

Aggie, SMU Nines To Decide Championship Monday

By RONNIE GREATHOUSE
Battalion Sports Editor

A&M and SMU stand conspicuously alone in the spotlight of the Southwest conference baseball race today after the Mustangs bumped TCU twice at Dallas yesterday to pull into a tie with the Aggies for first place.

The Aggies and Ponies both stand 11-2 in conference action. A&M is idle until Monday's crucial clash with the Methodists at Dallas, while SMU takes on Rice in a single game Saturday at Houston. The Cadets end their season against Texas at Austin Tuesday.

Coach Beau Bell gave his charges a well-earned rest from workout yesterday, but plans to

put in some long hours before leaving for Dallas Sunday.

"We proved we could beat them when they came down here," said Bell, "and I'm confident we can do it again at Dallas. We've got to."

The Cadets' title hopes took a jolt when ace lefthander Joe Hardgrove pulled a muscle in the shoulder of his pitching arm against Rice Tuesday. Hardgrove, the league's leading hurler with a perfect 6-0 mark, may not be available for Monday's showdown with SMU.

"I hurt my arm once before like this," said Hardgrove, "but it soon was as strong as ever, and I didn't hurt it as bad this time. I think I might be able to go if I keep some heat on my arm, and take care of it."

Unless lowly Rice, currently wallowing in the cellar with TCU, upsets SMU in Saturday's contest the conference championship will be decided Monday at Dallas.

A&M can clinch the championship by downing the Mustangs. Tuesday's game with Texas will have no bearing on the outcome of the title chase.

Third baseman Joe Schero picked up eight points in the Rice series to wrestle the Aggie batting lead from Fred Ablon. Schero garnered three hits in seven trips to the plate against Owl pitching to pull his conference average up to a hefty .375.

Ablon tagged only one hit in eight tries against Rice, but is only two points behind Schero at .373. Ablon is batting .325 over the full season.

Dependable Charlie Puls padded his average Tuesday, and is

hitting .333 in both season and conference play. He batted in what proved to be a very important run in the second game with Rice.

Captain Les Byrd fattened his average more than anyone on the Aggie squad this week by gaining 22 points. He is swinging .315 in conference games, .333

over the season and leads the Aggie club in homeruns with five.

Dick Munday turned in a fine relief job for Hardgrove Tuesday

to take credit for his fourth win of the year against one loss. The sophomore righthander has a 1-1 won-lost record in loop contests. Big Jerry Nelson set Rice

down with three hits to record his fourth victory of the conference campaign, and is the strike-out leader of A&M's mound staff with 55.



Joe Schero
Aggie Third Baseman

In Extra Innings

Squadron 2 Wins Softball Crown

Squadron 2 nicked C antiaircraft artillery 2-1 in extra innings last night to win the upperclassmen intramural softball title.

Third baseman Tommy Durdin scored from second on Jim Willborn's single in the eighth, the first extra inning. J. B. McLeroy pitched the win, twirling a three-hitter.

Fish End Play Tuesday; Lose to Owlets

Their four-game winning streak broken by a 3-2, 10-inning loss to Rice's Owlets, the Aggie Fish close out their baseball season with Wharton junior college Saturday and the Texas frosh Tuesday.

The Wharton game is on the road and the Shorthorn game here. In Houston Tuesday, righthander Ira Oertling with a 2-1 lead, had a six-hit, nine strike out win apparently wrapped up with two out in the Owlet 10th and two strikes on rightfielder Claude White.

Then White singled on a 2-2 pitch. Oertling got ahead 0-2 on left fielder Tim Staples, but he singled too. Another one-base blow by Sid Schmidt scored the tying run, then third baseman Gordon Maxwell committed his third error of the game and Staples scored from second with the winning run.

Oertling didn't give up a hit until the fifth inning, when pitcher Jerry Abernathy tripled with two out. He had retired 11 in a row after Maxwell's error had put on Bob Malinak to start the second. Oertling faced only 21 men in the first six innings.

The Fish went ahead 1-0 in the second when catcher Ken Keener singled and came around on Oertling's single, Don Smith's fielder's choice and a passed ball.

After that, Abernathy, with three double plays backing him, cut down the Fish with two hits until the 10th. He faced only 22 batters from the third through the ninth.

In the Fish 10th, Smith singled with one out, his third of the game, went to second on an error, took third on Dennis Ham's groundout and scored on Maxwell's single.

Rightfielder Ed Dudley, the leading Fish hitter, got two singles in four trips to put his average at .457.

It was the second straight year Squadron 2 had reached the finals.

The air force team scored once in the first off C AAA's Bruce Terry, but the army team tied it 1-1 in the seventh, the last inning of regular play.

Terry's wild pitch brought in Squadron 2's first run. After Joe King struck out, Gene Miller singled, Durdin sacrificed him to second, a walk to Jack Stich advanced him to third, and he scored on the wild pitch.

Left fielder John Sullivan blasted a triple to lead off the AAA seventh. McLeroy struck out Gene Nash, but Sullivan scored on Charlie Sanders' fielder's choice.

In the eighth, Durdin walked, Stich sacrificed him to second, and when Willborn placed out a single, Durdin raced all the way home. McLeroy retired the side in order in the last of the eighth.

McLeroy pitched out of tight spots in the second and third innings. A hit batsman and Jerry Betsill's single put runners at first and second with one out in the second, but McLeroy got Sullivan and Nash.

A double by Sanders and Willborn's error placed men at second and third to start the next inning, but Ben Alcalá struck out, Ed Gilmore popped up and Terry grounded out.

Boston Dumps Chisox, 4-3

BOSTON—(AP)—Billy Klaus' first major league home run, a two-run blast in the seventh inning, and some clutch relief work by Ellis Kinder in the ninth enabled Boston to snap a five game losing streak with a 4-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox yesterday.

Kinder came in for winning pitcher Frank Sullivan after a walk to pinch-hitter Willard Marshall and a single by Chico Carrasquel.

Boston held a 4-2 lead at that point with two runners on and no one out. Ed McGhee, who ran for Marshall, scored on successive fly balls by Nellie Fox and Minnie Minoso but the game ended on George Kell's pop up to second.



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Cake	Two 7-inch layers of fruit salad batter	53c
Sherbet	Weingarten's own fruit	quart 33c
Kleenex		Box of 200 9c

Just a Few of Many Low Prices

Two Rules

Two top prospects Aggie freshmen were declared ineligible in athletic Athletic Council. The announcement was made by Howard Grubbs, secretary of the Southwest Conference, in which A&M has four cases of tactics.

Robert Earl Terback for York and Tom Sestak mittedly received from Aggie ex-indicated that A&M next fall. "Neither we

WANT

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