

PRESENCE

The University of Texas at Arlington Magazine
for Alumni and other Friends Vol. XIV No.4





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ON THE COVER —New UTA President Ryan C. Amacher and his wife Susan

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Presence (I.S.S.N. 1043-4240) is a quarterly publication of The University of Texas at Arlington News Service, 701 S. Nedderman Drive, Arlington, TX 76013. It is distributed to alumni, faculty and staff and other friends of the University. Second-class postage paid at Arlington, TX 76010.

POSTMASTER: Send Form (3579) to: UTA Box 19137, UTA Station, Arlington, TX 76019-0137.

Baseball team smashes records en route to 40-win season

By Steve Weller

In a career highlighted by more than 600 wins, UTA baseball coach Butch McBroom calls the 1992 version of the Maverick baseball team the best in school history. And he should know. McBroom, the 45th winningest coach in the NCAA, has guided the Mavericks to 30 or more victories in each of the past 13 years.

But 1992 was even better.

From the beginning of the season, when UTA opened with the first of what would become four victories over Texas Christian University, Maverick fans knew this team could etch its name deeply into the record books. And it didn't disappoint anyone.

As a team, the Mavericks powered their way to a school-record 14-game winning streak in April, posted two record-setting 10-game home winning streaks, climbed the national rankings to as high as 27th in mid-April and up-ended nationally ranked powers U.T. Austin and Oklahoma State en route to a school-record 40 wins.

In addition to the long list of non-conference and individual achievements, the Mavericks were rolling over their Southland Conference opponents. After opening conference play with a doubleheader loss at Nicholls State, UTA ran off 13 victories in its next 14 SLC games.

That stretch included a school-record 10-game conference winning streak with three-game sweeps over McNeese State, Southwest Texas State and Northwestern State. The streak put the Mavericks in first place and made

them the front-runner to earn the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

The Mavs clinched the SLC title and earned their second trip to the NCAA tournament in three years on May 2 when senior Lee Jones pitched UTA to a 3-1 victory over Stephen F. Austin in the first game of a three-game series.

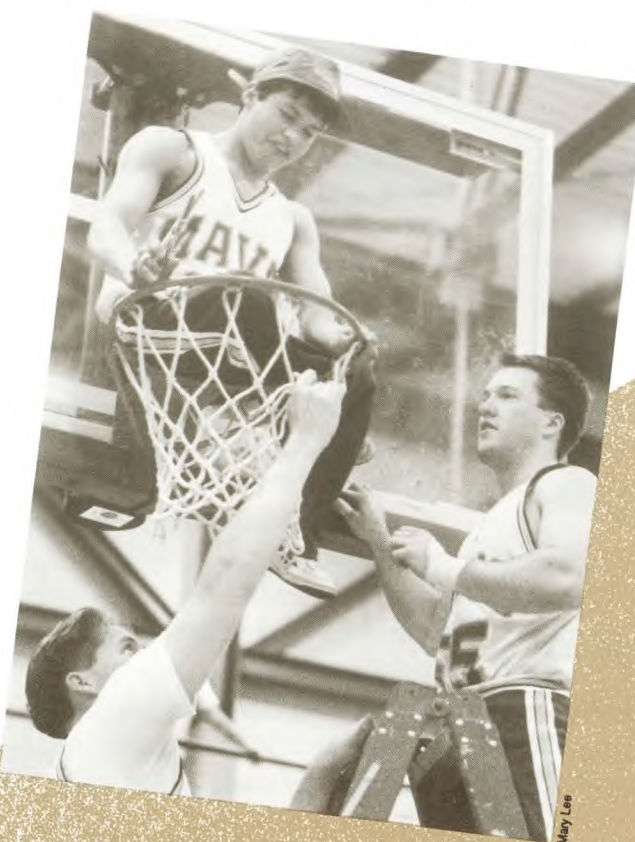
The 1992 season will be remembered as a year of individual records as well. Senior stopper Jason Watkins nearly tripled the previous single-season record for saves with 14 while earning third-team All-America honors. Clay Gould, Jason Smith, Charlie Llewellyn, Jeff Stephens and Karl

Heckendorn also etched their names into the UTA record book, while Chris Gay won his first 10 games and didn't suffer a loss until the final day of the regular season.

The Southland Conference recognized the 1992 Mavericks by selecting Gay as co-winner of the pitcher-of-the-year award, Heckendorn as newcomer of the year and McBroom as coach of the year.

Gay, Heckendorn, Stephens, Llewellyn and Tim Krejci also earned first-team All-SLC honors. Doug Durrwachter was a second-team selection, and Watkins, Jones and Smith received honorable mention recognition.

Wheelchair Movin' Mavs Repeat



Willie Hernandez sits atop the winning goal after the Wheelchair Movin' Mavs captured their second consecutive national basketball title. Jason VanBeek, left, and Stephen Welch help Hernandez cut down the net to bring home with their trophy. The Wheelchair Movin' Mavs, coached by Jim Hayes, defeated the University of Illinois, 56-43, in the championship game.