

## Baseball team to battle 'Horns

### Second-ranked Aggies face rival Texas in three-game series

BY DOUG SHILLING  
The Battalion

Whenever Texas A&M University and the University of Texas get together in any athletic competition, the game automatically reaches a higher degree of intensity.

This weekend is no exception as the second-ranked Texas A&M Baseball Team begins their stretch drive to defending their Big 12 regular-season title against the 19th-ranked Texas Longhorns.

With six games remaining in the regular season, the Aggies need only four more victories to clinch their second straight Big 12 title.

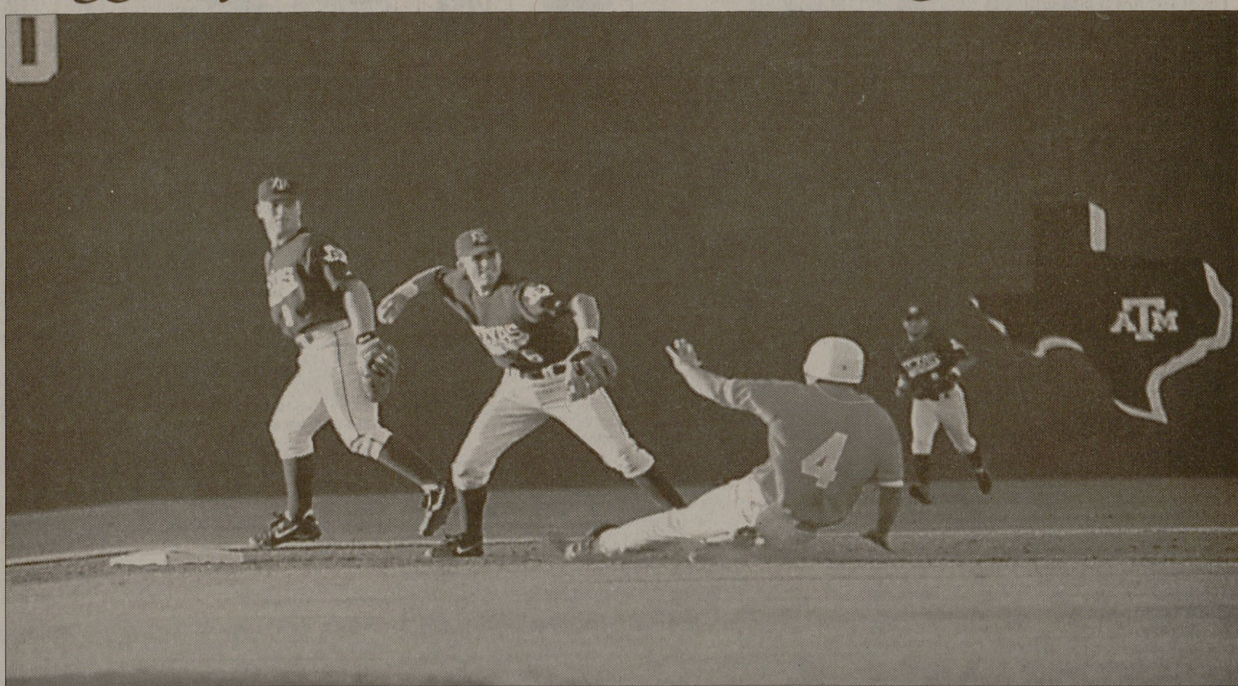
A&M head coach Mark Johnson said that while the series against Texas is a big one for his team, the ultimate goal on everyone's mind is the Big 12 Championship.

"It may be emotionally big for us," Johnson said. "I think it's more for our fans and our alumni than it is for the players. We're so hooked in on winning the Big 12 that I don't think we'll be a whole lot different than we were against Baylor."

The Aggies (40-10, 19-4 Big 12) come into the game with a 15-2 record in the month of April, the last win coming Tuesday against the Sam Houston State University Bearkats. A&M tied the record for the most home runs by an Aggie team in a season in the 14-10 win.

Junior second baseman Sean Heaney capped off a wonderful night at the plate when he tied the record with a solo shot in the eighth inning of the game. Heaney went 3-for-5 on the night with two home runs, one of which was a grand slam, five RBIs and three runs scored.

The win also marked the 40th of the year for A&M, a mark that is usually a benchmark of being se-



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Junior shortstop **Steve Scarborough** tries to complete the double play from second base during the Aggies' game against Sam Houston State University April 27 at Olsen Field. The Texas A&M Baseball Team will host the University of Texas Friday night before traveling to Austin for Saturday's and Sunday's games.

lected to a regional. Johnson said the 40th victory was a goal for the Aggies and a sign of what the team has accomplished.

"In our season, you have a lot of goals," Johnson said. "That was one of the goals for us, along with winning the Big 12. There's not a team that wins 40 games out of 56 that hasn't had a good season. It's a reflection on what you're team has done on the year."

The offensive leader for the Aggies this season has been right-fielder Daylan Holt. The sophomore from Mesquite, Texas, has tied Craig Kuzmic's single-season

home run mark with 25. Holt is batting .351 on the year, with 75 RBIs and an .842 slugging percentage. Forty-six of his 71 hits have gone for extra bases; 18 doubles, three triples and the 25 home runs.

Leading the Aggie pitching staff this year is Friday night's starter, junior Casey Fossum. The reigning Big 12 Pitcher of the Week for his complete-game, 13-strikeout performance against the University of Kansas, Fossum is 8-4 on the year with a 2.76 ERA. In 88 innings of work, Fossum has struck out 119 batters while only giving up 70 hits.

Saturday night's starter will be

junior Chance Caple. Caple is 7-3 on the season with a 3.96 ERA with 90 strikeouts in 84 innings.

Sunday Matt Ward takes the mound for the Aggies. The senior left-hander is 4-0 on the year with a 3.95 ERA in 43 1/3 innings pitched.

The Longhorns (33-17, 16-8 Big 12) come into the series riding a five-game winning streak. Last weekend, they traveled to Ames, Iowa, and swept Iowa State University. Tuesday they downed the University of Texas-San Antonio, 11-3.

SEE **BASEBALL** ON PAGE 9.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Pitcher **Lisa Klam** holds back an Oklahoma State baserunner during the Texas A&M Softball Team's game against the Cowgirls April 28 at the Aggie Softball Complex.

## Ags prepare for final road trip

BY BEN WESTBROOK  
The Battalion

versity of Kansas. The Aggies dropped to eighth in the Big 12 with a 5-9 record, 37-16 overall.

Saturday the women will take on the Baylor Bears in a doubleheader scheduled for noon in Waco. The Bears matched their 1998 Big 12 win total of two with a sweep of Tech in the conference opener and have since fought to a 4-8 record, leaving them ninth in the conference.

SEE **SOFTBALL** ON PAGE 10.

The Texas A&M Softball Team will try to close out the regular season in style by upping their position in the Big 12 with a pair of doubleheaders against Baylor University and Texas Tech University. The softball team is coming off a tough weekend which saw them drop three of four contests against the University of Missouri and Uni-

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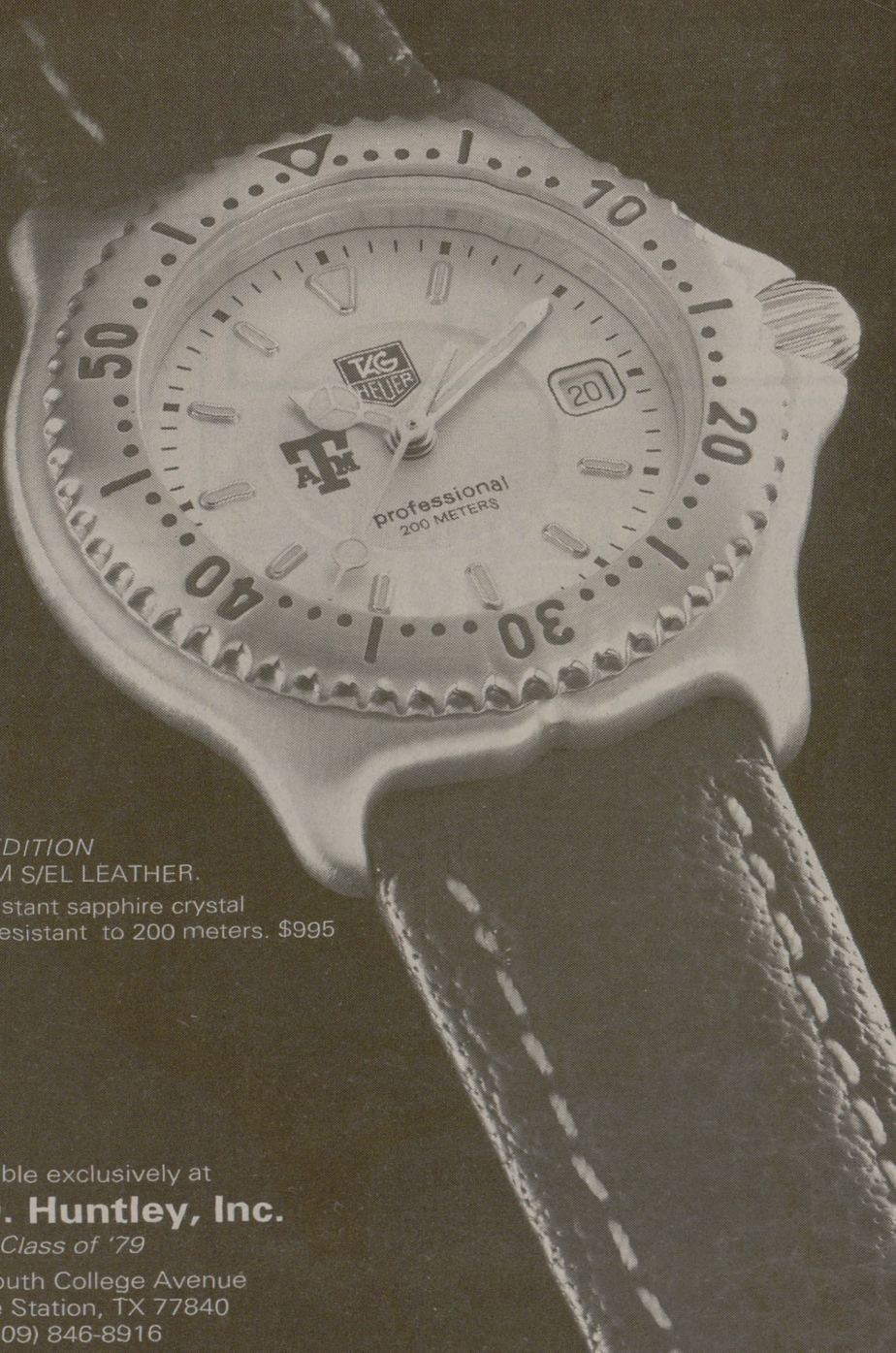
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