

SPORTS

A&M bounces SHSU with 11th inning rally

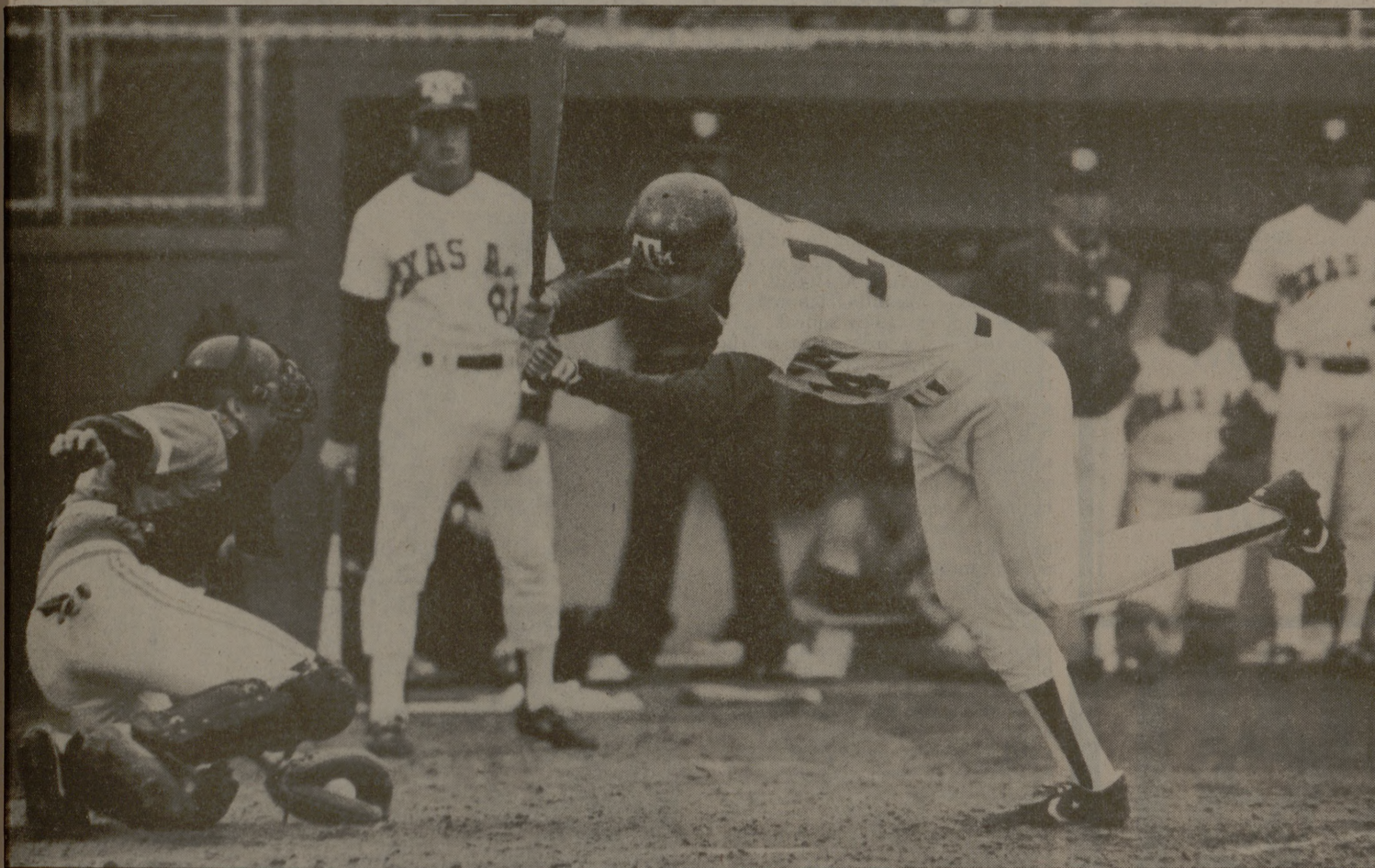


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M's Steve Johnigan (14) jumps out of the way of an inside pitch while Sam Houston State catcher Greg Williams

(left) dives to block the ball. The Aggies edged the Bearkats 6-5 Tuesday to remain undefeated at Olsen Field this season.

By BRANDON BERRY
Sports Writer

When the momentum in a baseball game changes from one team to the other, the pitcher is frequently the variable changed to keep a winning equation. In Texas A&M's 6-5, 11-inning victory over the Sam Houston State Bearkats Tuesday at Olsen Field, pitching changes equated to runs for the other team.

Four pitchers toed the rubber for the Aggies, while the Bearkats used three.

Left-hander Mark Henry started the game for Sam Houston, but was replaced in the sixth inning by Ricky Noska, who in turn was replaced in the seventh inning by Michael Mach.

The Aggies scored runs with each change.

The Aggies, on the other hand, started right-hander Phillip Taylor, who was replaced after five innings by freshman Kyle Atkinson, who was replaced an inning later by Barry Smith.

The Bearkats also scored their runs with each pitching change.

Finally, to the chorus of the "Hawaii Five-O" theme, Beje Mahoe pitched the last three innings, striking out five Bearkat batters and allowing only two hits.

Mahoe was rewarded with his first win of the year when designated hitter Bill Doug Potter scored on a Steve Johnigan single in the bottom of the 11th.

But the victory didn't come without detours along the way.

The Aggies started the scoring when first baseman Fred Gegan brought third baseman Scott Livingstone home on a fly ball. The run was set up by two walks by Henry following Livingstone's single.

The lead was short-lived as SHSU struck back in the top of the fourth on a Jimmy Williams home run that cleared the right field fence and sent A&M's Diamond Darlings out to the railroad tracks to collect the renege ball.

The score remained tied until the Aggies replaced Taylor with Atkinson. A&M Shortstop Rob Swain committed an error on a double-play groundball and allowed runners at first and third base with one out. Bearkat outfielder Mike Cobb followed with a three-run home run.

The rest of the game was an exercise in playing catch-up for the Aggies.

Buddy Haney doubled home a run in the top of the sixth inning (after a SHSU pitching change, of course) and was later brought home by another Gegan fly out.

The Bearkats had a chance to bust the game open in the seventh, but the Ags pulled a rare triple play to end the inning. SHSU's batter hit a sharp grounder to the third baseman, who whipped a throw to the second baseman Robbi Chandler, who relayed a throw to Gegan at first base, who in turn threw across the diamond to catcher Steve Johnigan, who ran down Bearkat outfielder Bryan McDonald between home base and third.

With the win, A&M raised its record to 18-4 for the season, while the SHSU dropped to 13-9.

The next homestand for the Ags is Tuesday, March 26, against the Minnesota Golden Gophers. A&M open the Southwest Conference campaign this Saturday against the University of Houston.

Houston Baptist's Iba lands Baylor head coaching position

Associated Press

WACO — Gene Iba, who took Houston Baptist to the NCAA playoffs a year ago and posted three consecutive 20-victory seasons, will be the successor to Jim Haller as Baylor head basketball coach. The Associated Press learned Tuesday.

Iba, a member of a prestigious basketball family, will be formally named as Baylor coach at 3 p.m. Wednesday in a press conference

held by the Southwest Conference school. The announcement will be made by Athletic Director Bill Meneff.

A Baylor source told the AP that Iba won out in a close battle with the University of Texas-San Antonio's Don Eddy.

Iba's disciplined teams are well drilled on fundamentals much like those of his uncle, Hank Iba, who turned Oklahoma State into a bas-

ketball power.

Houston Baptist Athletic Director Dr. Ed Billings called a press conference for 11 a.m. Thursday. He had no comment on the AP report only to say "It's not surprising."

Houston Baptist has already sent one coach into the Southwest Conference, Gerald Myers of Texas Tech. Myers was the first coach of the Huskies with Iba being his successor.

Haller resigned after nine seasons at Baylor effective with the end of the season after a player hid a recorder in his windbreaker and taped a conversation.

In the tape, Haller gave the player permission to use a \$172 meals expense check for a car payment. Haller admitted he violated NCAA rules and resigned.

The AP source said one of the biggest chores ahead of Iba was to keep

the discontented team at Baylor on the campus. The Bears had as many five freshmen starters late in the year.

"He'll have to recruit the dormitory before he hits the recruiting trail on national signing day," the source said.

Iba has coached at HBU the past eight seasons and got the Huskies

into the NCAA Playoffs last year for the first time.

The Huskies were 21-8 this year, their third straight 20-victory season under Iba.

"Iba is a good recruiter," said another Baylor source. "He has a way of making kids into overachievers. He will inherit some good players here and one of his biggest jobs will be keeping them on campus after what happened to Haller."

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