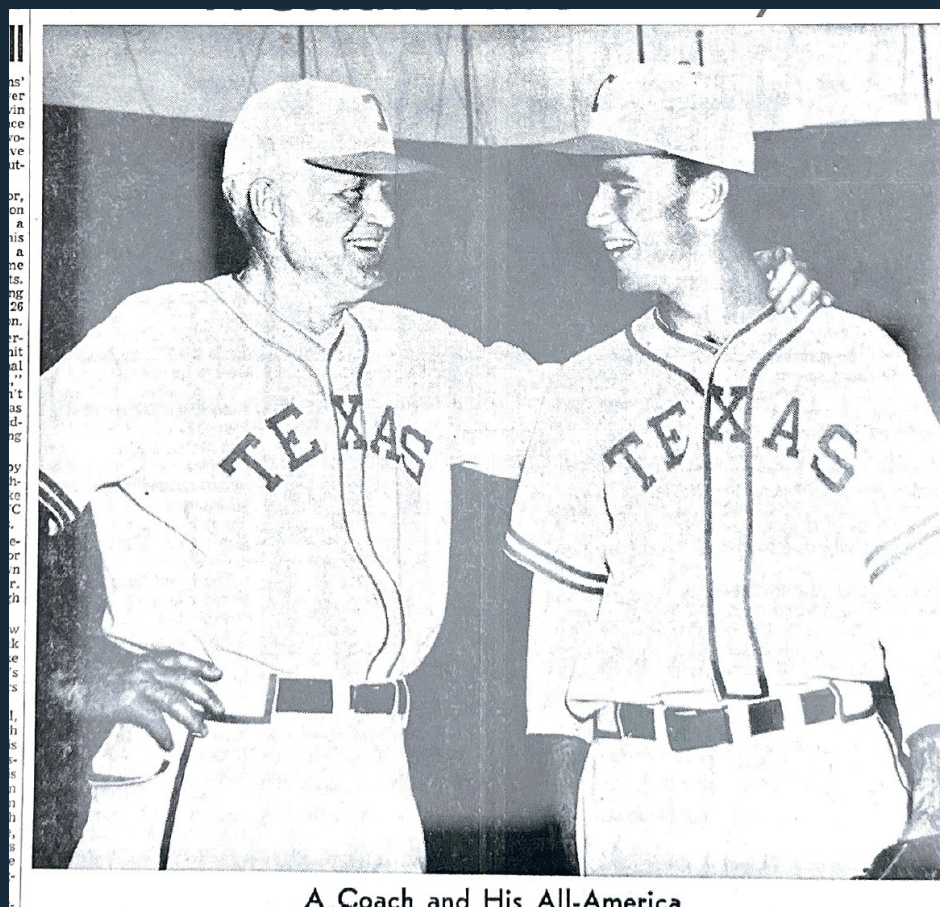


CHUCK KNUTSON

THE IN-DEPTH ATHLETIC BIOGRAPHY



A Coach and His All-America

Bibb Falk and his All-American outfielder • Scrapbook 3:36

POWER
ADJUSTMENT
GRATITUDE

Introduction: beyond the numbers

The short version of Chuck Knutson's career is impressive enough: two-time All-American, three-time All-Southwest Conference outfielder, three College World Series trips, a .378 sophomore season, 15 career home runs at Texas, and induction into the Longhorn Hall of Honor. But the numbers do not explain why opposing pitchers worked around him, why Bibb Falk invested time in rebuilding his swing, or why teammates elected him most valuable after a high-school football season interrupted by injury.

The six-part family scrapbook supplies that missing dimension. It preserves not one retrospective but many contemporary voices: coaches, sportswriters, scouts, teammates, university publicists, box scores, official player sketches, and Chuck himself. Read together, they show how his athletic prowess looked in real time.

They show a runner lowering his shoulder into a tackler; a teenager chosen from a field judged by major-league scouts; a hitter watching an old major leaguer call his shots in a batting cage; a line drive burrowing into the outfield turf while he kept running; a senior changing the action of his wrists to regain his lift; and a minor leaguer learning that professional baseball included triples, sacrifice flies, stolen bases, errors, and long bus rides as well as home runs.

This edition is organized as a narrative, but it pauses for specific game stories and first-person remarks. Those anecdotes are not ornaments. They explain the traits behind the record: strength, speed, a strong arm, unusual adaptability, competitive patience, and a preference for education over immediate professional money.

A quick portrait

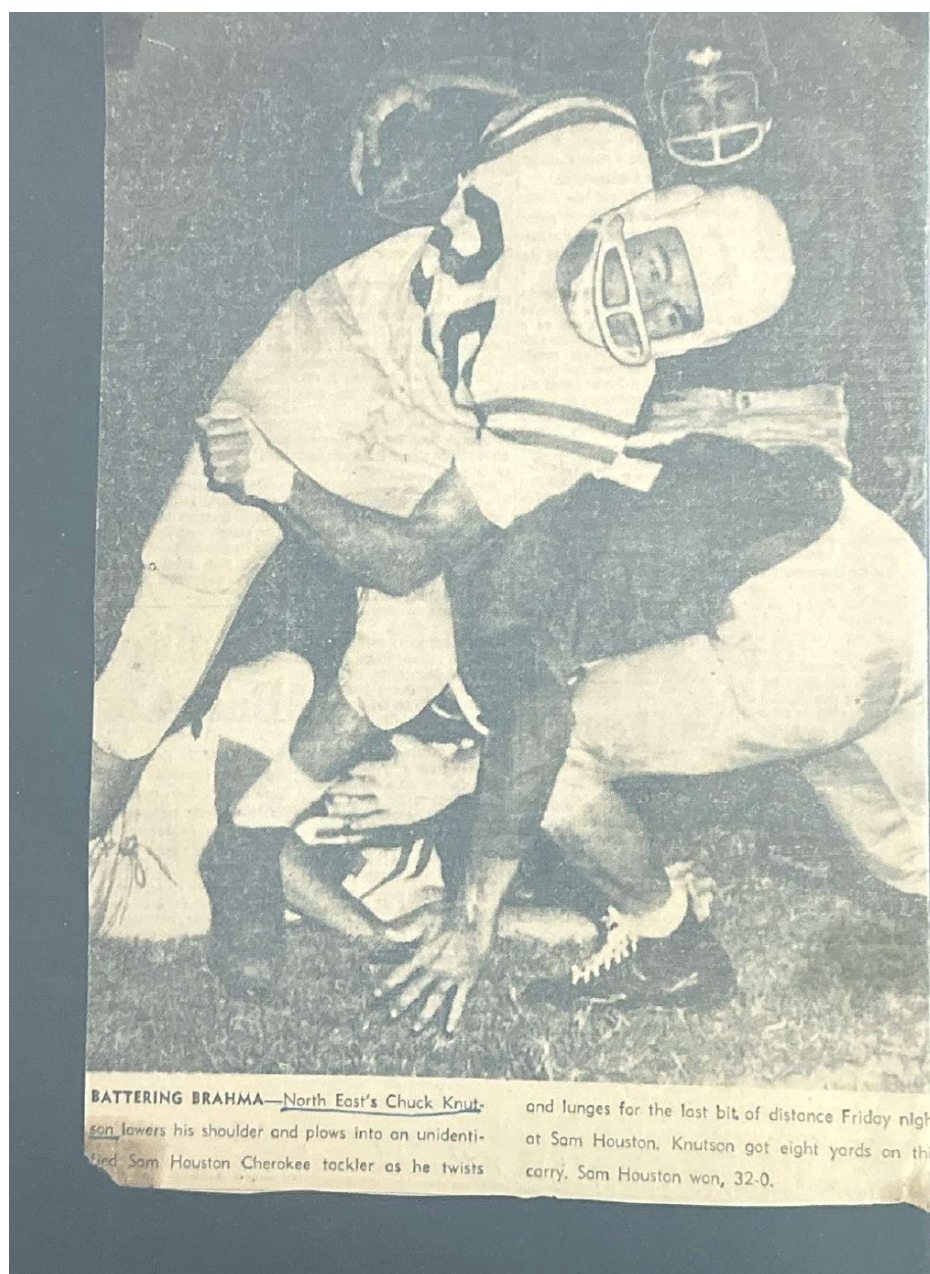
Charles Arthur "Chuck" Knutson was born February 7, 1941, in Omaha, Nebraska. His family moved to Texas when he was two. By the time a San Antonio reporter profiled him in 1959, he treated the matter as settled: "I'm a Texan." (Scrapbook 2:16)

He grew into a 6-foot to 6-foot-1, roughly 175- to 180-pound right-handed hitter and thrower. The precise listings vary with year and publication, but the descriptions are strikingly consistent. Writers called him powerful. Scouts emphasized his arm and speed. Texas reports praised his defense after he converted from the infield to left field. Bibb Falk and Chuck himself focused on the mechanics that allowed the strength to reach the ball on time.

At his best, he combined five things that do not always arrive together:

- Right-handed home-run power at a park and in an era that did not make power cheap.
- Enough speed to sprint, broad jump, take extra bases, and circle the bases on an inside-the-park home run.
- An arm developed through pitching and infield work, later used for five outfield assists in his senior season.
- The versatility to move among quarterback, halfback, pitcher, shortstop, third base, and outfield.
- The humility to accept coaching after he had already become one of the most accomplished athletes in San Antonio.

Chapter 1: an athlete before he was a headline



North East's No. 25 lowers his shoulder against Sam Houston. The caption credits an eight-yard gain. Scrapbook 1:62.

Organized baseball in San Antonio

The first scrapbook evidence is photographic. In 1954, the 13-year-old Knutson appeared with the Alamo Heights Optimists of the Northside Suburban Pony League. A second formal team portrait, labeled 1956, shows the Homecraft Builders club. There is no box score and no press evaluation attached. What the photographs establish is continuity: baseball was organized, serious, and communal before the newspaper record began. (Scrapbook 1:46-47)

The later Hall of Honor speech adds a backyard origin story. Chuck's older brother Jim was seven years ahead of him and a pitcher. Chuck remembered getting to know Jim's fastball "up close" - in the ribs - and threatening to tell their mother if it happened again. The line was delivered for laughter, but the baseball truth underneath it is recognizable. Long before Chuck faced college breaking balls, he learned to stand in against an older arm. (Scrapbook 6:39)

The 40-yard punt return

The scrapbook's first action image is not baseball. A 1956 football photograph identifies North East's Chuck Knutson returning a punt 40 yards against San Marcos. The picture and caption are early evidence of the open-field speed later cited by baseball scouts. His athletic identity was still broad: football demanded vision and contact; baseball demanded reaction and precision; track measured the speed directly. (Scrapbook 1:63)

Quarterback, runner, and scoring threat

By 1957 the San Antonio press was writing about him as both a quarterback and a back. A headline announced, "Knutson at Quarterback for Brahma Team Tonight." Another report said the Brahmas had improved after moving him into the position and credited his passing and running with sparking the attack. Programs later listed No. 25 Chuck Knutson as a 164-pound left halfback. The labels changed because the job changed: carry, throw, defend, and create points. (Scrapbook 1:53, 63)

One 1958 account of a 16-14 win over Burnet shows his direct influence. Burnet led 8-0 in the first quarter. Knutson finished a 42-yard drive with a three-yard touchdown run, then later tied the game with a 15-yard touchdown and added the two-point conversion. MacArthur won by the same two points he supplied after the tying score. (Scrapbook 1:51)

The clearest visual statement of his football style came in a loss. Against Sam Houston, a photograph caught him lowering his shoulder into an unidentified Cherokee tackler, twisting and lunging for the last part of an eight-yard gain. The caption called him a "battering Brahma." Sam Houston won 32-0, but the image survives because it captured the force of the runner, not the outcome. (Scrapbook 1:62)

Injury and the meaning of the MVP vote

The football clippings also prevent the easy myth of uninterrupted success. Knutson hurt a knee and twisted a foot in a 49-0 loss to Kerrville Tivy. One report said he might not play again that season; another described MacArthur as missing its major scoring threat. A later preview counted him among players lost during a five-week run of injuries. (Scrapbook 1:51)

That context changes the meaning of the award that followed. His teammates elected him the most valuable member of the 1958 football team. The certificate is explicit: the choice belonged to the players. It was not simply a statistical trophy presented after a healthy season. The people who practiced and played beside him judged his value after seeing the injury, the return, the running, the defense, and the leadership. (Scrapbook 2:4-5)

More than an athlete at MacArthur

The December 9, 1958 issue of the *Brahma Tales* named Chuck and Marilyn O'Dell the senior class's Best All-Around students. The Hearst profile later said the faculty had named him the outstanding senior boy and described ability in football, basketball, baseball, and track. It specifically called him the school's leading dash man and broad jumper. (Scrapbook 2:6-7, 29)

That breadth explains several later baseball traits. The broad jumper's acceleration became the outfielder's first step. The quarterback's arm became the left fielder's deterrent. The halfback's willingness to run through contact became an appetite for extra bases. The leadership recognition anticipated the college senior who could serve as a stabilizing veteran even when his home-run count declined.

Chapter 2: Pearl Brewery and the San Antonio proving ground

Alex, Knutson Named for Trip To Hearst Sandlot Classic

46 San Antonio Light Wednesday, July 22, 1953



AUTOGRAPHS—Two major league stars sign autographs—by the hundreds. This shows a small part of the throng of youngsters who beseeched Joe DiMaggio and Sal Maglie (just

visible at right) for their signatures at the Wrangling Wrecks game at Mission stadium Tuesday night. They signed for upwards of an hour and a half.

DiMag Raps Home Run Off Maglie

Jolting Joe DiMaggio could be the answer to Casey Stengel's screams for some power in the Yankee lineup. At least he looked it at Mission stadium Tuesday night when, picking up a bat for the first time in almost a year, he undertook to show the big crowd a home-run with the DiMaggio trademark on it.

Agreeable Sal "The Barber" Maglie, pitching great while now is pitchers' coach for the St. Louis Cardinals, donned a uniform and served 'em for DiMag. Bill Sebers, St. Mary's university catching star, was the receiver.

DiMaggio's timing was rusty at the start but it didn't take him long to correct that. Line-drives began to ring off his bat, then a foul or two over the bleachers, then a drive to the fence and, in time, a mighty smash over it. With that, DiMaggio, in street clothes, grinned and faced the mob of young autographers who instantly surrounded him.

So. Texans Lead Series

By JOHN TROWBRIDGE

Pinky Whitney and his South Texas All-Stars are finally one up on Art Veltman and his San Antonio All-Stars in the game annually sponsored by the Wrangling Wrecks and The San Antonio Light at Mission stadium.

All-Star Box

	S	T	E	X	A	S	A	R	H	O	A	S
Villars, cf	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wain, cf	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wain, cf	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perez, 2b	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walker, cf	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edwards, 1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guthman, 1b	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Koehler, cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finger, cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frederick, 1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Krause, 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leichtach, 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gutierrez, ss	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gutierrez, ss	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huttlner, c	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alex, p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Krause, p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Krause, p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schmidt, p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	37	4	11	27	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Whitney and his crew of coaches tossed a quartet of snappy pitchers and unloaded an 11-hit attack on the San Antonio stars in the eleventh annual game at Mission stadium Tuesday to take a 6-4 victory.

The win put the South Texas stars ahead in the series, six games to five.

An enthusiastic turnout of around 6000 fans witnessed the

(Continued on Page 49, Col. 3)

Big Harvey Alex, 200-pound fireballer from Yorktown, who will enroll in Texas A. & M. college this fall, and Chuck Knutson, slick-fielding, hard-hitting third baseman, headed for the University of Texas on a baseball scholarship, will represent Texas in the Hearst National Amateur Championship game in New York city. The date is Aug. 18. The place: Yankee stadium.

Alex, starting pitcher in the South Texas All-Stars' 6-4 victory over San Antonio's amateur all-stars before a big crowd at Mission stadium Tuesday night, was a unanimous choice of the panel of major league scouts representing all 16 major league clubs at the game annually sponsored by the ward-disabled Wrangling Wrecks and The San Antonio Light.

TWO OTHER VOTES

Knutson was almost as popular with the talent-seekers. Only Shortstop Ernest Drubebert of Seguin and Outfielder Fidel Villarreal of Pearsall broke into the Alex-Knutson monopoly in the voting after the game.

Harvey Alex—middle name Wayne—lives on a farm between Yorktown and Cuero. He pitched for several teams during the summer, including a couple of games for the Seguin White Sox. A 6-4 blond, his righthanded fastball is something to see and he possesses a sharpbreaking

Tom Chandler, A. & M. baseball coach, who was at the game with Mrs. Chandler and the whole Alex family, predicts a brilliant college career for him.

OUTSTANDING ATHLETE

Christened Charles Arthur, 18-year-old Knutson is 6 feet, weighs 175 pounds and bats and throws righthanded. He was born in Nebraska but his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Knutson, moved to Texas when he was 2 and he stoutly insists:

"I'm a Texan."
His father is chief chemist
for the Longhorn Portland
Cement co.

Voted the outstanding athlete at North East (now MacArthur) High school for the past two seasons, Chuck played baseball, football and

basket ball and competed in "just about everything" in track. He played shortstop and

did a little pitching in high school but has been third baseman for the Pearl club in the Spanish-American and ISRAC leagues.



HARVEY ALEX PICKED TO GO TO HEARST GAME
Yorktown giant fireballed his way into N. Y. trip.



CHUCK KNUTSON, S. A. THIRD-BASEMAN
Won scouts' vote to accompany Alex to New York.

The San Antonio Light announces the scouts' selections of Harvey Alex and Chuck Knutson for the 1959 Hearst Sandlot Classic. Scrapbook 2:16.

A teenager among accomplished amateurs

After high school, Knutson joined Pearl Brewery's industrial/amateur club. Pearl won 74 games, took league, city, state, and Southwest regional championships, and came within a run of the national amateur title at Battle Creek. It was a demanding bridge between school baseball and the University of Texas. Chuck played third base alongside older, accomplished players, including Cliff Gustafson at second and Wayne McDonald in the outfield. (Scrapbook 2:13; 6:41)

The important anecdote is not only that he played well. It is that the team changed the direction of his life. Chuck later said he had been headed to Texas A&M, where Jim had graduated. Gustafson and McDonald urged Texas coach Bibb Falk to take a look. Falk came, and Chuck remembered that the coach did not seem impressed. Family friend Carlton Massey then arranged an Austin meeting and drove him there. Falk found enough scholarship help to bring him to Texas. (Scrapbook 6:41-42)

That recruiting chain is a better explanation of college athletics than the fiction of solitary discovery. Talent mattered. So did two teammates who spoke up, a family friend who drove, parents who supported the choice, and a coach willing to reconsider.

The night major-league scouts made the choice

On July 21, 1959, Chuck represented Pearl at third base for the San Antonio All-Stars against the South Texas All-Stars at Mission Stadium. Joe DiMaggio was present for a hitting exhibition, and a panel of major-league scouts evaluated the players. San Antonio won 6-4. From the participants, pitcher Harvey Alex and Knutson were selected to attend the Hearst Sandlot Classic in New York. (Scrapbook 2:14-16)

The next day's *San Antonio Light* treated the vote as a scouting decision, not a popularity award. It described Knutson as a hard-hitting third baseman, reviewed his work at shortstop and pitcher, and emphasized that he had been an outstanding athlete at MacArthur. The same profile recorded the Nebraska birthplace, the move to Texas at age two, and his emphatic Texas identity. (Scrapbook 2:16)

What the Hearst profile saw at 18

The Yankee Stadium program distilled Chuck into the language of a scouting report. It called him a powerful hitter and sharp fielder, credited a strong arm and top-flight speed, and connected that speed to his track background. It also said he planned to continue his education at the University of Texas. (Scrapbook 2:29)

This matters because the profile predates his college fame. The power, arm, speed, and educational intention were not explanations invented after the All-America seasons. They were the traits observers saw before he entered Texas.

Yankee Stadium as education

Chuck wore No. 12 for the U.S. All-Stars. The scrapbook preserves the itinerary, hotel information, scorecard, roster, team photographs, and trophy presentation, turning one game into a complete journey. A later profile said that while in New York he talked with Yankees and received batting advice from Joe DiMaggio and another Yankee slugger. (Scrapbook 2:22-52; 3:36)

The event also exposed him to the machinery of professional baseball: scouts, national selection, publicity, travel, and a major-league park. Yet the immediate next step was not a contract. It was a scholarship.

Chapter 3: choosing Texas and choosing time

The scholarship

A July 26, 1959 report announced that Knutson had accepted an athletic scholarship to Texas. The 1961 guide later recorded a .379 freshman season with three home runs and 11 RBI. In July 1960, the American Amateur Baseball Congress named him the third baseman on the San Antonio ISRAC All-Star team. He entered college as a proven infielder and hitter. (Scrapbook 2:20, 53, 56-58)

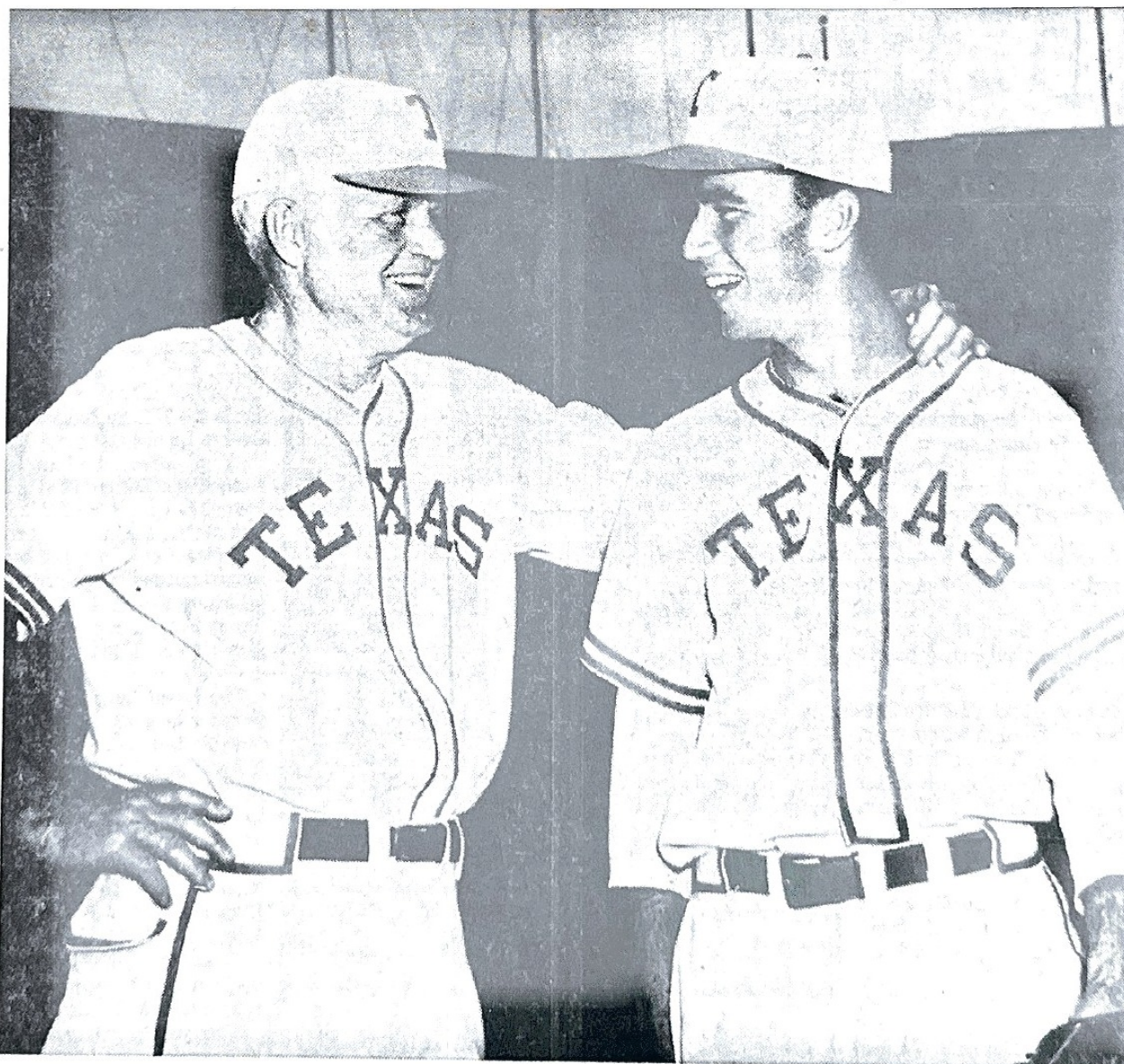
The bonus he declined

Milwaukee reportedly offered him a \$20,000 bonus after high school. Chuck declined. He told Joe Heiling that if he had begun professional baseball immediately, he might never have started college. He wanted a substantial academic foundation before taking his chance with professional baseball. (Scrapbook 2:69)

In 1959, \$20,000 was not symbolic money. The choice reveals patience and a clear estimate of baseball's uncertainty. He did not reject professional ambition; he sequenced it. Education first, professional baseball later.

That decision gave him the next four years: a business degree path, marriage to Penny, a network of teammates and Texas lettermen, and the seasons that eventually placed him in the Hall of Honor. The delayed professional start cost him time in the farm system, but it created the life he later described as the greater achievement.

Chapter 4: the apprentice and the old master



A Coach and His All-America

Bibb Falk and Chuck Knutson, the old professional hitter and the young All-American. Scrapbook 3:36.

Falk calls his shots

The best surviving story about Knutson's development begins in the batting cage at Clark Field. Reporter Joe Heiling watched Chuck stare as Bibb Falk, the former Chicago White Sox outfielder, took one of his occasional rounds of batting practice. Falk announced where he would hit the ball, then did it. He sent one through the box. He took an inside pitch to the opposite field. His timing looked effortless. (Scrapbook 2:69)

Chuck's response captured the relationship. He called Falk "quite an artist" and a master with the bat. The compliment was not ceremonial. Knutson was studying a specific skill: control. Falk did not merely swing hard; he controlled the barrel and the field.

Why the curveball was winning

Knutson began the 1961 varsity season as an outfielder still learning the position. An early spell on the bench reflected both defense and a hitting problem. He could handle the fastball, but he was over-striding. The curve defeated him less through its break than through its change of pace. His quick bat committed too soon. (Scrapbook 2:69)

Falk's correction was physical and simple to describe: keep the weight back, stop lunging, and hit more with the hands. Its execution required patience. Chuck explained that a hitter could look good or bad because of a fraction of a second in timing. Once he stopped moving his body ahead of the ball, the quick hands became an advantage again. (Scrapbook 2:69)

This is the key developmental episode of his career. Natural power had carried him through high school and amateur baseball. College pitching forced him to understand how the power worked.

Frustration as part of coaching

Chuck admitted that learning from Falk could be frustrating. The coach could demonstrate a skill that the player could not instantly reproduce. That honesty makes the eventual success more meaningful. The great 1961 season did not arrive because a coach offered a magical phrase. It arrived because instruction, failed attempts, observation, and repetition finally changed his timing.

Chapter 5: 1961, when the adjustment became power

From the bench to the conference power race

After the early struggles, Knutson came alive. Through 19 games the Heiling feature had him at .360 overall and .333 in conference play, with six home runs and 16 RBI. Five of the homers came in a seven-game stretch. At SMU he went 5-for-9 in two games, with three home runs, a double, and six RBI. (Scrapbook 2:69-70)

The weekend was not merely a hot streak. It demonstrated what the corrected timing could release. A quick bat, held back long enough to recognize speed, produced power to different parts of the park. Falk's lesson in control had not reduced aggression; it had made the aggression usable.

Three hits and a ball on the wall against TCU

In a 5-3 win over TCU, Knutson collected three hits in four at-bats, including a double and his seventh home run. The homer landed atop the left-field wall and supplied Texas's fourth run. The account paired his offensive barrage with a game in which the Texas infield alternated errors and beautifully executed double plays - a useful reminder that even memorable performances unfolded inside imperfect college games. (Scrapbook 2:71-73)

The answer after an "ego-eroding" defeat

Texas lost 13-6 at Texas A&M on a Friday, then responded with a 15-4 win on Saturday. The reporter called the first result an "ego-eroding" spanking and the second a powdering. Knutson contributed a sacrifice fly early and a late home run after Pat Rigby singled and Phil Higgs walked. The split forced another step in the conference race, but it also showed the emotional rhythm of the season: embarrassment one day, a decisive answer the next. (Scrapbook 2:70)

Baylor and the biggest thrill

The enduring 1961 blow came against Baylor. Texas needed the game in the championship race. Knutson's two-run home run put the Longhorns in front and became the "big blow" of the title-clinching contest. When later asked about it, he resisted the language of heroic intention. He said he had not been swinging for the fence; he was trying to meet the ball solidly and felt fortunate that the result came when it did. (Scrapbook 1:3; 3:36)

That explanation matches Falk's teaching. The home run was not produced by a larger swing. It was produced by arriving on time and striking the ball cleanly.

The respect measured in walks

Knutson drew 26 walks during the 25-game season before the postseason totals were complete. A campus profile explained the number as recognition by opposing pitchers of his slugging power. The statistic gives the power context: pitchers were not simply allowing him a steady diet of hittable pitches. They were managing the risk. (Scrapbook 3:36)

A season line built for its era

The final Texas table credits 34 hits in 90 at-bats, seven doubles, one triple, 10 home runs, 37 RBI, 73 total bases, 26 walks, a .378 average, and an .811 slugging percentage. The .811 mark later became the shorthand for the season. Texas's 2003 Hall program called it the best ever by a right-handed Longhorn and second in school history overall; the official Texas Athletics biography continues to repeat that distinction. (Scrapbook 1:6; 5:73)

The home-run count also needs era context. Texas played a compact schedule and used old Clark Field, a park with unusual dimensions and terrain. Ten home runs in 90 at-bats meant one homer every nine at-bats. Fifteen of his 34 hits went for extra bases. Power was not a secondary component of the average; it shaped the season.

Chapter 6: what All-America meant in 1961



1961 – Collegiate All-America – 1961

Pos.	Player	School	Age	Height	Weight	Class	Hometown	Bats	Throws	At Bats	Runs	Hits	HR	Batting Average	RBI	Fielding Average
1B	Willie Ryan	USC	20	5-9	142	Jr.	Los Angeles	L	L	152	25	56	1	.365	22	.964
2B	Charles Shoemaker	Ariz.	21	5-10	160	Sr.	Los Angeles	L	R	195	50	74	3	.379	51	.966
3B	Peter Hall	Rutgers	20	6-1	185	Jr.	Bound Brook, N.J.	R	R	78	21	31	4	.397	30	.946
SS	Frank Quilici	W. Mich.	21	5-11	184	Sr.	Chicago	R	R	78	16	28	2	.359	20	.975
LF	Joe Nossek	Ohio U.	20	6-0	178	Jr.	Euclid, Ohio	R	R	62	20	29	4	.468	11	1.000
CF	Jim Mooring	N. Carolina	19	6-2	200	Soph.	Rocky Mt., N.C.	L	L	75	13	32	3	.427	21	.938
RF	Chuck Knutson	Texas	20	6-0	175	Soph.	San Antonio	R	R	76	30	29	10	.382	33	.971
C	Bill Freehan	Michigan	19	6-3	208	Soph.	Royal Oak, Mich.	R	R	72	23	33	6	.458	28	.947
P	Jim Wixson	Okl. State	21	6-1	185	Jr.	Tulsa, Okla.	(Won 11 Games, Lost 1, SO 79, BB 71, ERA 1.75)								
P	Bill Faul	Cincinnati	21	5-10	193	Jr.	Pleasant Plain, O.	(Won 8 Games, Lost 1, SO 133, BB 30, ERA 1.53)								

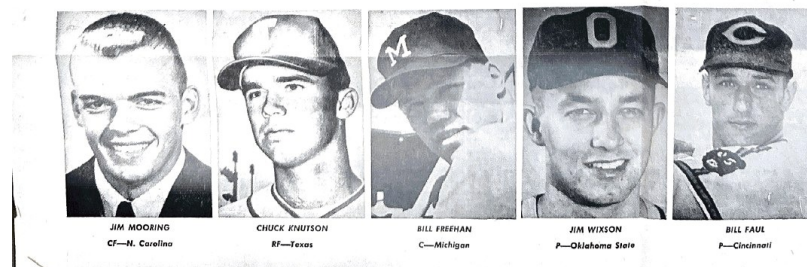
The Second Team

Pos.	Player	School	Age	Height	Weight	Class	Batting Average
1B	Joe Skalsgier	Arizona	21	6-5	200	Junior	.425
2B	Bruce Andrews	Okl. State	20	5-8	165	Junior	.375
3B	Edward Tekavec	W. Virginia	26	6-0	170	Junior	.427
SS	Richard Parsons	Kentucky	22	5-9	155	Senior	.387
LF	Tom Riley	Mich. State	21	6-1	185	Senior	.340
CF	Bill Barrackough	Arizona	23	5-11	170	Senior	.335
RF	Gale Weidner	Colorado	20	6-1	185	Junior	.386
C	Larry Himes	USC	20	6-0	185	Junior	.327
P	Joe Clement	Connecticut	21	6-1	180	Senior	8-2 (1.25)
P	Charles Davis	Navy	21	6-3	205	Senior	10-1 (1.79)

The Third Team

Pos.	Player	School	Age	Height	Weight	Class	Batting Average
1B	Wayne Knapp	Minnesota	22	6-4	220	Senior	.349
2B	Jack Dull	Florida State	21	6-0	185	Senior	.392
3B	Jake Gibbs	Mississippi	22	6-0	185	Senior	.333
SS	Don Wallace	Okl. State	20	5-8	165	Junior	.375
LF	Bill Hess	Ohio State	19	5-10	168	Soph.	.354
CF	John Koehler	Colo. St. Coll.	22	5-8	170	Senior	.396
RF	Gene Orf	Missouri	23	6-0	190	Senior	.333
C	Ray Bond	Okl. State	21	6-1	175	Senior	.303
P	Allen Smith	LSU	20	5-9	145	Junior	10-2 (1.34)
P	John Rebelo	California	20	6-0	160	Junior	9-0 (2.04)

The 1961 College All-American baseball squad was selected by the American Association of College Baseball Coaches in cooperation with General Mills. The Wheaties Sports Federation, headed by Bob Richards, sponsored the squad's selection.



The 1961 Collegiate All-America team. Knutson appears in right field with the interim .382 average. Scrapbook 1:44.

Every conference coach found a place for him

The sports-information directors made Knutson a unanimous first-team All-SWC selection. In the coaches' Associated Press voting, all six coaches selected him: five in a fixed outfield position and one as a utility outfielder. The split position does not weaken the vote; it shows that every coach insisted on putting him somewhere. (Scrapbook 3:7-10)

Texas's third first-team baseball All-American

The American Association of College Baseball Coaches selected him for the first team. UT publicist Orland Sims wrote that Chuck was only the third first-team baseball All-American in university history. Another clipping identified him as the only Southwest Conference player on the national first team. (Scrapbook 1:41-45)

Sims's congratulatory letter contains a revealing admission. After Texas lost its first two games in Omaha, he thought the showing had damaged any remaining All-America chance. The selection surprised him, but not because he doubted Chuck's quality. He believed the honor was deserved despite the team's brief tournament. That is a contemporary judgment that the full season outweighed the final two games. (Scrapbook 1:41)

Why .382 and .378 both appear

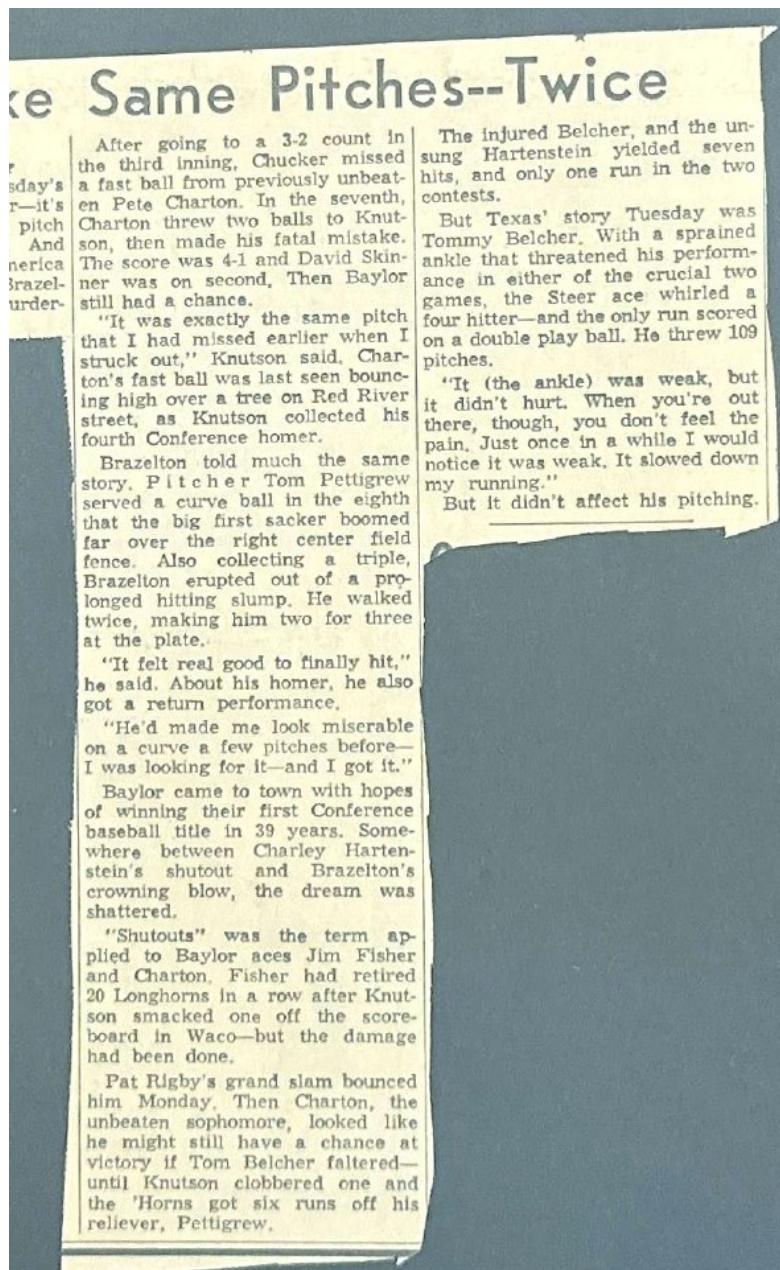
The published All-America roster lists 29 hits in 76 at-bats, a .382 average. Texas's final table lists 34 hits in 90 at-bats, .378. The first number was the record available when selectors voted; the second includes the completed postseason. The scrapbook therefore preserves the season in motion. It does not contain one error and one truth. It contains an interim truth and a final one. (Scrapbook 1:42-44)

Chapter 7: 1962 and the intelligence of a hitter

A three-run beginning at Baylor

The 1962 conference opener at Baylor provided an immediate reminder of his impact. Knutson hit a three-run home run in the first inning, and Texas held on 4-3. After the first inning the Longhorns struggled to solve Baylor pitching. The early blow therefore carried almost the entire offensive margin. A photograph ran beneath the headline with the caption that his big bat had beaten Baylor. (Scrapbook 3:29)

The same pitch twice



A game account built around pitch recognition: Knutson missed a full-count fastball, saw it again, and homered. Scrapbook 3:34.

The return game with Baylor produced one of the best hitting anecdotes in the scrapbook. On Monday, Baylor's Pete Charton had beaten Texas and made Chuck look bad on a curve. On Tuesday, with the count 3-2, Charton threw a fastball that Knutson missed for strike three. Later, with the count again full, the pitcher repeated the fastball. This time Chuck expected it and hit his fourth conference home run. (Scrapbook 3:34)

He explained the confrontation with unusual clarity: it was the same pitch he had missed earlier. The account is a miniature of his entire development. Failure supplied information. Recognition changed the next at-bat. The pitcher repeated a successful choice; the hitter did not repeat the unsuccessful swing.

Teammate Lew Brazelton told a parallel story from the same game. A Baylor pitcher had made him look miserable with a curve, so Brazelton looked for it later and tripled. The headline - "'Horns Like Same Pitches--Twice" - captured a lineup learning within the game. (Scrapbook 3:34)

The ball that played like a golf shot

Froggies Protest Too Little Too Late

By JOE HEILING

Texas Christian got in the last word Wednesday. Trouble was, the Frogs spoke up too late.

By the time Leon Baze clubbed a three-run homer in the ninth inning, righthander Tom Belcher already had wrapped up the Southwest Conference debate — a 9-7 verdict in favor of the Texas Longhorns.

Belcher came trodding in from the bullpen, a rare role for him, and delivered his best oratory over the final six and two-thirds innings. TCU was swayed enough to provide Belcher with his fifth victory of the year.

Only stiff argument the Frogs offered in rebuttal come in a four-run ninth inning.

A walk, singles by Jay Walrath and Don Reynolds and Baze's first homer of the campaign, a 330-foot poke far over the right field fence, marked the only success the Frogs had against Belcher.

In gaining his third conference runs

win in four decisions, Belcher gave the Longhorns a tie for the SWC lead with Texas A&M, which

Dave Nunnenkamp was the starting choice of coach Bibb Falk, and TCU took advantage of his wildness and a couple of timely hits to mark up three runs in three innings.

Belcher was summoned to the rescue with one down in the third—and permitted the Frogs only a run-scoring sacrifice fly as he slammed the door shut until the ninth.

Texas banged out 10 hits off a trio of TCU chunkers and pinned the defeat on Gray Mills — a Frog quarterback during the fall months.

Catcher John Pinckney, getting the call behind the plate when Gary London turned up ill, continued his hot conference hitting. He rapped out a pair of hits, including a double, to plate three.

Biggest blow of the damp, chilly afternoon for the Longhorns was an inside-the-park homer by outfielder Chuck Knutson in the third. It was his second homer of the season.

Knutson tied into a Don Schmidt pitch and lined it on top of the cliff in left center — about the 365-foot point. The ball hit like a chip shot to a golfing green, bouncing off the fence and digging into the turf.

Walrath, the Frog left fielder, tried desperately to hold Knutson to at least a triple. But by the time he found the path to the ball, the Longhorn outfielder was chugging for home plate.

Knutson's blast tied the score at 3-3, and Texas responded by punching over two runs in each of the next three innings. It was this 9-3 lead that Belcher protected so feverishly until the ninth inning rolled around.

Baze, the conference home run king last year, stroked a double off Nunnenkamp to hand the Frogs a run in the first inning. Two more were charged to the UT sophomore by his departure in the third — on Sam Reynolds' double and Gary Lee's sacrifice fly.

The Longhorns wasted little motion getting their scoring show on the road. Pat Rigby tripled with one out in the first and tallied on Ed Kasper's high pop fly double that fell fair at the right field line. Kasper scored on Knutson's double one out later.

Knutson tied it out with his homer in the third, and the 'Horns went ahead for keeps with two in the fourth. Bill Bethea scored on a delayed double steal initiated by Rigby, who later came home on Kasper's long sacrifice fly.

It was 7-3 in the fifth after Texas knocked Mills out of the box with a two-run burst on Pinckney's double and a bases-jammed walk to Bethea. Pinckney's two-run single made it 9-3 in the sixth.

TCU TEXAS

TCU	ab	r	h	i	TEXAS	ab	r	h	b
Walrath lf	5	1	1	0	Rietz ss	3	1	1	0
Ruegg cf	3	1	0	0	Barbey 2b	3	2	1	0
D Reynolds 1b	3	1	0	0	Kasper 2b	3	2	1	0
Baze lf	3	1	2	0	Knapp cf	3	1	1	0
S Reynolds 2b	4	0	1	1	Knutson lf	3	3	2	0
Lee 3b	2	0	1	1	Bratton 1b	0	0	0	0
Jones c	4	0	0	0	Thrash lf	3	1	1	0
M Adams ss	3	0	1	0	Pinckney c	3	0	0	0
bBaltch	0	1	0	0	N'non knis p	1	1	0	0

a-	Schmidt p	1 0 0 0	Betcher p	4 0 1
a-	a-Terry	1 0 0 0		
n-	Millis p	0 0 0 0		
r-	Serban p	1 0 0 0		
a	cCovert	1 0 0 0		

c-Covert	1086		
Totals	33777	Totals	31910
a-Flies out for Schmidt in 4th;		b-	
Walked for McAdams in 9th;		c-Struc	
out for Serban in 9th.			

TCU	182 600 604—
Texas	301 222 00x—
E—Brazelton, McAdams 2, Walrath	
PO-A — TCU 24-11, Texas 27-13, DP-	
Trench, Fisher and Brunsell, LOR, Tex.	

2B—Baze, Skinner, Knutson, S. Rex
olds, Pinckney 3B—Rigby, HR—Knu
son Baze, SB—Beihea, Rigby 2. S—Br

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	S
Schmidt		2	3	3	3	3
Milg (L. 14)		2	3	4	2	4

[illegible]

Baylor Mauled By Longhorns

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas outfielder Chuck Knutson and first baseman Lou Brazelton combined to drive in nine runs Tuesday as the Longhorns crushed Baylor 12-1.

The victory gave Texas a 6-2 loop record and second place in the Southwest Conference Baseball race. Baylor, now 5-3, dropped to third rung. Texas A&M defeated Southern Methodist 11-0 at Dallas Tuesday to keep a firm grip on first place with a 7-2 record.

Knutson collected three hits, including his fourth conference home run, to drive in five runs. Brazelton tripled and homered to drive in four. Baylor lost Monday's series opener 8-0.

Longhorn senior Tom Belcher held the Bears to four hits. He walked two and struck out four. Sophomore Pete Charton was

Sophomore Pete Charton was the Baylor loser, suffering his first varsity defeat after five victories. Reliever Tom Pettigrew saw Texas send six runs in the eighth, the only inning he worked.

Texas grabbed a 2-0 lead in the second on a single by Knutson. Brazelton's triple and the first two singles by outfielder John Pinckney.

The TCU account likened the landing to a chip shot: the drive reached the cliff, bounced, and dug into the turf. Scrapbook 3:35.

Against TCU, Knutson drove a Don Schmidt pitch to the deepest part of old Clark Field, near the 363-foot point in left center. The reporter compared the flight and landing to a chip shot onto a green: the ball struck near the top of the fence, bounced, and dug into the turf. (Scrapbook 3:35)

The TCU left fielder tried to hold him to a triple. By the time the fielder found a path to the buried ball, Knutson was "chugging" for home. The inside-the-park home run tied the game 3-3, and Texas answered with two more runs in the inning. The story brings all of his tools together: power to reach the cliff, speed to force the decision, and the willingness to keep running while the defense solved the terrain.

Five RBI and modesty

In a 12-1 win over Baylor, Knutson and Brazelton combined to drive in nine runs. Chuck collected three hits, including a home run, and drove in five. The longer feature around the game focused on pitch recognition, but the box-score result shows the consequence: once the lineup identified the repeated pitch, Baylor's hope of a second straight victory disappeared. (Scrapbook 3:31, 34)

"A coach's pride and joy"

A campus feature placed a smiling Falk beside Knutson under the headline "A Coach's Pride and Joy." It reviewed the 1961 All-America season, the walks, the Baylor homer, the interest from professional clubs, and the choice to graduate first. Chuck told the writer he wanted to try big-league baseball later because it would be difficult to play the game for years and simply give it up. (Scrapbook 3:36)

The photograph matters. The old professional and the young All-American are laughing together. Their relationship had moved from difficult instruction to shared proof that the instruction worked.

The only run in Arizona

In the 1962 District 6 opener at Arizona, Texas faced Dan Schneider in a game dominated by pitching. With two out in the sixth, Chuck singled over shortstop to drive in the only run of a 1-0 victory. Texas had only three hits. On another deep Arizona fly, shortstop Bill Bethea, Knutson, and Mike Thrash collided in pursuit but still kept the possible tying run from scoring. (Scrapbook 3:47)

The game broadened the definition of impact. There was no home run. There was one scoring single and urgent outfield defense in a one-run postseason game.

Third in Omaha

Texas swept Arizona 1-0 and 7-4, then finished third at the College World Series. The tournament included an early loss to eventual champion Michigan and a later 7-0 victory over the same team before Santa Clara eliminated Texas. Knutson's second-team All-America selection, second All-District season, and second All-SWC selection confirmed that the sophomore breakout had become a sustained career. (Scrapbook 3:49-65; 4:10-12)

Chapter 8: Huron, South Dakota - the summer between

Knutson, Fisher S 5-2 Decision By

By DICK WOOD

Plainsman Sports Editor

Left-hander Fritz Fisher, who just joined the team Friday, went the distance on the mound and left fielder Chuck Knutson slammed a two-run homer to spark the Huron Jims to a 5-2 victory over the Winner Pheasants Sunday night at Memorial Park.

However manager Harry Wise of the Pheasants told newsmen after the game he was planning to file a protest. Wise contended that Jims manager Glenn Gostick should have been forced to remove Fisher from the mound in the ninth inning when he made his second trip of the game to talk to Fisher. The other visit had come in an earlier inning.

Basin League secretary Milt Pronk said last night the rules state that managers must take a pitcher out on the second trip per inning, not per game as Wise contended.

Fisher gave up eight hits and 10 walks but was tough in the clutches as he also struck out 10. Two key double plays also played crucial roles.

The Jims picked up two runs in the last of the first off Winner starter Bob Jenkins. Second baseman Joe Jones, who also joined the Jims Friday, led off with a walk and Dave Hoffman followed with a single. Larry Smith singled to score Jones and a one-base hit

Six Runs In Si Give Watertown

By United Press International

Watertown, Pierre and Huron scored Basin League victories Sunday night after all Saturday games were rained out.

Watertown put Sturgis through the wringer 6-2 with Jim Card taking the win; Pierre beat Rapid City 9-3 for Rich Peterson's third win, and Huron defeated Winner, 5-2.

The Watertown - Sturgis game was scoreless until the sixth inning when the Sox beat six runs across the plate. Watertown's final two runs came in the seventh when Walt McKenzie hit a triple, Lloyd Flodin hit a single to score McKenzie and Jim Jarvis hit a sacrifice fly to score Flodin.

Sturgis scored one run in the eighth as pinch hitter Mike Strode singled for losing pitcher Rob Snow, advanced to third on hits and was homed by a wild pitch by Card.

Winner put up heavy treats in the eighth and ninth innings against Huron, but was unable to score with bases loaded. Winner's only two runs came in the third inning.

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Watertown Pierre 9 Huron 5 Sturgis Pierre 7 Huron 2

Wel Ret

CAGL Duilio I ropean champi winning Italian more Stadium

A Huron report credits Knutson's two-run home run with sparking a 5-2 Jims victory. Scrapbook 4:21.

A college star in a town's summer lineup

In the summer of 1962, Knutson joined the Huron Jims of the Basin League. The headline "signed" can sound professional to a modern reader, but this was collegiate summer/semi-pro baseball. His Texas placement resume categorized it that way, and he returned for his senior season with eligibility intact. (Scrapbook 4:17; 5:75)

Two runs with one swing

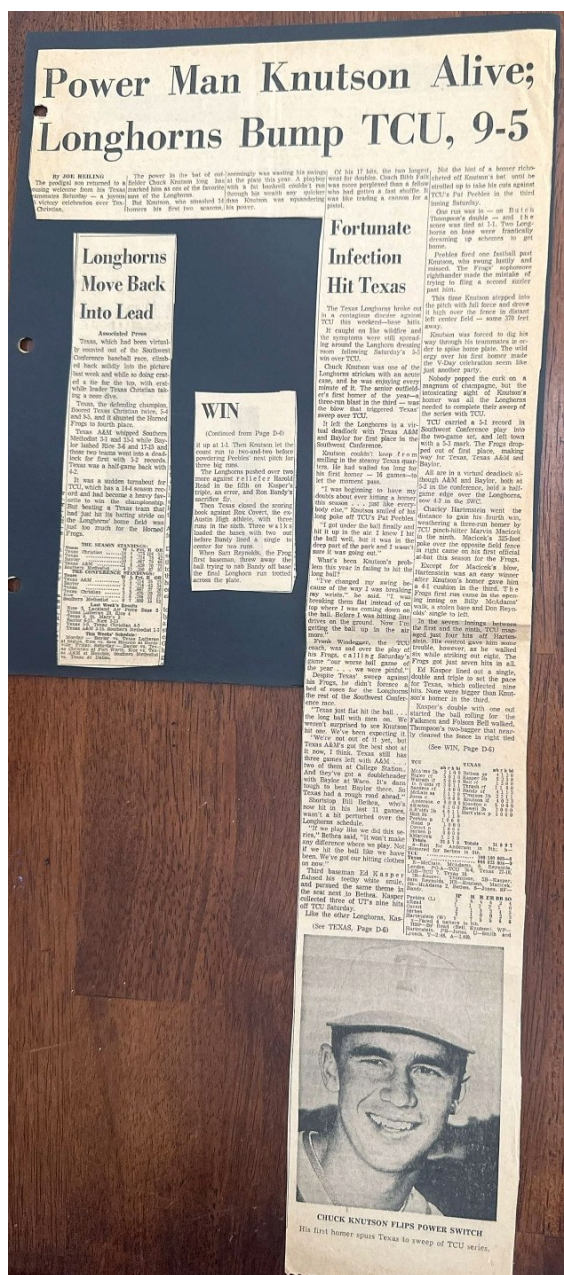
Against the Winner Pheasants, left-hander Fritz Fisher pitched the distance for Huron. Knutson supplied the central offensive blow: a two-run home run that helped produce a 5-2 victory. The detailed account said the drive cleared the left-field fence in the fifth and made the score 4-2. (Scrapbook 4:21)

The story is useful because it shows his power traveling. The hitter who had learned Clark Field's cliffs and dimensions could drive a ball out in South Dakota against unfamiliar summer pitching.

Speed in a 6-1 win

Another Huron report described a 6-1 win over Watertown shaped by five stolen bases. Knutson singled a runner to third, then took part in a double steal that brought the runner home. Later he walked before Larry Smith's three-run home run. In one game the scrapbook shows three forms of pressure: reaching base, advancing a runner, and forcing the defense to handle movement. (Scrapbook 4:21)

Chapter 9: 1963, the senior as problem-solver



Power Man Knutson Alive: the three-run homer against TCU ended his early 1963 drought. Scrapbook 4:31.

A slow start and a public diagnosis

The 1963 season did not begin with the same lift as 1961. A feature built around the coming Baylor series said Knutson was a habitual slow starter, but this time the struggle was pronounced. Falk said his timing was off and that his best contact was producing harmless fly balls. Several hits had been legged-out infield balls, evidence that speed was protecting the average while the authoritative contact was missing. (Scrapbook 5:19)

Then the signs improved. Against Minnesota, Chuck collected three hits, including a double to right center - his first extra-base hit of the season. Falk said he looked better and seemed to have some timing back. The coach also made the strategic need explicit: Texas required Knutson's right-handed punch to defend its conference title. (Scrapbook 5:19)

The article is valuable because it does not rewrite the struggle after the fact. It shows a veteran All-American being evaluated honestly and working back toward form.

"Power Man Knutson Alive"

The recovery became a headline against TCU. With one run in, the score tied 1-1, and two runners aboard in the third, Knutson stepped into a pitch and drove it about 370 feet to deep left center. The three-run home run triggered a 9-5 Texas victory. It was his first homer of the season. (Scrapbook 4:31)

The report described a celebration that looked like V-Day in the Longhorn dugout. Knutson had to work through teammates to reach home plate. No champagne was opened, the writer joked, but the first homer was an intoxicating sight.

Chuck's own explanation returned to mechanics. He had been breaking his wrists flat and producing line drives on the ground. This time he got under the ball and lifted it. The fix was not simply "swing harder"; it was a change in how the wrists delivered the barrel. (Scrapbook 4:31)

TCU coach Frank Windegger said his team was not surprised to see Knutson hit because they had been expecting it. That remark, from an opponent immediately after defeat, may be the clearest evidence of reputation. Even during a slump, the opposing dugout believed the power could return on the next pitch.

The decisive home run and the senior's defense

The official 1963 Texas player sketch called Knutson's only regular-season home run "vital." It came in the 9-5 win over TCU and helped Texas claim the conference playoff berth. The same sketch praised his strong arm, credited five outfield assists, and noted hits in 15 of 25 games. (Scrapbook 4:31-32, 50; official 1963 Texas schedule)

The phrase "only regular-season home run" can make the season sound diminished. In context, it shows concentrated value. The one home run was the three-run blow in a 9-5 conference victory tied directly to the postseason path. Meanwhile, he remained a .302 hitter and a respected defender.

The clearest outside judgment came when the UPI All-SWC team was announced. The accompanying report called his third straight first-team selection a surprise because his .255 conference average had been "overcome by his superb fielding ability." That was the newspaper's characterization, not a formal defensive ranking, but it is unusually direct evidence that voters saw value beyond the batting line. (Scrapbook 5:20)

The closing stretch also contained offense that the season summary obscures. In Texas's 12-2 win over Texas A&M - the Longhorns' 11th straight victory - Knutson supplied a two-run single during the decisive rally. Against Brooke Army Medical Center, he went 3-for-5 and drove in two with a triple in an 11-4 win. (Scrapbook 5:16)

The third straight Omaha team

Texas tied TCU for the SWC title and advanced under the head-to-head rule. Knutson made the UPI All-SWC first team, his third consecutive all-conference selection, and received a third All-District recognition. Texas then reached Omaha for the third straight year. (Scrapbook 4:42-50; 5:17, 20)

His senior value was different from his sophomore value. In 1961 he overwhelmed the record book. In 1963 he adjusted through a slump, supplied a decisive home run, controlled the outfield with his arm, and anchored a younger lineup as it found a postseason route.

Chapter 10: the Texas record in full

Season	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	AVG	SLG
1961	90	30	34	7	1	10	37	73	26	12	.378	.811
1962	99	29	30	7	1	4	32	51	37	23	.303	.515
1963	86	16	26	4	0	1	12	33	20	27	.302	.384
Career	275	75	90	18	2	15	81	157	83	62	.328*	.571

*Texas's printed table gives .328. The displayed totals of 90 hits in 275 at-bats calculate to .327. The printed figure is retained with the discrepancy noted. (Scrapbook 4:53)

The progression tells a more complicated story than decline from a great first year. Walks increased from 26 to 37 in 1962, showing that pitchers remained cautious. He drove in 32 runs in 1962 despite the lower home-run total. In 1963, with less power, he still hit .302 and contributed arm value that the batting table cannot show.

Entering the 1963 College World Series, Texas listed him tied for second in career home runs, tied for third in RBI, fifth in average, and third in slugging. The 2003 Hall program said he finished his career third in both average and slugging. Later generations changed the ranking, but the contemporary sheets locate him among the elite hitters of the Falk era. (Scrapbook 4:54; 5:73)

Chapter 11: Quincy and the daily education of professional baseball

Back-to-back power

One Quincy account described Mike Fiore and Knutson hitting back-to-back home runs during a 7-5 loss. In a different game at Clinton, Eddie LaDuke reached on an error, Mike Fiore walked, and Chuck hit a ninth-inning two-run double that pulled the Jets within one before a game-ending double play. These were not ceremonial late-season statistics; they were swings that changed leverage and forced opponents to finish games under pressure. (Scrapbook 5:24, 33)

A single, a triple play, and baseball's indifference

Against Waterloo, before a reported crowd of 6,844, Chuck singled in the seventh and Jim Lang walked. Art Jones then lined to shortstop, and the Hawks turned a triple play by doubling Knutson and Lang off their bases. The Jets still won 6-2, and Knutson contributed a sacrifice fly earlier. (Scrapbook 5:33)

The sequence is a perfect minor-league anecdote because it contains no clean moral. A hitter does his job and reaches base; seconds later he is part of a rare triple play. The same box score can credit his run production and record the baserunning out.

A double, a steal, and a run

In another game, Knutson doubled, stole third, and scored when the catcher's throw went into left field. This was the football and track athlete reappearing inside professional baseball. The double created the opportunity; the steal forced the defense to execute; the error turned pressure into a run. (Scrapbook 5:33)

Learning in public

The clippings also record an outfield misplay that allowed a run. That detail belongs in an in-depth biography. He was an All-American, but still a developing professional outfielder who had begun college as an infielder. The farm system measured the complete player every day. A strong arm and nine outfield assists could coexist with an occasional mistake.

Chapter 12: Salinas, 1964

Marichal and Mays Lead Giants to 6-0

HOUSTON, Tex. (UPI)—San Francisco's gold dust twins, "Wonderful Willie" and "Marvelous Marichal," snapped the Giants out of their doldrums Tuesday night and sparked them to a nifty 6-0 victory over Houston.

Willie Mays and Juan Marichal, who presently lead the major leagues in everything but peanut sales, were at their best as they steered the Giants off a loosely-played, two-game losing

streak which had fans shaking their heads in astonishment.

Mays drove in four runs with a pair of homers and a single. His second roundtripper, in the fifth inning with a man on, was considered "mighty big"—even by Texas standards. It scattered the binocular set in the right-center field stands, 450 feet from home plate.

The flashy centerfielder's performance extended his hitting streak to 19 games and in-

creased his lead among major league batters in all three departments. He leads in homers with 13, runs batted in with 34, and hitting with an eye-popping .477.

Mays' contribution exceeded the fondest hopes of Marichal,

who had prime need to buy the ticket to the showers in seventh inning when scored three more runs.

But at home run needed was the hitting for hit in the third run. Mays' first 45% on blanked the Colt post his scattered hits to season victory of the ending 2th in a row, ex-

to last year. The handed Houston

starter Hal (Skinny) Brown ticket to the showers in seventh inning when scored three more runs. Former Giant Gordon came on and silenced the Francisco bats through the two innings.

Rookie third baseman Ray Hart and right Maltby Alou each contr two safeties to the 10-hit attack. Hart had

SPORTS

Jack Daugherty, Sports Editor

22—SALINAS CALIFORNIAN Wednesday, May 13, 1964

Mets Undefeated On Home Diamond

By Jack Daugherty
Salinas Mets, yet to lose a game at Salinas municipal stadium in nine home stands, defeated the Stockton Ports 6-3 last night in the opener of the three-game series. Mike McCusker was winning pitcher and Ron Kotick the loser.

The second place Mets, hot after the league leading Fresno Giants, scored four runs without a hit. Three of the runs came in

the fourth inning on three walks a fielder's choice, an error and a foul fly ball. The other was in the fifth frame by an error and sacrifice fly.

The final two runs were tallied in the eighth inning on successive triples by Chuck Knutson and Gene Orf and a single by Bud Harrelson.

Stockton scored a run in the second inning on three singles and an error. The Ports shoved

across two more in the eighth inning by virtue of a single and a home run by catcher Gary Fancher.

In the second game of the series tonight, manager Kerby Farrell's charges will be out after their 10th straight victory on home grounds. Not only are the Mets unbeaten at home, but they have yet to go into the bottom of the ninth inning at municipal stadium.

They'll have the chance to overtake the Giants of Fresno in a week-end series at Salinas beginning Friday night. The Giants are out in front with a 16-3 record while the Mets are laboring with a 16-6 standing. If the Mets can take at least two of the games from Stockton in the current series, they'll be in position to knock off Fresno for

The STANDINGS

By United Press International

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	16	7	.696	
Philadelphia	14	9	.609	2
Milwaukee	13	10	.569	3
St. Louis	16	11	.593	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	14	12	.538	3 1/2
Cincinnati	13	13	.500	4 1/2
Chicago	10	11	.476	8
Houston	11	17	.393	7 1/2
Los Angeles	10	16	.385	7 1/2
New York	6	19	.240	11

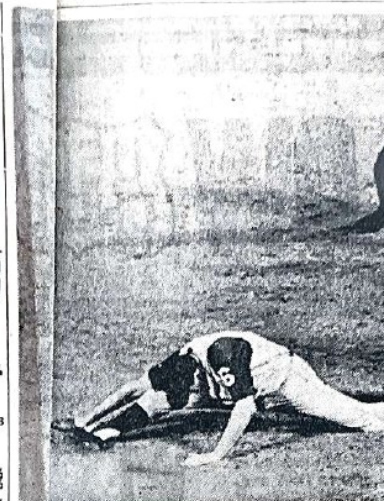
Tuesday's Results
Chicago 3, Los Angeles 2.
St. Louis 4, Philadelphia 2, night.
Milwaukee 2, New York 6, night.
San Francisco 6, Houston 0, night.
Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2, night.

Thursday's Games
Milwaukee at New York, night.
San Francisco at Houston, night.
St. Louis at Philadelphia, night.
Only games scheduled.



By Forrest Deaner

1 not usual and was the first runner for many local red and



BALIT?—Executing a split that would make a base on Jim Gentile nips Angel Bobby Knoop base on Dick Green in the second inning at L. Ump is John Rice. Kansas City won game 6-0.

Dableplay Leading An

A May 1964 Salinas report records successive triples by Knutson and Gene Orf during the Mets' unbeaten home start. Scrapbook 5:39.

The Mets moved Knutson to the Salinas Mets of the Class A California League in 1964. Salinas played 138 games and went 79-59. Chuck's personal line was more difficult than Quincy:

G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	AVG	OBP	SLG
90	282	240	31	56	6	3	7	27	36	80	.233	.336	.371

A triple during the undefeated home run

A May 13 report described the Mets as still unbeaten on their home diamond. In the eighth inning, successive triples by Knutson and Gene Orf, followed by a Bud Harrelson single, produced two runs. The same article said Salinas had not yet needed to bat in the bottom of the ninth at home. Chuck's triple belonged to a club playing with confidence and finishing games early. (Scrapbook 5:39)

The detail also places him beside Harrelson, who would become a long-time major-league shortstop and later manage the New York Mets. Class A rosters mixed future major leaguers, college stars, and players whose professional careers would end within a season or two.

At the end of that summer, the Salinas Mets presented "Charles Knutson" with a certificate "in appreciation for your loyal support." Dated August 24, 1964, it does not define the support or add a playing statistic. It does show the club formally recognizing him during the season preserved across the surrounding pages. (Scrapbook 5:44)

Across Quincy and Salinas, Knutson played 141 games, hit .256, reached base at a .374 rate, slugged .416, hit 13 home runs, and drove in 58. The line is respectable. It also shows the distance between collegiate greatness and a major-league roster. He did not receive a major-league promotion, and the playing career ended after 1964.

Chapter 13: what contemporary observers meant by "prowess"

Power

The power was visible before Texas and remained the central professional attraction. The Hearst profile called him powerful at 18. College pitchers walked him more than once per game in 1961. He hit one home run per nine official at-bats that year. Reporters described drives reaching Clark Field's cliff, clearing left-center fences, and changing conference races.

Yet the best accounts repeatedly separate power from overswinging. His biggest Texas thrill came when he tried to meet the ball solidly. The repeated-pitch homer came from recognition. The 1963 return to power came from correcting his wrists. His prowess was not simply force; it was the recovery of force through mechanics.

Speed

Speed appears in every stage: dash man, broad jumper, punt returner, outfielder, inside-the-park home-run runner, minor leaguer stealing third. Even during the 1963 slump, infield hits protected his average because he could beat throws. The speed made mistakes possible for opponents and gave him value when the ball did not leave the park.

Arm and defensive conversion

He entered Texas with experience at pitcher, shortstop, and third base. Falk turned him into a left fielder. The transition initially cost playing time, but by 1961 Texas releases called him one of the conference's better fly chasers. The 1963 official sketch credited five assists and a strong arm. The conversion is evidence of coachability: he accepted a less familiar position because it offered a route into the lineup and helped the team.

Competitive memory

Several reports show him carrying information from one confrontation into the next. He remembered the fastball that struck him out, waited for its return, and homered. He identified over-striding as a timing error rather than blaming the curve. In 1963 he described the action of his wrists in technical terms. This is not the language of a player surviving on reflex alone. It is the language of someone studying the failure.

Temperament

The surviving quotes are modest, often funny, and usually collective. He called the championship homer lucky. He praised Falk's mastery. He described the frustration of being unable to reproduce every coaching demonstration. In the Hall speech he transformed the curveball weakness into a teammate's joke and the honors into evidence of good teams.

Chapter 14: the degree, the marriage, and the life after baseball

Chuck studied personnel management in the College of Business Administration. His placement resume lists coursework in industrial organization, wage and salary administration, collective bargaining, and employee relations. It also identifies Texas Cowboys and Sigma Phi Epsilon alongside varsity baseball. (Scrapbook 5:75)

He and Penny met at Texas and married in 1961, the year of the .811 slugging percentage. Their sons Kurt and Cole were born in Austin before Chuck finished school. The athletic decision and the family story therefore developed together. College was not a holding pattern before professional baseball; it was the foundation of adulthood. (Scrapbook 6:39-41)

By the 2003 Hall induction, he was living in Houston and serving as a vice president with Trans Global Solutions, Inc. The professional baseball career lasted two seasons. The business and family life grew from the educational choice that preceded it.

Chapter 15: the Hall of Honor speech as the final scouting report



Leo Brooks



Scott Henderson



Shaun Jordan



Chuck Knutson



Bruce Parker



Olen Underwood



John A. "Woody" Woodman

PROGRAM

INVOCATION
TOASTMASTER
WELCOME
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

TED KOY
BILL LITTLE

JULIAN OATES, *President Hall of Honor*
DAVID L. McWILLIAMS

2003 Honorees

LEO BROOKS
SCOTT HENDERSON
SHAUN JORDAN
CHUCK KNUTSON

BRUCE PARKER
OLEN UNDERWOOD
JOHN A. "WOODY" WOODMAN

SEVEN NEW MEMBERS INSTALLED AT THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

LEO BROOKS (Football) — Defensive tackle who was a mainstay in the defensive front that helped Texas begin one of the most glorious eras in school history. At 6-4, he became known as "Large Leo" as he and his teammates in 1968 began a 30-game winning streak which ranks as the second longest in modern NCAA history. Brooks and his teammates followed an opening of one and a loss in 1968 with a metamorphosis that turned the season into a Longhorn juggernaut, culminating with an SWC championship and a No. 3 national ranking. Brooks was named All-Southwest Conference in 1968 and consensus All-SWC in 1969, even though he lost almost half of his season to a knee injury. He was a second round draft choice of the Houston Oilers in the NFL draft of 1970 and he played three years with the Oilers and four with the St. Louis Cardinals, and was chosen to play in the Pro Bowl in 1977 following his final season of 1976. He returned to Austin where he managed business and ranching interests before his death due to cancer in 2002.

SCOTT HENDERSON (Football) — Perfectly fitting the term "student-athlete," Scott Henderson earned all-American honors both on the playing field and in the classroom. A three-time Academic All-American first team selection 1968-70, he capped his senior season of 1970 by earning All-American honors as a player as well. Henderson, a 1970 All-SWC selection, was a three-year starter at inside linebacker during the 1968-70 Wishbone glory years, when the team won two national championships and set a school record 30-game winning streak. The Longhorns were 30-2-1 during this time. Henderson was a co-captain on the 1970 team, and the summer before his senior year was chosen as a member of a special NCAA sponsored group of college football players who visited the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam. His most memorable plays involved game-turning goal-line stands against Oklahoma and Arkansas in 1970. He helped stop Arkansas' Billy Bennett in mid-air and quarterback Bill Montgomery on a keeper at the goal line in Shreveport, La. The Longhorns' victory over the Razorbacks which clinched the National Championship in 1970. At the time of the tackles, UT held only a 14-7 lead, and the stops propelled Texas toward a 42-7 blowout. Following his college career, Henderson attended law school and is now an attorney in Dallas.

SHAUN JORDAN (Swimming) — Jordan was a member of four consecutive NCAA Championship teams at The University of Texas. He won two Olympic Gold Medals (1988 & 1992) as a member of the United States 4x100 freestyle relay teams. Jordan finished his career at The University of Texas as the Captain of the 1991 four-peat NCAA Champions. He was named All-American 25 times, was an individual NCAA Champion three times, and participated on 11 NCAA Champion relay teams. Jordan holds the SWC record in the 50 & 100-yard freestyle, and remains the school record holder in the 100-yard freestyle. He earned a BA in Economics and an MBA from The University of Texas. Jordan lives in Austin and is the marketing director for Abraham Trading Company and the Executive Director for The Jordan Aquatics Foundation.

CHUCK KNUTSON (Baseball) — One of the best right-handed power hitters ever to play at old Clark Field, he earned first team All-American honors when he clubbed 10 home runs and batted .378 in only a 28-game season as a sophomore. Arguably the best player of the early '60s, he helped lead the Longhorns to three straight NCAA College World Series appearances in 1961-63. He was a two-time All-American selection and was named to the all-South-

west Conference team as an outfielder all three years. Knutson finished his career third in career batting average and third in all-time slugging percentage, behind only Hall of Honor honorees Tom Hamilton and Wayne McDonald. His single season slugging percentage of .811 remains second best in UT history, and best ever for a right-handed batter. He resides in Houston where he is Vice-President with Trans Global Solutions, Inc.

BRUCE PARKER (Track) — Three-year track letterman that excelled in the javelin and discus during the late 1950s. Parker, a two-sport (football and track) star at San Antonio Jefferson High School, had never thrown the javelin until he came to UT. But by his sophomore season of 1957, he was not only winning the Southwest Conference, he was finishing fifth in the NCAs. He would repeat as SWC champ the next two seasons, making him a three-time league champ, and he would finish fourth in the NCAA meet in both 1958 and 1959. He earned honors as a track all-American all three seasons. Following his graduation from Texas, he entered the UT Medical Branch at Galveston. After receiving his M.D. degree, he became a General Practitioner, and retired after 33 years to Hockleshoe Bay.

OLEN UNDERWOOD (Football) — Versatile, strong, and quick describes this standout player from 1962-1964. Playing both ways as a guard, linebacker, center and defensive end, he earned all-Southwest Conference honors in 1964. Teams he played for compiled a record of 30-2-1, including two SWC championships and one National Championship. He obtained his law degree while playing in the NFL with the New York Giants, Houston Oilers, and Denver Broncos, and was named to play in the Pro Bowl in 1968. Following seven seasons in the NFL, Underwood practiced law until elected State District Judge in 1981. In 1996, he was appointed by Gov. George W. Bush to serve as Presiding Judge in the Second Region. Continuing his aggressive leadership, he has garnered a national reputation as a speaker on Judicial Ethics, Juvenile Rehabilitation, Child Support Enforcement, Substance Abuse, and Protection of Abused Children. He has authored Juvenile Programs presently being utilized by several states including Texas, Alabama, Georgia, New York, and Florida. Labeled as a powerful voice in a child's life, Underwood was named Texas Judge of the Year by Texas CASA in 2001.

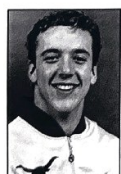
JOHN A. "WOODY" WOODMAN (Baseball) — Woody Woodman was a two-time all-Southwest Conference selection who helped lead Texas baseball from its darkest hour in history to a College World Series berth and two straight Southwest Conference Championships. Following a 5-15 record and a last place finish in the SWC in 1956 in his sophomore season, Texas bounced back to a 20-7 mark and a trip to the CWS in 1957, and ended the 1958 season 21-8, losing a hard-fought two out of three Regional series to Arizona at Tucson. Woodman led the Longhorns in batting two of his three seasons. He hit .310 in 1956 and was all-Southwest Conference as a utility infielder in 1957. He earned all-league honors at his regular position of second base as a senior in 1958, when he posted a season batting average of .413, which ranks third on the all-time Texas single season list. His career average of .351 would be good for a tie for 11th all-time. Following a long career in business and as a fund raiser for a Midland hospital, Woodman joined the UT Athletics Department in 1995 as head of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, spearheading a drive to raise funds to finance \$90 million in construction and renovation. When he died in June 2003, Woody was serving as Associate Director of the Longhorn Legacy.



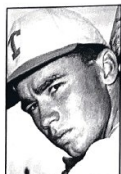
Brooks



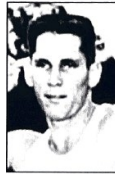
Henderson



Jordan



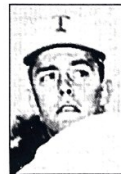
Knutson



Parker



Underwood



Woodman

The 2003 Longhorn Hall of Honor program joined the honoree's formal portrait to his Texas playing image. Scrapbook 5:65.

Surprise

Chuck attended a Hall council meeting before the New Mexico State football game and heard Billy "Rooster" Andrews put his name before the Early Vintage committee. He sat in the room while the lettermen voted him into the Hall. In his prepared speech, he wrote that he had never felt so much pride. (Scrapbook 6:38)

Family humor

His mother Ruth was 92 and uncertain about traveling from Houston. She came anyway. Jim was introduced through the old fastball-in-the-ribs story. Penny was praised for the spunk required to keep him straight. Buddy New, his Texas roommate and best man, supplied the best baseball joke: Chuck could hit a curveball; he simply did not like to swing at one. (Scrapbook 6:38-40)

The joke works because the scrapbook has already shown the real issue. The young hitter did struggle with changes of speed. Then he learned to wait, use his hands, and anticipate what pitchers would repeat. The weakness became part of the friendship because the career had long since proved the adjustment.

The recruiting chain remembered by name

Chuck used the speech to name Gustafson, McDonald, Massey, and Falk. He remembered the possibility of A&M, the summer at Pearl, the scouting look that did not seem to impress Falk, and the drive to Austin. "You don't get anywhere without supporters," he concluded. (Scrapbook 6:41-42)

The honor transferred to the team



– arranged for me to meet Coach Falk in Austin and Carlton drove me up here.

Coach managed to give me a little help,--- the pro scouts must have hurt him bad that year,--- any way – as they say - the rest is history.

- You don’t get any where without supporters.
Thank you Cliff and Wayne
- and God Bless Carlton and Coach Falk

You Honor me tonight – but there is a whole army out here tonight – teammates, high-school, college , and other dear friends— that I give credit for all their loyalty and support.

Those College honors happened because I was part of- good teams- that went to Omaha three years in a row –

and any great distinction brought to The University of Texas since playing - has been because of my association with these people out here tonight. – -- could my Teammates and friends = stand up and take a bow.

Once again I thank you – my family thanks you -

The final page of Chuck’s acceptance speech credits the teammates and supporters behind three straight Omaha teams. Scrapbook 6:42.

His final interpretation of the college record was collective. The honors happened, he said, because he belonged to good teams that reached Omaha three years in a row. He asked teammates and friends in the room to stand and take a bow. (Scrapbook 6:42)

That gesture is the most revealing evaluation in the entire archive. The Hall honored an individual. The individual described a network.

Twenty defining moments

No.	Moment	What it reveals	Source
1	Older brother Jim’s fastballs found Chuck’s ribs.	Early toughness, family humor, and exposure to pitching.	6:39

No.	Moment	What it reveals	Source
2	A 40-yard punt return against San Marcos.	Open-field speed before baseball fame.	1:63
3	Two touchdowns and a conversion in a 16-14 win over Burnet.	Direct scoring impact under pressure.	1:51
4	He lowered his shoulder for eight yards in a 32-0 loss.	Physical competitiveness independent of the score.	1:62
5	Teammates elected him 1958 football MVP after an injury-marked year.	Peer respect and leadership.	2:4-5
6	Gustafson and McDonald persuaded Falk to look at him.	Talent needed advocates.	6:41-42
7	Major-league scouts selected him for Yankee Stadium.	National-level evaluation at 18.	2:16, 29
8	He declined a reported \$20,000 Milwaukee bonus.	Education and long-term judgment.	2:69
9	He watched Falk call batting-practice shots to every field.	Respect for craft and willingness to learn.	2:69
10	Falk corrected the over-stride and taught him to wait.	The mechanical turning point.	2:69
11	Three homers and a double in the two-game SMU set.	The adjustment released game power.	2:69-70
12	The Baylor title homer became his biggest Texas thrill.	Timely power without an oversized swing.	1:3; 3:36
13	Twenty-six walks in 25 games.	Opponents managed his threat.	3:36
14	After striking out on a fastball, he hit the repeated pitch for a homer.	Memory, anticipation, and in-game learning.	3:34
15	A 363-foot drive buried itself in the turf while he ran home.	Power and speed in one play.	3:35
16	His single produced the only run in a 1-0 district playoff win.	Postseason value without a home run.	3:47
17	A two-run Huron homer sparked a 5-2 summer victory.	Power carried into wood-bat summer competition.	4:21
18	He changed his wrist action and broke a 1963 homer drought.	Senior self-correction and resilience.	4:31
19	He doubled, stole third, and scored on an errant throw for Quincy.	Speed creating pressure in professional baseball.	5:33
20	He asked his teammates to stand during his Hall speech.	His final definition of achievement was collective.	6:42

Record discrepancies: preserving the season in motion

.382 versus .378 in 1961

.382 is the selection-time All-America figure, 29-for-76. .378 is the completed Texas season, 34-for-90. The distinction is timing, not contradiction. (Scrapbook 1:6, 42-44)

.321 versus .303 in 1962

.321 appears in the pre-Omaha player sketch. The final career table, including the College World Series, gives 30-for-99, or .303. The accompanying RBI total likewise moves from 30 to 32. (Scrapbook 3:65; 4:53)

.344 versus .347 in conference play

The narrative player sketch prints .344. The adjacent table gives 17 hits in 49 at-bats, which calculates to .347. The table is mathematically reproducible; both printed figures are retained in the historical note. (Scrapbook 3:60, 65)

The career average

Texas's career table prints .328. Its displayed totals, 90-for-275, calculate to .327. Later Hall material avoids the exact figure and emphasizes his historical ranking. (Scrapbook 4:53; 5:73)

Huron was not affiliated professional baseball

The Huron Jims belonged to the Basin League, a summer collegiate/semi-pro circuit. Chuck remained eligible for Texas in 1963. His affiliated Mets-system record began with Quincy later that year. (Scrapbook 4:17, 21; 5:75)

The Dubuque grand slam belonged to Eddie LaDuke

The photograph and report on Scrapbook 5:22 identify teammate Eddie LaDuke as the grand-slam hitter in Quincy's 13-3 win. The page is valuable team context but should not be credited as a Knutson home run. Chuck's verified Quincy power anecdotes come from other clippings. (Scrapbook 5:22, 24, 33)

Conclusion: the form of his greatness

Chuck Knutson's prowess was easiest to see when a ball left the park. The .811 slugging season remains the summit because it joined average, power, run production, and fear in opposing pitchers. But the scrapbook's deeper record suggests that the home runs were outcomes, not the whole talent.

The more durable trait was adaptation. He moved from quarterback and halfback to third base, from infield to outfield, from overpowering high-school pitching to studying college changes of speed, and from college acclaim to the daily accountability of Class A baseball. When his timing failed, he learned to wait. When his wrist action flattened the ball, he changed it. When one home run was all the senior season offered, he made it matter in a 9-5 conference victory that helped send Texas back to Omaha.

The second trait was range. He could hit for power, run, throw, and defend. Reports from different years kept reaching for the same cluster of words: powerful, strong arm, speed, athlete. That consistency is more persuasive than any single retrospective judgment.

The final trait was gratitude. His Hall of Honor speech did not deny the individual record. It located the record inside family, coaching, friendship, education, and teams. The boy who learned from his brother's fastball, the recruit carried to Austin by Carlton Massey, the hitter who watched Falk's bat, and the veteran who went to Omaha with three different Texas teams all belonged to the same story.

The home runs made Chuck Knutson visible. The adjustments made him an All-American. The people, in his own telling, made the career possible.

Source note

"Scrapbook *part:page*" citations refer to the PDF page number within the six files titled **Chuck Knutson Athletic Scrapbook Complete_Part1.pdf** through **Part6.pdf**. The scrapbook is the primary source for contemporary game accounts, personal recollections, certificates, photographs, and Texas releases. OCR was used only as a finding aid; quoted language and important numerical claims were checked against page images.

External verification:

- University of Texas Athletics, Chuck Knutson Hall of Honor biography:
<https://texaslonghorns.com/honors/hall-of-honor/chuck-knutson/678>
- University of Texas Athletics, Texas Baseball All-Americans: https://texaslonghorns.com/news/2005/4/12/041205aab_342
- University of Texas Athletics, Texas Baseball All-Conference Players:
https://texaslonghorns.com/news/2005/4/12/041205aaa_185.aspx
- University of Texas Athletics, 1963 Baseball Schedule: <https://texaslonghorns.com/sports/baseball/schedule/1963>
- American Baseball Coaches Association, 1962 All-America teams:
https://www.abca.org/ABCA/ABCA/Awards/All-Americans/NCAA_Division_I/1962.aspx
- Texas A&M Newspaper Collection, *The Battalion*, May 16 and May 24, 1962: <https://newspaper.library.tamu.edu/>
- University of Texas Athletics, 2026 Baseball Media Guide:
https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/sidearm.nextgen.sites/texasports_com/documents/2026/2/12/2026_Baseball_Media_Guide.pdf
- StatsCrew/Chadwick Baseball Bureau, Charles Arthur Knutson minor-league record:
<https://www.statscrew.com/minorbaseball/stats/p-1eb156e4>