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Aggies Drop Bearcats, Brace For Baylor

By Clifford Broyles
Battalion Sports Writer

The Texas Aggie baseball team won its fourth game in a row Wednesday afternoon as Billy Hodge unloaded a two-run homer over the left field fence

in the bottom of the ninth to provide the winning margin in the scheduled 7-inning game.

A&M started well as Hardy Frazier, transferred to Aggie-land from Panola Junior College, where he helped pitch the Ponies to the 1969 NJCA championship, blanked the Bearcats for five innings.

The Aggie bats were also silenced early in the game by David Berger who zeroed them for four frames before Hodge scored on a single by Dave Elmendorf. Hodge had opened the frame with a double.

Elmendorf provided the weaponry for two more A&M tallies in the sixth with a double that scored Danny Ragland and Hodge. Ragland reached first after being hit by a pitch and Hodge walked. Frazier making his first appearance of the season began to tire in the sixth as Sam Houston marked their trio of runs.

Royal Dyal pushed the button that destroyed the Aggies' lead with a bases loaded triple.

Paul Czerwinski, another JC transfer, replaced Frazier after that blow and blanketed the Bearcats until he retired for a pinch hitter in the eighth.

Sam Houston threatened in the ninth but shortstop Jim Raley put a sudden stop to it with a diving stab of a line drive off the bat of centerfielder Floyd Ciruti. "The play came with two men on and two men out. Had it gone through the Bearcats would have had one and possibly two runs but as it turned out the visitors got nothing but a 5-3 loss and a long trip back to Huntsville.

A&M's winning rally was started by Butch Ghutzman who singled to left with one out. Ragland struck out but Hodge was next and the 6-2 190-pound junior let it all hang out on the first pitch served up by Sam Houston reliever Lewis Boswell.

Charles Kelley who worked the ninth for A&M won his first game of the year and avenged a loss he suffered at the hands of the Bearcats earlier in the season.

A&M, now 4-2 for the season, opens its 1970 SWC schedule here Friday with a 1:30 p.m. doubleheader against an outstanding Baylor nine that is 7-3 for the season.

The two teams will play a single game Saturday.



ROUND-TRIPPER—Billy Hodges tags second base while the infield umpire signals a home run for the junior Aggie catcher. The Aggies topped Sam Houston on Hodge's blast to bring their win streak to four in a row. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Netters Draw Rough Pairings

The Texas A&M tennis team must have drawn the wrong straw when the pairings were set up for the 12th annual Rice Invitational Collegiate Tennis Tournament in Houston this weekend.

Richard Fikes and Mike Hickey, A&M's leading doubles team drew the number one

seeded doubles team for their 1 p.m. match today, when they were chosen to play Bob McKinley and Paul Gerken of Trinity.

McKinley is also the third seeded singles player behind last years runnerup, Zan Guerry of Rice and defending champion Mike Estep of Rice. Gerken is sixth seeded in the singles division.

The Aggies also drew a couple of seeded singles players from Utah in Dan Bleckinger number seven seed and F. D. Robbins number five. Robbins will also compete against the Aggies in a doubles match.

Mike Hickey was tabbed to play Bleckinger and Bruce Crumley was slated to play Robbins at 9:45 a.m.

David Chastain and Carl Jaedicke were pitted against Robbins and Steve Krulevitz in the first round also at 1 p.m.

Lindsey Kroll drew Luis Baraldi of Lamar Tech as a first round opponent and Fikes was slated to play against Ken McMillan of Pan American.

Longhorns Take Gymnastics Meet

The University of Texas at Austin overcame strong individual performances from two members of the Texas Aggie gymnastics team to win the SWC gymnastics meet here Saturday afternoon.

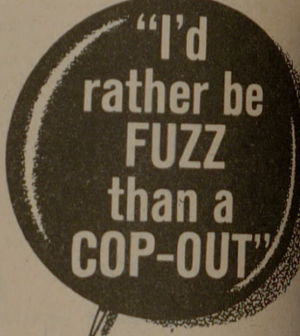
The Longhorns outpointed A&M 108.25 to 104.60 despite the performance of Lee Reeves and Mick Stratton who placed first and third in all-around competition.

Baylor finished third with 31.15 points.

Reeves, who won first place in floor exercises and vaulting and second in the high bar and rings, won the all-around title with 38.25 points. He also tied for second in the parallel bars.

Stratton tied for second on the parallel bars and placed third in the vaulting to bring his total to 32.25 good for third place behind Brackett of Texas who had 36.75.

Andy Scheidemantle picked up second place points for A&M in side horse.



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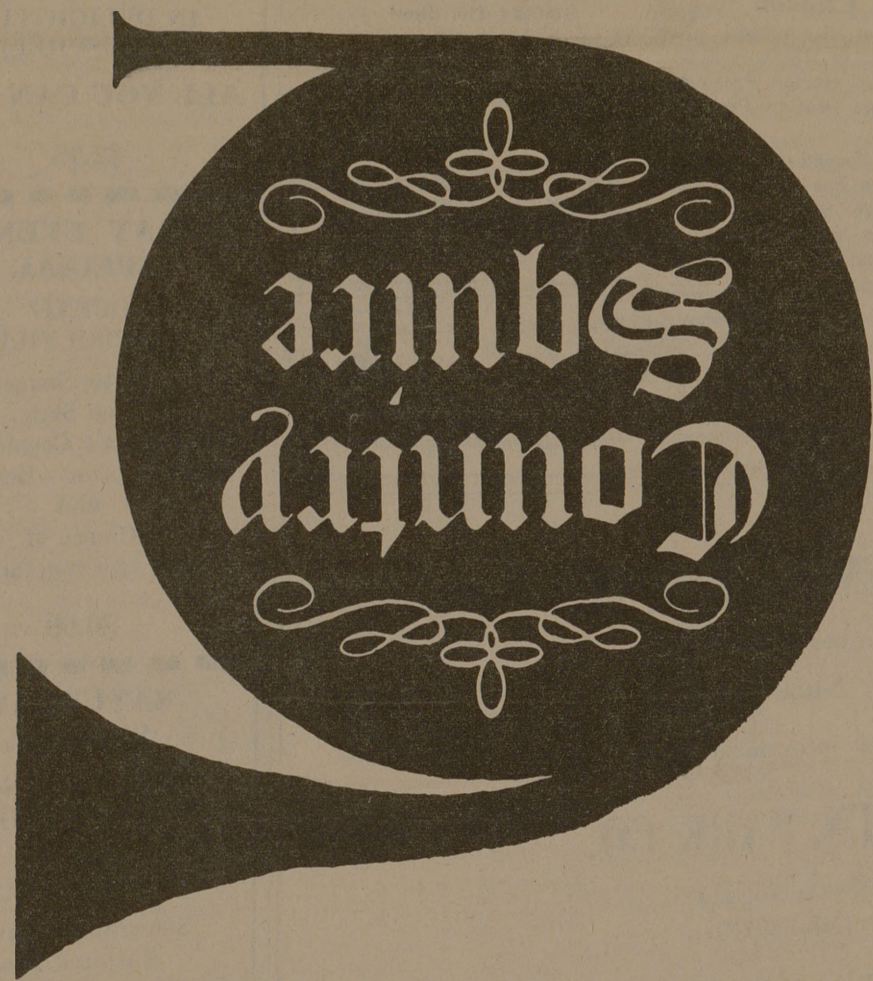
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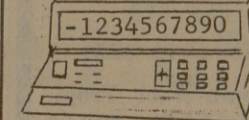
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