, of course, for a mutual aversion to the color green.

I won't eat spinach or broccoli or asparagus. Greg, on the other hand, is a bit more ex-

treme. He even went so far as to blow a six-shot lead in the final round of the Masters on Sunday just to make sure he wouldn't have to wear the faded green jacket.

My excuse for Norman is as lame as his self-destructing 78 that grabbed defeat from the jaws of victory and let his buddy, Nick Faldo, walk away with his third Masters championship.

For Norman, what was supposed to be a Sunday stroll toward glory turned into the longest four hours of his career. For those of us who viewed his struggle on television, it was like watching one of those *Faces of Death* movies — we were disgusted, we felt bad for him, we wanted to look away, but morbid fascination wouldn't let us.

Not only did Norman give the tournament away, but he also enhanced his reputation as being golf's version of the Buffalo Bills, the guy who's aces

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SENIOR WEEKEND '96

THE FINAL ROAD TRIP DESTINATION AGGIELAND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
APRIL 23RD	PARTY ON THE PATIO	WINGS N' MORE Across from campus	7-10 P.M.
APRIL 24TH	OLD ARMY YELL	RUDDER FOUNTAIN	6:30 P.M.
APRIL 25TH	SENIOR BASH	TEXAS HALL OF FAME	8 P.M. - 1 A.M.
APRIL 27TH	SENIOR BANQUET	HILTON HOTEL	6-8 P.M.
	RING DANCE	MSC & RUDDER	9 P.M. - 1 A.M.

For Ticket Information call 845-1234