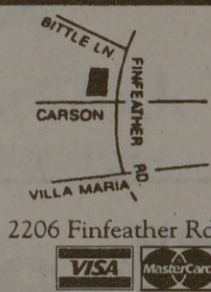


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# Ags look to bounce back against Roadrunners

By CHRIS FERRELL  
THE BATTALION

What a difference a week makes. Last Wednesday, the Texas A&M Baseball Team (18-13, 5-7) appeared to hit rock bottom. Fresh off a weekend series, which saw the Aggies drop two of three to conference foe Oklahoma State, A&M found itself on the losing end of the box score again against the University of Houston. The Aggies also had time to sandwich a Tuesday extra-inning loss to Lamar in to form a four-game losing streak.

Then came Oklahoma. Just as the roof appeared to be caving in on the Ags, a team which had been the preseason favorite to win the Big 12 and had been ranked in the top 10 just three weeks earlier, they went into Norman and took two of three from the conference's best team. A&M picked up wins Friday and Saturday before losing in extra innings Sunday. "We got some positive reinforcement," Head Coach Mark Johnson said. "To go on the road and

win a series against the leading team in the conference. It took a little luster off it when we lost in the 10th inning of the third game. Nonetheless, when we look back, we hadn't won a series this season."

As the Aggies' swagger begins to return, they will host the University of Texas-San Antonio in a two-night doubleheader at Olsen Field. The Roadrunners come in with a 15-9 mark on the year.

UTSA's bats have kept them competitive this season. Senior outfielder Sean Alvarez leads the Roadrunners with a .356 average and holds the team lead in RBIs with 18. UTSA is hitting .284 as a team.

A&M will look to counter with freshman pitcher Steve Scarborough, who will make his first start of the year as a pitcher. Scarborough has made nine starts in the field and the designated hitter spot for the Aggies.

As a pitcher, Scarborough is 1-1 with a 9.00 earned-run average in 10 innings pitched. He has made six relief appearances this season.

"We've got to shore up our bullpen," Johnson said. "We're going to start Steve Scarborough just because we've only been able to give him relief work. He can't really work on his pitches (out of



Dave House, The Battalion  
A&M second baseman **Brian Benefield** one for a quick out.

the bullpen) because we need him to get out or there's somebody on base. So I think he'll be more of a plus for us to start him.

"There's quite a few guys we want to see check some arms in the bullpen (and) make everyone's arms [are] all right before we announce our second starter."

## Graduate Assistantship

The Career Center is seeking a Graduate Assistant to assist graduate and professional students of Texas A&M with their career planning and job-hunting needs. Primary duties are:

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Salary and work hours : \$12,000 for 12 month appointments: 20 hrs./week. Start date: Position open until filled. Resumes should be directed to Terri Morrison, Assistant Director, Texas A&M Career Center, Koldus Bldg. Suite 209.

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## FURTICK

Continued from Page 5

Lefties Fernando Valenzuela and Sterling Hitchcock will combine with Andy Ashby, Joey Hamilton and Sean Bergman to create a starting five with some problems.

Valenzuela may have given last season his last ounce of golden in that arm, Hitchcock is changing leagues, Bergman has never started and Ashby and Hamilton are still labeled as up-and-coming. The bullpen will be full of former Tigers to fill in the middle innings before handing the ball to Trevor Hoffman, who was the majors' best closer last season.

If LA plays to their potential and Colorado improves to at least a .400 record on the road, San Diego may be battling the Giants for the division cellar.

**Projected Record: 89-75**

**Key Series: Sept. 23-24 @ Los Angeles Dodgers; Sept. 26-28 @ San Francisco Giants;** The Padres have to finish strong against these division rivals if they want to have a chance at the National League Wild Card or even the West Division title.

Bill Swift and Kevin Ritz are the two sure things in the rotation. After them, manager Don Baylor has to work out some problems. The rest of his staff will be filled with a committee of guys sent to the mound to take their beating. Mark Thompson, Jamey Wright and Roger Bailey will probably

**COLORADO ROCKIES**  
What can you say about the Col-

orado Rockies that everyone doesn't already know? They will score runs at home and win 50 games, but they don't have the pitching to win on the road. But why would you spend money on pitching if you were going to be playing half your games in a stadium where the fans catch more balls than the outfielders? So you can improve on your 28-53 road record, where you play at normal elevations.

The Rockies have two additions to their lineup that will make them a better team. Larry Walker will return to the field after breaking his collarbone last season and Kurt Manwaring has been brought in to catch and add a stable presence to the pitching staff. The rest of the lineup is still terrifying. Dante Bichette and Ellis Burks will join Walker in the outfield. Vinny Castilla, Walt Weiss, Eric Young and Andres Galarraga will field third through first. Nothing more needs to be said about them; we all know what they can do.

start the season in the No. 3 through No. 5 spots, but that will change often. Colorado didn't do anything to bulk up their rotation, but they did add some middle relief depth to baseball's most used bullpen in Jerry DiPoto and Mike Dyer. Steve Reed and Mike Munoz will return with Bruce Ruffin starting the season as the closer.

**Projected Record: 88-76**  
**Key Series: Sept. 12-14 @ Atlanta Braves; Sept. 15-16 @ Florida Marlins; Sept. 17-18 @ San Diego Padres; Sept. 19-21 @ Los Angeles Dodgers;** The Rockies will be in the playoff hunt when this nine-game road trip begins. With baseball's worst road record last season, Colorado has to somehow win at least five of these games if they want to be close in the end. They'll have only six home games to salvage the season if they fail on the road.

**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS**

If J.T. Snow can return in time to save this team, the Giants could possibly contend in this unpredictable division. When you look at their lineup, the Giants aren't that bad off. Darryl Hamilton was signed as the new center fielder, and Barry Bonds, baseball's best player, and Glenallen Hill will round out the outfield. Matt Williams is gone, but Jose Viscaino (short) and Jeff Kent

(second), who were acquired in the third baseman position, can be more valuable. Third base will be filled by potential star Mark Lewis, who came over from the Tigers, and Snow should be back the end of April to play first base. Another good hitter in Rick Williams will be behind the plate. The line is good and so is the defense, but pitching will be a problem.

**Projected Record: 80-82**

**Key Series: Sept. 17-18 vs. Los Angeles Dodgers;** Baseball's most storied and heated rivalry fires up again as the Giants will look to knock the Dodgers into an early off season. Also look for Barry Bonds to clinch his unprecedented second 40-home run, 40-stolen base season against Mike Piazza's pathetic throwing arm.

were all huge disappointments in the year, but they will join another potential star, Shawn Estes, to fill out the rotation. Joe Roa and Julian Tavarez, the other half of the Matt Williams deal, give San Francisco a solid middle relief core, and Rod Beck is a consistently good closer.

If the arms in San Francisco's rotation live up to their former billing, this team could actually in the Wild Card hunt in August.

**Projected Record: 80-82**

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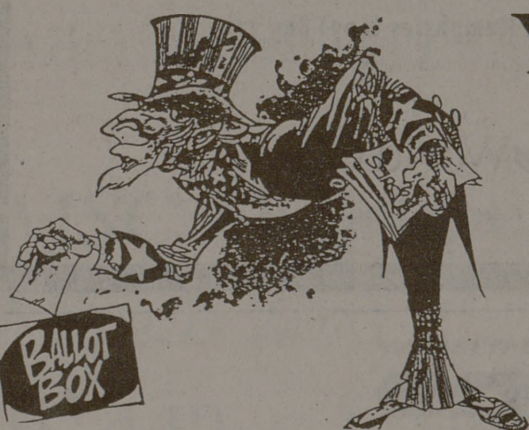
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## STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

### MARCH 26 & 27

ELECTIONS HELD IN MSC,  
EVANS LIBRARY, COMMONS,  
ZACHRY, UNDERGROUND,  
BLOCKER, WEHNER, KLEBERG,  
REC SPORTS  
TIME: 9AM - 5PM

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# RESURRECTION WEEK

- Sun. 3/23 5:00 PM Free BBQ@Grove  
Speaker: Texas A&M Professor of Speech Communications  
Dr. Rick Rigsby
- Mon. 3/24 7:00 PM Jacob Aranza  
"Sexual Purity and Relationships"  
@ Rudder Auditorium  
11:30 AM Drama @ Rudder Fountain
- Tues. 3/25 7:00 PM Concert with musical guest:  
Big Tent Revival  
@ Rudder Auditorium  
11:30 Drama @ Sul Ross
- Wed. 3/26 7:00 PM Investigative Journalist/Magician - Dan Korem  
"Deception"  
@ Rudder Auditorium  
11:30 Drama @ Rudder Fountain
- Thurs. 3/27 12:30 PM Crucifixion Scene  
@ Rudder Fountain

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