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# Aggie Baseballers Edge Houston, 5-4

By JOHN PLATZER  
 An error allowed Bob Long to race home with the winning run

in the bottom of the tenth yesterday as the Aggies took a 5-4 conference win over the University of Houston.

Coach Tom Chandler's team is now 12-4 for the season and 4-3 in Southwest Conference action.

Long drew a walk off Cougar relief pitcher James Ripple to lead off the Aggie tenth and then came around to score when Houston third baseman Jay Lee threw a bunt by Larry Youngblood into the rightfield corner.

Sonny Benefield, who pitched the last two innings for A&M in relief, got credit for the win while Ripple, who went the final four innings for Houston, was charged with the defeat.

The Aggies went into the ninth with a 4-1 lead but a three run eruption by the Cougars knotted the score. Walter Varvel took over on the mound for the Aggies in the inning replacing Charles Kelley and was greeted with three singles.

Rod Johnson led off the rally with a hit while Jim Sparkman and Art Toombs followed with singles for one run. After Richard Schwartz had grounded out, Larry Martin singled in the second run of the inning.

Benefield replaced Varvel at this point and after walking Lee, the Sweeney righthander got Don Hill to fly out to Bob Arnold with the final Houston run scoring after the catch. Benefield struck out to end the threat.

The Aggies had opened up

their lead with a four run outburst in the third. With one out, Jim Raley singled and scored on a double by Long, Boyd Hadaway singled in Long and advanced to third on a single by Dave Elmendorf. The final two A&M runs in the inning scored on a line single by Pete Maida.

Dave Benesh started for the Aggies and pitched five innings allowing only three hits and one run before yielding to Kelley who went three innings without giving up a hit or run.

Long paced the A&M offense for the day with three hits while Bob Arnold collected two. Raley, Maida, Hadaway and Elmendorf each contributed one hit to the Aggie's nine hit attack.

The Aggies travel to Waco Friday for a doubleheader with the Baylor Bears to open a key Southwest Conference series. A single game will be played between A&M and Baylor Saturday in Waco.

A&M returns to Kyle Field Tuesday for a non-conference game with Sam Houston.



**WINNING RUN**

Bob Long crosses home plate with the winning run yesterday as the Aggies nipped the University of Houston 5-4 in ten innings. The win gave A&M a 12-4 season record on the year as they invade Waco Friday for a Southwest Conference doubleheader against the Baylor Bears. (Photo by Mike Wright)

## ABA Pledges \$\$ Fight For Top Players


CHARLOTTE, N. C. (AP)—The American Basketball Association completed its annual player draft Tuesday and said it plans to match dollars with its major league rival for the cream of the college crop.

Club owners said they will concentrate on signing some of the better players known to be at the top of the National Basketball Association draft coming up next week.

"We are going after our choices with the knowledge that we will have to fight to get them," said Bill Sharman, coach of the Los Angeles Stars. "And that means we expect to pay for them."

Having already lost UCLA star Lou Alcindor to Milwaukee of the NBA, the ABA also apparently gave up on efforts to sign its second draft choice, 6-10 Neil Walk of Florida.

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## Two-Hour Session Opens Grid Drills

The Texas Aggies opened spring football drills yesterday and wasted no time in starting contact work.

Approximately 100 candidates were on hand for the two-hour session and Coach Gene Stallings said afterwards, "We've got a long way to go."

The Aggie coach added, however, that he thought the squad,

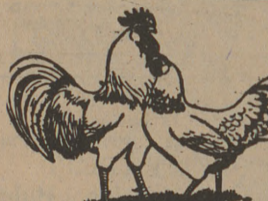
on the whole, showed a lot of effort and "didn't look too bad."

Robert Stansberry, a squadman from Eden and Kyle Gary, a redshirt from Dallas, were the Maroon quarterbacks while lettermen Jimmy Sheffield of Houston and redshirt Rocky Self of San Antonio, were the second unit of White quarterbacks.

A lot of shifting is likely the first week in the battle for the coveted maroon jerseys which signify first-team status.

Stallings has stated that the primary objective of spring drills is to learn who'll be the first-team players next fall. A lot of positions are up for grabs as 25 lettermen finished their eligibility at the close of last season.

The Maroon backfield Tuesday, in addition to quarterback, had Gary Armbrister, a redshirt from Houston and letterman Bill Seeley of Brownwood at tailback; Marc Black, a redshirt from New Mexico Military Academy, at fullback and letterman senior Barney Harris of San Antonio at wingback.

  
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**TUESDAY, April 22**  
 Residents Hall Day

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23**  
 Activities Day

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24**  
 Get Out the Vote Day

**FRIDAY, APRIL 25**  
 Date Arrival Day

Complete schedules to be distributed later this week.

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