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The Executive Lecture Series informational:

Wed. Feb. 3, 1999

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MSC 203

Free fun!

Wednesday, Feb. 3 is

Disabilities Awareness Day

Presented by MSC Hospitality
and Services for Students with Disabilities

Discussion Panel

10:00am - 11:00am
MSC 206

Texas A&M's Faculty and Students discuss and answer questions concerning their disabilities.

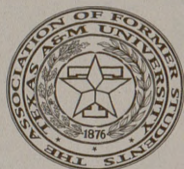
Access Challenge

11:00am - 2:00 pm
MSC Flagroom

Come participate in a simulation of eight different disabilities including mobility, visual and dexterity. Some activities include wheel chair basketball, a blind fold walk and every day activities such as shaving and putting on lipstick... with a twist.

For more information call
MSC Hospitality at 845-1515

The TAMU Buck Weirus Spirit Award 1998-1999



Sponsored by the Association of Former Students

Buck Weirus Spirit Award Applications are now available for undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

President's Office, 8th Floor Rudder
The Association of Former Students Reception Desk
Vice President for Student Affairs, 10th Floor Rudder
Office of the Dean of each College
Office of Graduate Studies
Student Activities Office, Suite 125 Koldus Building
Multicultural Services Department, Suite 137 MSC
Commandant's Office, 102 Military Sciences
MSC Student Programs Office, 216 & 223 MSC

This Award recognizes students for outstanding contributions to the student quality of life program at A&M and honors Richard "Buck" Weirus '42. Highlight accomplishments of Mr. Weirus: Served as Executive Director of the Association of Former Students from 1964-1980, established the first computerized alumni association in the country, established the Century Club, the initiation of the President's Endowed Scholarship program and the Visitor Information Center, was an active member and past president of the San Antonio A&M Club.

Applications Due by 5:00 p.m., February 9, 1999 at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center Reception Desk. Gook Luck.

Batter UP

A&M Baseball ready to battle for Big 12 supremacy in 1999

BY MICHAEL TAGLIANTI
The Battalion

The boys of summer are back. The sound of a metal bat striking a leather ball is being heard across the country as college baseball kicks off.

With a lot of seniors returning to play for their teams, the Big 12 looks to be one of the top conferences in the country again this year.

The Big 12 tournament field has been expanded to eight teams so every team in the conference has a chance to make the conference tournament.

The University of Oklahoma got a jump on the rest of their Big 12 competitors when they played three Atlantic Coast Conference teams in the Disney Baseball Bash going 2-1 in the tournament. The rest of the conference schools open their season within the next two weeks.

NORTH

• Missouri Tigers
The Tigers have been the only team from the Big 12 North to get into the conference tournament in the first two years of the conference. Mizzou set a school record with 110 home runs last year but will have to replace Big 12 home-run champ Ryan Fry, whom they lost to graduation. Pitching should be a strength with the return of starters Justin Stine and Ryan Jamison and ace reliever Chris George.

Players to watch: Chris George RP (6-1, 2.83, 4 sv), Jake Epstein 1B (.319-15-52)

• Kansas Jayhawks
The Jayhawks are looking to improve on last year's injury-plagued campaign that saw 14 different players miss games due to injury. If the Jayhawks stay healthy, they could push Mizzou for supremacy in the North. Expect the Jayhawks to be the other North team in the conference tournament.

Player to watch: John Nelson SS (.342-4-28)

• Nebraska Cornhuskers
NU finished 24-20 in a weather shortened season last year. The Huskers will try to blend 21 new players into their team after a successful recruiting campaign. Expect the Huskers to struggle early with an inexperienced team that might be dangerous late in the season.

Players to watch: Ken Harvey OF (.373), Jay Sirianni P (5-4, 44 SO)

• Kansas State Wildcats
KSU lost their best hitter off a team that was 9-19 in conference last year. The Wildcats hope a new ballpark will mark a fresh start for their program. KSU returns one of the top relievers in the Big 12, but they will need to find some hitting if they expect to play in the postseason. Expect the Wildcats to fight it out with Iowa State for the conference cellar.

Players to watch: Andy Silva OF/1B (3-1, 2.66, 8 sv, .291)

• Iowa State Cyclones
The Cyclones have been the black sheep of the Big 12 during their first two seasons in the conference. ISU, which has to start the season with an extended road trip each year because of the cold weather in Iowa, tend to get off to a poor start which only snowballs when conference play begins. ISU lost a lot to players

to graduation and transfers and will need to find some pitching to get out of the Big 12 cellar.

Players to watch: Aaron Runk OF (.360-6-24)

SOUTH

• Texas A&M Aggies
If the Big 12 title was determined on paper the Aggies would be the runaway winner. By statistics alone the Aggies have the most talented team in the conference. Unfortunately, the game is played on the field, and A&M has questions to answer before it can repeat as champ.

The Aggies need to find a Sunday starter and a closer. Khaled Ballouli and Chris Russ are the most likely candidates for the stopper role. Look for Ballouli to also see time as a Tuesday starter. Shawn Shumacher will start at catcher. Shumacher is a transfer from Texas who has impressed Aggie coaches and major-league scouts with his bat. First baseman John Scheschuk led Team USA in hitting last summer.

If the Aggies can find a Sunday starter and play strong defense, they will have a good shot at repeating as Big 12 champions.

Players to watch: Casey Fossum P (12-2, 3.74, 129), Chance Cagle P (7-1, 3.79), Steve Scarborough SS-P (.310-4-42), Daylan Holt OF (.316-7-48)

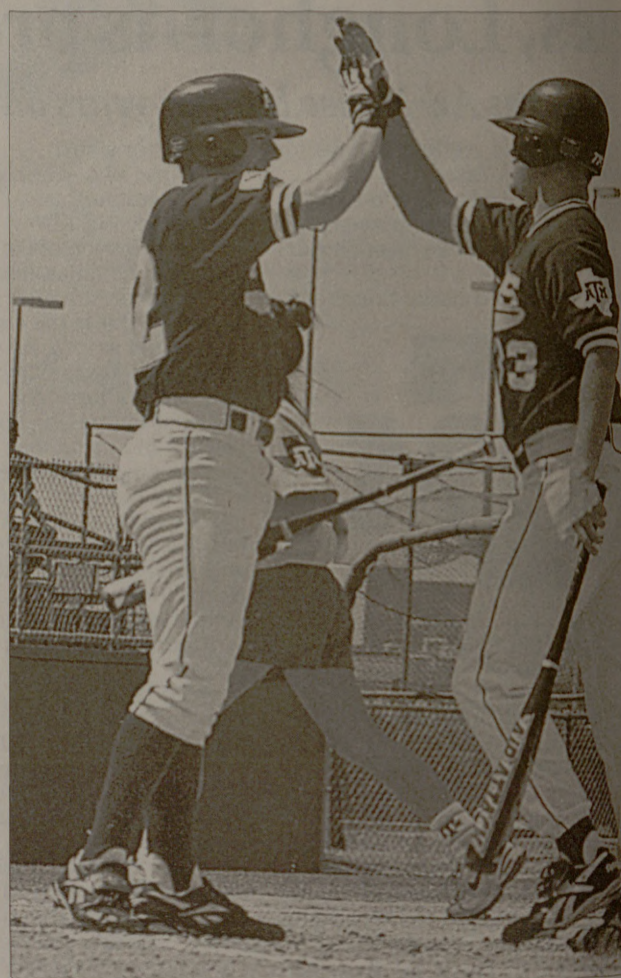
• Baylor Bears
The Bears lost a lot off their second place team to graduation, but senior Jon Topolski returns along with Jason Jennings to lead Baylor's quest for the Big 12 title. The Bears have enough talent to make a run for the title, but it will depend on their pitching. After losing Kip Wells to the first round of the major league draft Baylor will look for Jennings to carry the load.

Players to watch: Jason Jennings OF-DH (11-4, 126 SO, .327-18-58), Jon Topolski CF (11 triples), Eric Nelson 2B (.317-13-50)

• Oklahoma State Cowboys
After dominating the Big 8 Oklahoma State has found the going tough in the Big 12. The traditionally hard hitting Cowboys are going to try to win with pitching this year. Pitcher Matt Smith will try to lead OSU to the promise land. It will be interesting to see how second baseman Billy Gasparino adjusts to hitting with the new, heavier bats. Expect the Cowboys to compete for the title.

Players to watch: Billy Gasparino 2B (.336-13-59), Matt Smith P (6-3, 3.16), Josh Holliday C (.309-18-60)

• Texas Tech Red Raiders
Tech has the best pitch-catch



The Texas A&M Baseball Team will look to repeat as Big 12 champion this season.

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

combo in the Big 12 in Shane Wright and Josh Bard. Bard is the top catcher in the Big 12 and the top catcher in the nation this side of USC's Eric Munson. Sophomore transfer Clancy Fossum (brother of Aggie Casey Fossum) should add depth to Tech's staff. Look for Tech to compete for the title.

Players to watch: Shane Wright P (14-1, 2.71), Josh Bard C (.383-17-71), Brad Ralston P (3-4, 5 saves, 54 SO)

• Oklahoma Sooners
The Sooners lost 10 seniors to graduation and will have to rebuild

around star Richard Parkery Cochell is recovering from cancer surgery. The Sooners lost 80 percent of their home run production last year. Casey Bookout is the turning hitter in the Big 12.

Players to watch: P-1B (.325-16-62, 2-2, 50 SO), Bookout 1B (.405-26-76)

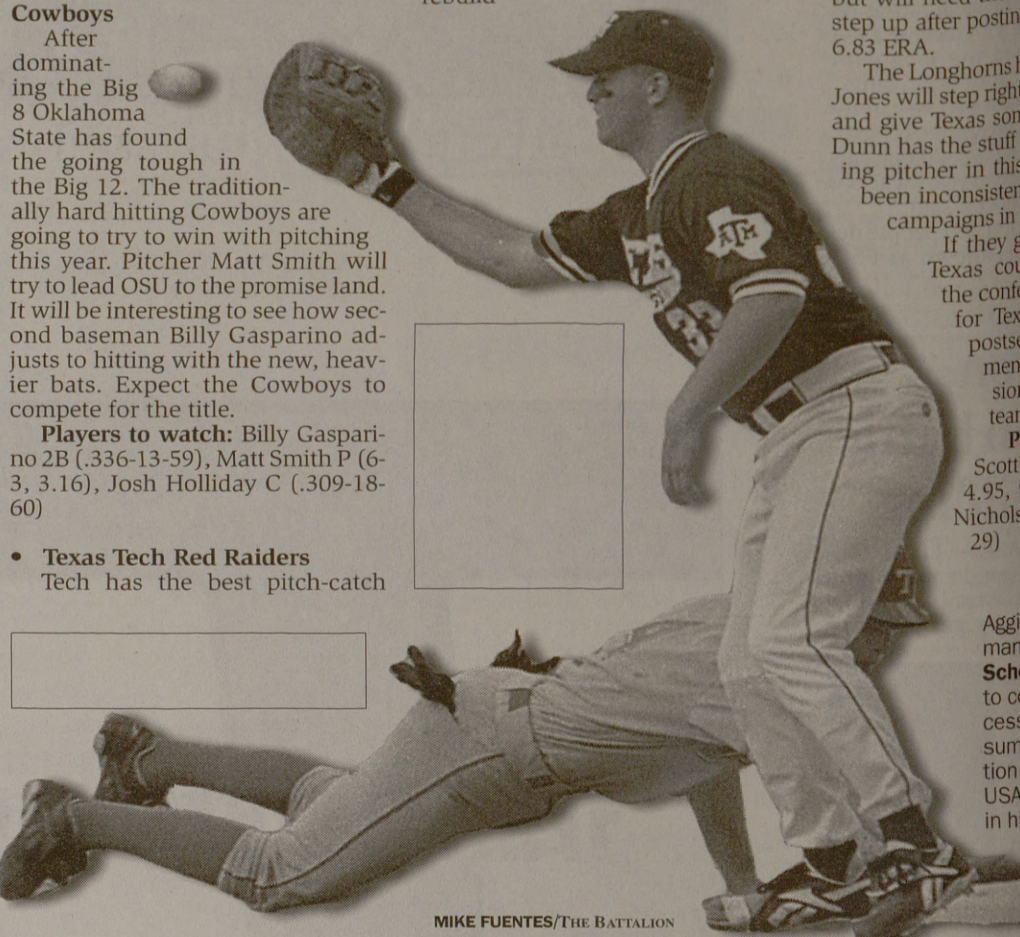
• Texas Longhorns
When they take the field the Longhorns will try to rebound from their worst season in over 20 years. Texas suffered the embarrassment of a losing campaign going 19-33 in 1998. Texas has some talent but will need their pitching to step up after posting a league-leading 6.83 ERA.

The Longhorns hope to rebound in 1999. Jones will step right into the shoes of the departed and give Texas some much-needed offense. Dunn has the stuff to be an elite pitcher in this league. He should have been inconsistent during his campaigns in the Big 12.

If they get any help from Texas could come out of the conference as the ultimate postseason contender.

Further information on the Longhorns can be found at www.texaslonghorns.com.

Players to watch: Scott Dunn P (4.95, 98 SO), Falwell, Nicholson 2B (.291)



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Greek Life

What: Non-Denominational Bible Study

When: Tonight, 8:30 p.m.

Where: Tri-Delt House

Who: James Moore, former ZAE at Texas A&M