

SPORTS

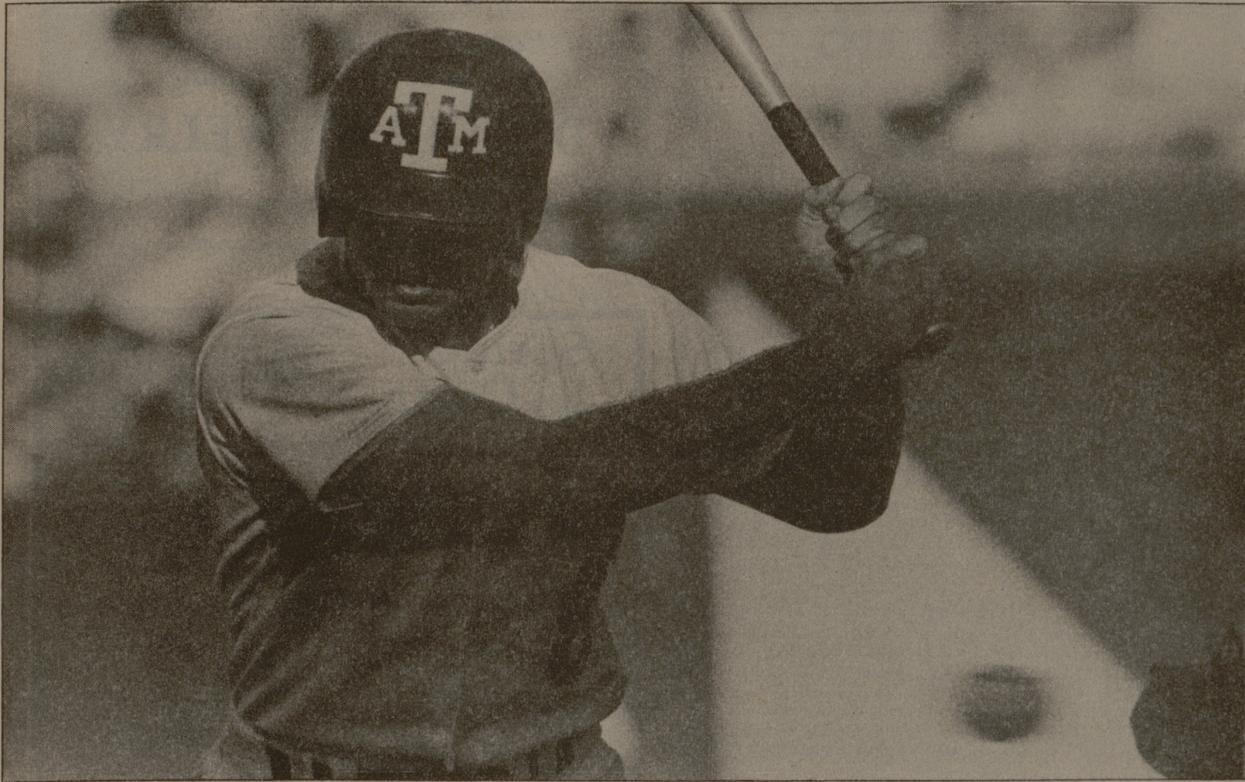


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M's Mike Scanlin (8) watches a fastball slip through the strike zone during Sunday's double-header with

Arkansas. The Ags also watched the Hogs slip out of Olsen Field with a 2-1 series win and their record fall to 22-10.

Ags beat Ags for softball tourney win

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

It was inevitable, the Aggies were going to win the championship in the Aggie Invitational. The only question was, which Aggie softball team would win it?

The No. 3 Texas A&M Aggies against the Utah State Aggies.

Utah State pitcher Kristie Skoglund and A&M pitcher Shawn Andaya made the game a pitching dual — and a pitching dual it was. Andaya gave up two hits while striking

out eight. Skoglund gave up five and struck out three.

A&M like always, depended on one big hitter to pull it from the clutches of defeat. This time it was third baseman Cindy Cooper.

Cooper, who had been in a slump, responded in this game with a first inning homerun over the center field fence, the first earned run given up by Utah State in the tourney.

The final, thanks to Cooper, was 1-0 A&M. Andaya moved to 12-4 on the year.

"I really didn't think that one was going over," Cooper said. "(A&M) Coach (Bob Brock) gave me a bat. It was about 26-inches long. He made a joke about it since I've been in a slump.

"I changed one little thing with my hands. Now, even when I get out, I feel OK."

It seemed like the Ags from A&M depended on their pitchers and one hitter to bring them to the forefront in this tournament.

A&M started the tourney off with

a bang Friday with a 12-0 shellacking of Northeast Louisiana.

Freshman shortstop Liz Mizera was up to more of her heroics. Mizera went three-for-three with a homerun in the fourth and four RBI's.

Said Mizera after her homerun, "That wasn't even a hit. It's great playing with fences."

An interesting sidebar to this game was that Andaya pitched

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Ags end series with No. 5 Hogs on sow-er note

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Just like last week, the Texas A&M baseball team got off to a good start in a three-game Southwest Conference series. And just like last week, the series didn't end on the best of notes.

The Aggies whipped No. 5 Arkansas Friday night 6-2 on a wet field in front of the San Diego Chicken.

A&M had 13 hits including three homeruns. Robi Chandler had the biggest bat of the night. He was three-for-four with two homeruns (his fourth and fifth of the year) and three RBI's.

Saturday's scheduled double-header was rained out and the Aggies probably wish it hadn't been changed to Sunday.

The Aggies (22-10 and 2-4 in SWC) were tarred and feathered by the Razorbacks in Sunday's double-header, 6-4 and 15-4, to lose their second straight SWC series.

"We're disappointed," said A&M Coach Mark Johnson. "We were hoping to win this series, but we've been hit by injuries on our pitching staff. I thought we played well defensively. It was nice to see us come out of our defensive slump. There were some good double plays out there.

"We just need to get good pitching to keep us in ball games." A&M pitchers have been hurt lately and that has, in turn, hurt the Ags. Russ Swan is out with a shoulder injury, Tom Arrington is out with a bad back and Kelly Keahey has been struggling and didn't pitch in any of the three games.

"Kelly's lost his rhythm," Johnson said. "He's working hard to find himself.

"We just ran out of pitchers this weekend. We started two freshmen and that's tough."

In the second game on Sunday, A&M started freshman Russ Greene who had a 7.87 ERA. Greene didn't come through on this day, giving up 8 runs on 5 hits before leaving with one out in the first inning. Johnson said he still has confidence in his still "Greene" player.

"We thought he would compete well," Johnson said. "It's tough when you haven't pitched in many ball games and then to have to come in and throw in a big Southwest Conference game.

"That's the first time he's gotten into a starting role. That's asking a lot of a freshman. He did not have a good day. He is a better pitcher than what he showed today. I have not lost any confidence in him."

The Aggies' runs of the second game came in the third inning when Rob Swain doubled to right center with the bases loaded scoring three runs, and in the ninth when Scanlin doubled scoring Haney who had also doubled.

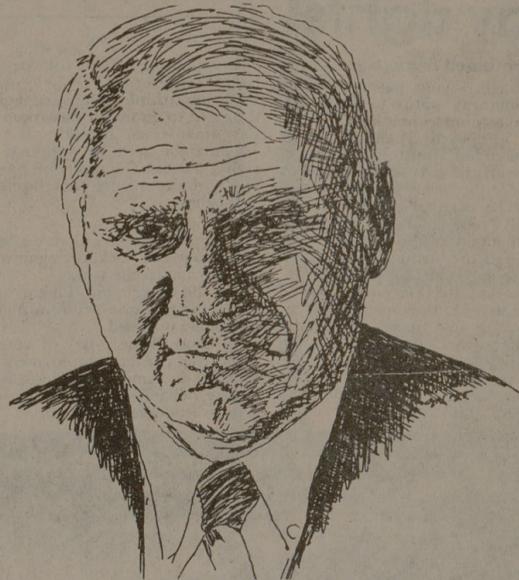
In the first game, the Ags had several innings when hitters could have pushed some runners across the plate, but the hits just didn't come.

"It was frustrating in the first game when we could have scored some runs with one or two hits," Johnson said. "But, we just didn't get the one or two.

"There's a lot of season left. We just can't lose a series now so we will stay in contention."



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