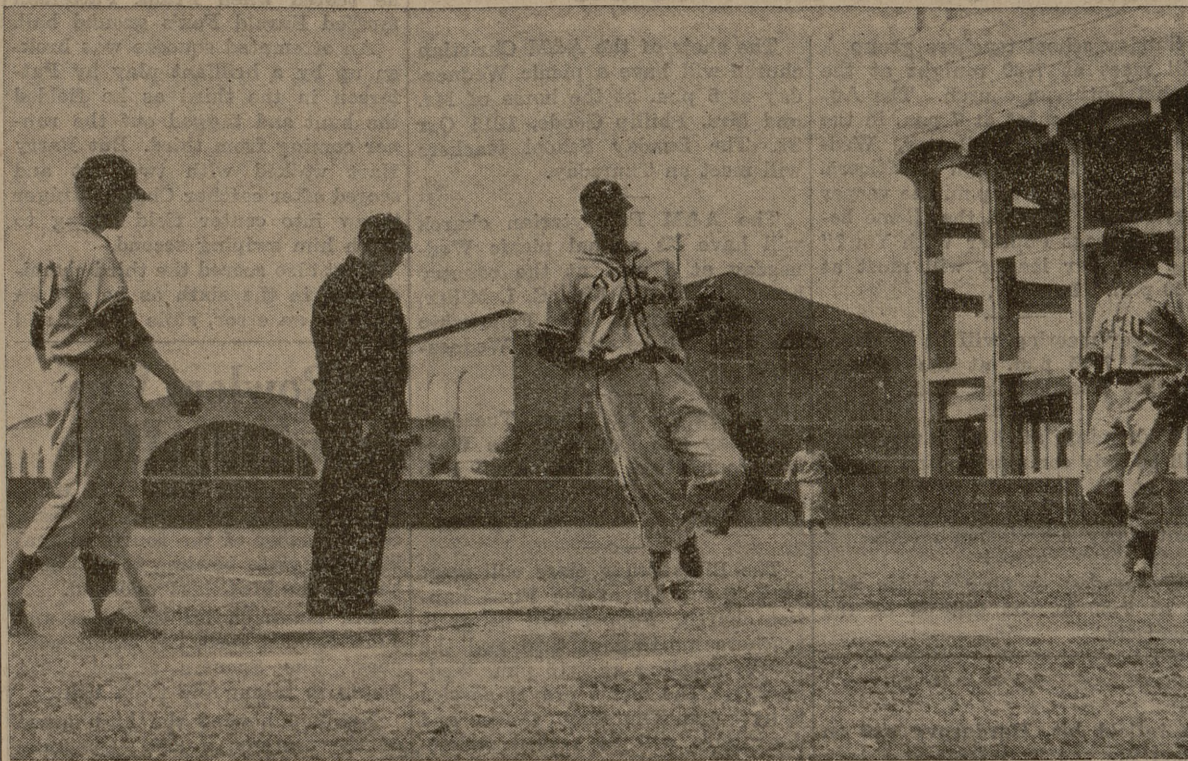


Nelson's Return to Form Puts Aggies Back in Race



FIRST SCORE—Pitcher Jerry Nelson crosses the plate after a Tommy Bowers wild pitch for the first Aggie run in Saturday's 3-2 victory. Nelson, who pitched a brilliant 11-inning three-hitter, had walked and gone to third on Fred Ablon's double to right-center. Aggie batter is centerfielder John Stockton. Bowers is rushing to cover the plate, but is too late.

Makeup of Rain-Out Likely To Settle Title

Back in the middle of the Southwest conference baseball chase after a superb performance by Jerry Nelson, the Aggies now thunder into the home stretch with three top-flight pitchers to challenge leading SMU.

After a disappointing start this season Nelson joined Joe Hardgrove and Dick Munday on the strength of a three-hit, 3-2 conquest of the Mustangs Saturday in a game the Cadets had to win.

Hardgrove had out-duelled Ernie Proud, 4-3 Friday, in the series opener, centerfielder John Stockton driving in all the Aggie runs on a homer and a double.

Now it appears that a rematch of an April 12 rained-out game between the two at Dallas will be needed to decide the title. A&M plays TCU at Fort Worth Thursday and Friday, Rice a doubleheader here May 10 and University of Texas in Austin May 17.

SMU has five games left, including three in a five-day period. The Ponies get Texas at home Friday, TCU at home May 10-11, and Rice at Houston May 14, besides the third A&M game.

Nelson, in winning his third conference game in two seasons, gave up only one hit after the first inning, struck out 11 and used only 144 pitches. He retired 12 batters in a row, after giving up two first-inning runs.

He has now struck out 48 in 51½ innings, surrendered 43 hits, 30 earned runs and 36 walks. His earned run average is 5.2.

Hardgrove, winner of six straight, and five SWC games, has a 1.6 ERA, giving up 37 hits and 11 earned runs in 62 innings. He has fanned 49 and walked 25.

Munday, the third member of the Aggie mound triumvirate, has a 1.2 ERA in winning three and losing one.

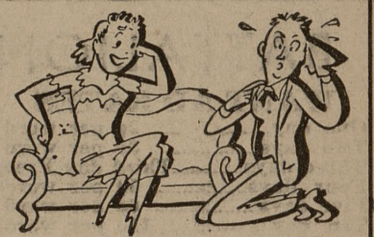
Charlie Puls, playing in the third varsity game of his career, after Dick Bleckner's knee injury, handed Nelson the victory on his first-pitch single to left-center with one out that scored Joe Boring in the bottom of the 11th.

Rip Radcliff started the game with a double, then Nelson walked Dan Brown. Don Carter popped up, but Jim Payne lined a triple to right that took a bad hop past Fred Ablon, scoring two runs.

Nelson walked with one out in the Aggie third, and Ablon got the first hit off Bowers, a ground-rule double. A wild pitch scored Nelson, then Les Byrd dropped a single back of second to plate Ablon.

SMU had started their second on Boring's two-base error, and a walk, but Bowers, trying to sacrifice, popped up to Nelson, who threw to Boring to catch Art McKinstry off second. Boring's throw to John Hoyle caught Bryan Bush and completed the first Aggie triple play of the year.

After one out in the Aggie 11th, Boring grounded a double down the left field line, Hoyle walked,



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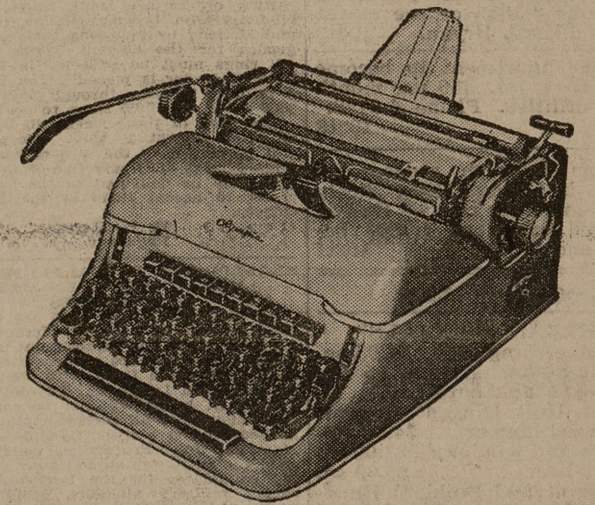
then Puls dropped a single into short left-center to score Boring, who was mobbed by his teammates as he crossed the plate.

Friday, Hardgrove gave up a run in the third on a walk, sacrifice and Brown's double. Stockton's 360-foot homer over the left-

(See BASEBALL, Page 4)

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Hogs Trip Ag Hopes, 4-2

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., May 2.—(AP)—Arkansas beat A&M 4-2 in golf here yesterday, killing the Aggies' hopes of a Southwest conference championship.

The Aggies, second behind SMU, needed a 5-1 victory to win a clear-cut claim to the crown. Arkansas finished with a 9-2 mark and was unbeaten on its home course at Fayetteville country club.

The clincher in yesterday's match was Grey Linzel's victory

over A&M's Dave Vandervoort. Linzel was three down with five holes to go when he rallied.

He won five straight holes to bar the door to a 4-2 Aggie victory. On the 17th, Linzel dropped a 25-foot putt to go into a 1-up lead over Vandervoort.

Best round of the day was by Arkansas' Phil Rogers, who defeated Bobby Briggs. The two quit after 13 holes with Rogers leading 6 and 5. Rogers was even with par up to that point.

Results:
Rogers, Arkansas, defeated Briggs, A&M, 6 and 5;
Jerry Durbin, A&M, defeated Tinker Gordon, Arkansas, 4 and 3;
Rogers-Gordon, Arkansas, defeated Briggs-Durbin, A&M, 5 and 3;
Linzel, Arkansas, defeated Vandervoort, A&M, 2-up;
Marcelino Moreno, A&M, defeated Dick Newcomb, Arkansas, 3 and 2;
Linzel-Newcomb, Arkansas, defeated Vandervoort-Moreno, A&M, 2 and 1.

On their home course Saturday, the Cadets had jolted SMU, the NCAA champions, 4-2, in the Mustangs' final match. SMU finished with a 29-7 point record, while A&M had 24½-5½ after the win.

A 4½-1½ Aggie win yesterday would have tied SMU for the title. Briggs and Durbin both fired sub-par rounds Saturday, Briggs a 4-under par 66 and Durbin a 2-under 68.

Briggs beat SMU's no. 1 player, Floyd Addington, 3 and 2. Addington shot a par 70. Durbin also scored a 3 and 2 win, over Kenneth Scott. Like Briggs, Durbin was 2-up at the end of nine holes.

Briggs and Durbin also won the four-ball match, 4 and 3, with a 62. Vandervoort and Moreno split with SMU's Stewart Carrell, and Tommy Towry for one of the Mustang points, and Carrell and Towry won the four-ball match, 2-up.

Ag Trackmen Meet Abilene, NTS At Denton

A&M's tracksters take on some of the state's top cinder men in a triangular meet with Abilene Christian and North Texas State at Denton Thursday night.

"I'd be afraid to make any predictions on the outcome of the meet," said Coach Frank Anderson, "It looks like a toss-up to me. Both North Texas and ACC have fine running teams."

Bobby Morrow, ACC's crack sprinter, has turned in a 9.3 100-yard dash this year and anchors a dash relay team that broke a Drake Relay's record with a sizzling 41.3 last weekend.

North Texas sports a fine mile relay team in Jimmie Weaver, Jimmie Huffman, Mike Hagler and Paul Patterson, and skipped to a win at the Drake Relays in 3:15.8. "We'll rely on our field team and hurdlers to pull us through," said Anderson.

Shot putters Tom Bonorden and Herman Johnson both heaved the shot over 54 feet in practice yesterday.

Anderson will take about 27 members of his squad to the meet, with at least two entries in each event.

A&M finished third behind powerful Southern California and Texas in a four-way meet at Dallas Saturday night. James Hollingsworth turned in the lone first place for the Aggies with a 14.6 in the high hurdles.

'Mural Highlights

A chemical stayed undefeated and avenged an early-season tie with squadron 10, edging the air force team 3-1 on the lighted softball diamond Monday night.

John Channing threw his sixth win of the season, giving up but two hits and facing only 13 men in the first four innings.

Squadron 10 got their run in the fifth when Wiley Garrett lead off with a single, went to second as Randy Newcomer walked and scored as Bebe Schultz threw wild to home on a ground ball.

Channing scored his team's first run in the second, poking a base-hit into center with one out. Two

(See MURALS, Page 4)

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