

Aggies Take Two From Red Raiders

By Clifford Broyles
Battalion Sports Writer

Texas A&M defeated Texas Tech Saturday in a Southwest Conference Doubleheader to remain undefeated and 1½ games ahead of the favored Texas Longhorns in the SWC baseball race.

Doug Rau threw his third shutout against conference opposition in five starts in the opener and Dave Benesh and Hardy Frazier combined to pitch the second game victory.

The doubleheader was moved back from Friday after an excessive amount of raindrops forced postponement. That cancellation helped the Texas Longhorns pick up the game they lost when they were froze out at Lubbock earlier in the year.

The Aggies are now 11-0 in SWC competition while Texas is 8-0. A&M will have an open date this week in league play but will play four games with the University of Houston.

Texas travels to Fort Worth to play fourth place Texas Christian in a three game series that will even the two teams in the number of games played and could leave both undefeated or the Aggies all by themselves at the top.

Rau allowed only two singles in winning his seventh game of the year without a loss for the Aggies now 20-4 on the season. A&M put together five timely

hits to score three times in the opener.

Butch Ghutzman opened the contest by reaching on an error by the second baseman. He also opened the second game by reaching on an error by the pitcher.

Dave Elmendorf doubled down the left field line to send Ghutzman to third and he scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Billy Hodge.

The Aggies scored their final two runs in the third off starter and loser, Jack Pierce now 0-5 for the season as Rau's single to center was the spark that ignited the fire.

Ghutzman followed with a double that sent Rau to third and R. J. Englert's sacrifice fly ball sent Rau across the plate. Elmendorf singled to left and Ghutzman trotted in with the final tally.

Both teams scored twice in the first inning of the second game with Tech pitcher Gary Washington starting it all with a couple of throwing errors on ground balls by Ghutzman and Englert.

The end result had Ghutzman at third and Englert on second with nobody out.

Elmendorf then hit a fly ball to deep center that scored Ghutzman and Hodge's single scored Englert.

Tech got their pair off Dave Benesh with John McGuire singling to lead off and Cecil Nor-

ris' triple sent the first run home. Johnny Owens single scored Norris and the game was back where it started, tied.

Washington and Benesh settled down both getting superb defense as the Aggies backed Benesh with a couple for double plays and Tech had one.

The Aggies woke up on the seventh as Elmendorf got his third hit of the day with a single to left and Hodge tripled to deep left center to score Elmendorf.

Boyd Hadaway walked and Chris Sans singled to right, his third hit a row scoring Hodge.

Jim Raley's single to center scored Hadaway and the Aggies were back on top of the world.

Tech came back with a pair of tallies in the ninth off reliever Hardy Frazier who replaced Benesh with two out in the eighth.

Owens singled to center and Dick Shaw's liner went just out of the reach of Ghutzman leaping glove for single.

Danny Ragland then forced Owens at third but his throw to first was wide of the bag and Sans attempting to knock it down threw his glove at the ball hitting it.

The runners were awarded second and third on a seldom used rule that allows two bases from the point of origination when a glove is thrown at the ball and

hits it.

Gilbert Vasquez single scored both runners but Don McKee flied to left and the Aggies carried a two wins back with them to College Station.

A&M now has a week off from Southwest Conference play battling the University of Houston in two doubleheaders this week with the first to be a Thursday twinbill on Kyle Field.

CLIFFORD BROYLES

Longhorns Watch

Saturday, the Texas Aggie baseball team won a Southwest Conference doubleheader from Texas Tech in Lubbock to remain undefeated in 11 league starts and keep favored Texas wondering when the Aggies, who had a 7-8 record a year ago, are going to lose.

Texas won the title last year with a 14-2 mark, 4½ games ahead of TCU while the Aggies were fifth, 6½ games behind Texas.

What difference a year makes. The Aggies who batted .247 as a team last year are hitting .289 this season and have already scored 13 more runs—122, than they scored last season.

But the big difference is in the pitching. Last year the Aggies' team earned run average was a respectable 2.99 which was good but combined with a weak hitting the team wasn't too prosperous.

This year's staff through 24 games has compiled an amazing 1.35 percentage with lefthander Doug Rau heading the list with a fabulous 0.33 for 54 innings of work.

Many good teams have the hitting and pitching but when it gets to the tight spots a good defense can be a pitcher's best friend.

It is very likely without some superb defense the Texas Aggie baseball team could have lost one or more of the games with Rice and Texas Tech.

Dave Benesh was backed brilliantly Saturday by a couple of double plays started by Danny Ragland one of which was a truly great play when the batter tried to fake a bunt and hit the ball by Ragland who was charging to cover for the bunt. A half swing sent the ball whizzing toward Ragland who picked it out of the atmosphere and set up the double play.

Jim Raley, Butch Ghutzman and Chris Sans round out the Aggie infield that has committed only 23 errors in 362 chances.

The Aggie outfield of Dave Elmendorf, Boyd Hadaway and R. J. Englert had only 1 error in 79 chances and their accurate throws to the infield have often prevented runs from scoring.

Catcher Billy Hodge has been a pleasant surprise for the Aggies batting .382 with a team high of 21 runs batted in.

Back to the Aggie pitching staff, Rau has been unbeatable and Benesh an All-SWC pick a year ago is sailing along with a 5-2 mark and 1.40 era which is better than a 1.70 he posted last year.

But the Aggies' real strength has not yet been tested and that is depth. The Aggies have a nine man staff which when called upon has performed well as their record shows.

The Aggies next conference opponent is TCU and after that the Texas series will wrap it up.

As we near the home stretch the Aggies are leading, the Longhorns are wondering and worrying.

According to Bob Condron, Assistant Sports Information Director at Texas Tech, Bill Little, the Assistant SID at Texas called from Austin twice Thursday afternoon and twice Friday morning to ask if the games would be played.

Now tell me the Longhorns aren't worried.

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7.75-14	34.50	8.62	25.88	39.25	9.81	29.44	2.17
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7.35-15							1.89
7.75-14	31.25	8.75	22.50	35.75	10.00	25.75	1.97
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7.35-15							2.08
7.75-14	25.25	6.35	18.90	28.50	7.15	21.35	2.17
7.75-15							2.19
8.25-14	28.75	7.20	21.55	32.00	8.00	24.00	2.33
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