

Aggies Split Pair With Cats

By Clifford Broyles
Battalion Sports Writer

The Texas Aggie pitching staff lost control Thursday afternoon and in the process had their 13 game winning streak snapped as they split a doubleheader with the Houston Cougars on Kyle Field.

The Aggies came from behind with a 5 run fourth inning explosion to unseat the Cougars from a 4-1 lead and then won the game in the 11th inning of the scheduled 7 inning game with a tally to win 7-6.

The Houstonians bounced back to win the second game which was limited to five innings by darkness to smother the Aggies with 6 runs in the first and five in the second en route to an 11-0 win.

Relays Strong At Drake Meet

The Texas Aggies are scheduled to run in six relay races today and tomorrow in the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa.

The featured foursomes for the Aggies, however, will be in the 440 and 880 relay units where, if all signs are correct, even world record times are not out of the question.

Other relays which A&M will participate in are the sprint medley (220, 220, 440, and 880), mile relay, shuttle hurdles relay, and the distance medley (440, 880, 1320, and mile).

Entries in the high jump are so crowded that there will be two divisions. Ben Greathouse has been invited to compete in the special high jump while Marvin Taylor and John Taylor will compete in the regular high jump.

The 440 quartet of Scott Hendricks, Marvin Mills, Curtis Mills and Rockie Woods already has the fastest time in the nation with a 39.7 clocking while the 880 unit is co-holder of the world record 1:22.1 time in that event.

The Aggie pitching staff which had allowed only 54 walks this season in 192 1/2 innings allowed 12 in the twinbill, most of which came at times in which the visitors made their move offensively.

Bruce Katt had an off day for the Aggies starting the first game and pitching to five batters and leaving with no one out then came back in the second game and was charged with five more runs in 1 1/2 frames.

Katt walked four men and hit a batter and his control was missing so badly he had to give the Cougar hitters good pitches to hit and they also rapped four hits off him.

Back to back triples by Steve Spretz and Richard Schwartz highlighted the Cougars' four run first and when Katt hit Bill McLain in the head with a pitch Coach Tom Chandler went to his bullpen and brought in Hardy Frazier.

Frazier blanked the Cats the next three innings but also had his problems walking four and Houston left five men on base in the second and third innings.

A&M got their first run in the third as Chris Sans extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a single and moved to second on a grounder by Jim Raley. Danny Ragland then singled to drive in the run.

The Aggies knocked out starter Steve Berghaiser with five runs in the third with Jim Raley's second collegiate home run with two men on the key blow.

R. J. Englert led off the inning by walking and Dave Elmendorf singled to move him to second. Billy Hodge reached safely loading the bases with none out on an error by the shortstop.

Sans' sacrifice fly brought in one run leaving runners at first and third after Boyd Hadaway drove in a run with a bases loaded walk.

Raley's cannon shot to left field put A&M into the lead at 6-4.

Houston tied the game with two runs in the sixth with Larry Martin's bases loaded double doing the damage after Butch Ghutzman probably save the game with a spectacular catch going out to center field with his back to the infield.

Pat Jamison who relieved Rocky Self in the seventh shut the Cougars off the scoreboard the rest of the way until Billy Hodge's single produced the winning run in the 11th.

Paul Czerwinski started the second game for the Aggies and easily retired the first two batters but the next seven Houston batters reached base as he was unable to get the ball in the strike zone and he like Katt was forced to throw up nice juicy strikes to get the ball over.

The Aggies travel to Houston Saturday for a doubleheader at 1:30 p.m.



WINNING RUN—Larry Smith slides home with the winning run in Thursday's first game of a double header. A&M won the first game 7-6 in 11 innings, while they were bombed 11-0 in the second. The second game was called after 5 innings because of darkness. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Hodge Can Do It

Take Texas A&M baseball coach Tom Chandler's word for it—Billy Hodge can do it all.

Or don't take Chandler's word. Look at the statistics for A&M's junior catcher, a strong All-America candidate: Batting average, .384; leads team in runs scored (17), total bases (50), runs batted in (21), hits (28), doubles (6), and triples (2), second in home runs (4).

In 24 games, opposing baserunners have stolen five bases. Hodge has thrown out eight others who tried. Pro scouts have timed the 6-2, 190-pounder at 4.2 seconds going to first base.

When it comes to handling pitchers, how about a 1.35 staff—that's right, s-t-a-f-f—earned run average?

That's what Chandler means when he says Hodge can do it all. Hodge's performance this season has had a lot to do with the Aggies currently riding a 12-game winning streak and boasting a season record of 20 wins against four losses. Two of those

losses were an opening day doubleheader which means that the Aggies have won 20 of their last 22.

A&M has gone through 11 Southwest Conference games without a loss with the next action coming May 1-2 against TCU.

The Aggie catcher has been the key to A&M's improvement over a 15-11 record in 1969. Hodge, whose father was an Aggie, is a hometown boy born and raised in nearby Bryan. He came to A&M after winning district MVP honors in football, basketball and baseball. Billy turned down a good offer from the Atlanta Braves to accept an A&M scholarship.

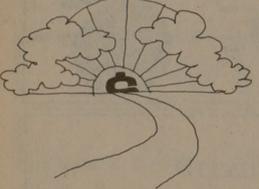
Now Hodge has blossomed into one of the top catchers in the country and a good bet for SWC Player of the Year. The only honor that Hodge cares about right now, though, is to be a member of the SWC champions . . . and to get a ticket to the college world series in Omaha.

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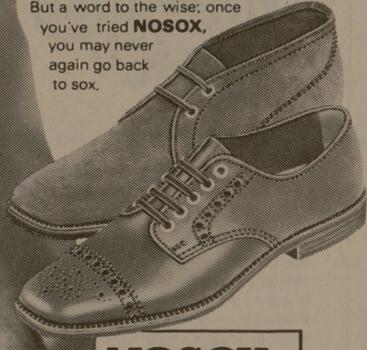
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