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Baseballers Take Two From Houston

By Clifford Broyles
Battalion Sports Writer

The Texas A&M baseball team which had their 13-game win streak stopped by Houston Thursday ended a one-game losing skid with a doubleheader sweep of the Cougars Saturday in Houston.

Doug Rau won his eighth game of the year without a loss as A&M scored 5 runs in the sixth to win 6-3 and Charles Kelley hurled three scoreless innings of relief in the second game as he bailed out Charlie Jenkins and winning pitcher Dave Benesh.

Rau who carried a 0.33 era into the contest allowed 3 unearned runs in the game and his earned run average lowered to 0.29 for 61 innings of work.

Butch Ghutzman, who started both rallies the Aggies managed in the game, led off with a walk off Mike Gilbert. He stole second and then scored on a single with two by Billy Hodge.

Gilbert then retired the next 14 men in a row before Ghutzman singled with one out in the sixth. Rau blanked the Cougars until the fifth when Bill McLain singled for the only hit of the three-run spurt.

Don Hill walked and Mike Clark stepped up to sacrifice. Third baseman Charlie Jenkins' throw to first was in the dirt and went into right field allowing McLain and Hill to score and Clark moved around to third.

Jim Barger's sacrifice fly scored Clark with the third run. Ghutzman single to start the Aggies winning rally and R. J. Englert's triple scored Ghutzman and put the tying run on third with one out.

Dave Elmendorf walked and stole second but the picture darkened as Hodge struck out.

Boyd Hadaway doubled to deep right center, however, and the Ags were in the lead for good, 4-3.

Jim Sampson followed with an opposite field home run to left to put the visitors up by three, their final margin.

The Cougars scored once in the first inning of the second game and with a little luck could have scored more.

Eddie Henderson slapped Dave Benesh's first pitch off the left field fence but he was thrown out trying to stretch it to a triple. Steve Spretz flied deep to Englert for the second out but consecutive singles by Richard Schwartz, Rusty Clark and McLain produced a run.

A&M put together six of their 14 hits in the second inning to tally three runs off the Cougars' Johnny Hatcher.

A titan home run by Billy Hodge, his fifth of the season, was the opening blow and Hadaway and Sampson followed with singles. They moved to second and third on a grounder by Jim Raley and Hadaway scored on a single by Benesh and Sampson crossed the plate on a base hit by Ghutzman.

Rusty Clark cut the Aggies' lead to one with a home run to left in the third.

The Aggies increased their lead with two runs in the fifth and scored their last run in the sixth.

Larry Aubin, who relieved Hatcher in the fifth, was greeted by Hadaway and Sampson who singled. Sampson's was a tap in front of the plate which Aubin injured himself on and on the next play a sacrifice bunt by Raley, Aubin collapsed as he re-injured a pulled muscle in his leg.

Jim Ripple came in to pitch and Danny Ragland poked a sacrifice fly to deep center to score Hadaway and then Benesh doubled to score Sampson.

Englert doubled to center to start the sixth and moved to third on a single by Elmendorf who was tagged out at second trying to stretch it to a double.

David Van Houten walked and Sampson drove in the run with a deep fly to left that the left fielder dropped after almost making a spectacular catch.

Charlie Jenkins relieved Benesh, who allowed Houston 5 hits in six innings and only two after the first, to start the seventh.

Mike Brewer, who came on to pitch in the top of the seventh for the Cougars, singled to right and then Henderson walked.

Spretz' single loaded the bases with none out with the Houstonians' leading hitters coming up.

Schwartz hit a grounder to short but Ronnie LaGrone's throw was high and two runs scored and Spretz went to third and Schwartz to second with the tying run.

Kelley, the bullpen ace for the Aggies, was then called on to face Clark who had two hits and McLain who had three already in the day.

Kelley got Clark to pop to Raley at second and Spretz was tagged out at home on a fielder's choice by McLain with Van Houten making the tag after a pin point throw from Raley who played second, third and short during the twinbill.

Larry Martin, however, singled to center to score Schwartz but Kelley Larry Martin hit into a fielder's choice to end the rally with the Cougars a run shy.

Kelley threw blanks the final two innings in gaining his third

earned run and only one unearned tally in 13 1/2 innings.

Benesh received credit for his sixth win of the season for the Aggies now 23-5 on the season.

The Aggies return to Southwest Conference action Friday when they play Texas Christian in a three-game series with a doubleheader slated for Friday at 1:30 p.m. on Kyle Field.

A&M leads the conference by a slim 1/2 game over the University of Texas at Austin with a 11-0 mark. Texas has a 10-0 mark but suffered a blow when they were rained out Saturday against TCU in a game that had the won would have tied A&M for first place. Texas will be in Houston for a three-game series with Rice this weekend.

Chandler Hits Milestone

Although he didn't know it until he was told after the game was over, A&M baseball coach Tom Chandler passed a milestone in his coaching career at Aggieland Saturday.

With Doug Rau's five hitter, 6-3 first game win Chandler's teams have won 200 games and lost only 108 in his 12 years at the helm.

The second game victory, no. 201 gave Chandler coached teams percentage of .657 for that period.

Two of Chandler's teams have won Southwest Conference titles, 1959 and 1964, and the 1970 team which has an 11-0 SWC mark with six games to play leads favored Texas by a 1/2 game. Texas and the Aggies meet in Austin for a three-game series May 7-8 that will decide the SWC champion unless one of the two blows up this weekend in their series. The Aggies play TCU on Kyle Field while the Horns play Rice in Houston.

Chandler in his playing days was a first baseman and catcher and, after graduating from Baylor, he played two years in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, at Waco in the Big State League, Davenport, Iowa in the Three I league, and at Bartlesville, Oklahoma the Oklahoma-Kansas-Missouri league.

He began his coaching career in 1950 at Greiner Junior High School in Dallas and in 1952 he took over the head coaching job at Adamson High School in Dallas where he coached six district champions in seven years.

It took Chandler's knowledge only a year to soak in at the Adamson baseball team failed to win the district title in only his first year at the school.

He coached a semi-pro team during the summers at Alpine for ten years and produced such notable pro baseballers as Norm Cash of the Detroit Tigers, Joe Horlen of the Chicago White Sox, Jack Sanford, now retired who pitched for the Philadelphia Phillies, San Francisco Giants and California Angels, and Gaylord Perry of the San Francisco Giants.

When he retired from baseball Chandler, who was an All-SWC selection two years for Baylor, kept playing for eight summers in semi-pro ball.

He is currently the second vice-president of the American Association of College baseball Coaches and has served on the NCAA Rules Committee.

Jim Raley, the Aggies senior shortstop working on his third varsity letter, cracked his second collegiate home run Thursday against Houston. Raley's three-run blast helped the Aggies extend their winning streak to 13 games in a row.

Raley's first collegiate homer came as a sophomore when the Aggies were playing Texas Tech in Lubbock.

Aided by a 56-mile an hour breeze, Raley recalled that the clout started out as a Texas League fly to short right and he didn't even think about it going out until Dave Benesh, first base coach, told him the ball had gone over the fence.

Who says pitchers can't hit? Senior righthander Dave Benesh, who carried a terrifying one hit in 17 at bats average into the Houston series Saturday, would have trouble convincing the Houston Cougars that they can't.

Benesh, slammed a double and single and drew a walk in three trips to the plate while driving in two runs.

Last year, in a similar situation, he had only four hits in 19 trips to the plate but hit two home runs in his only two times at the plate against the Cougars in Houston.

Netters Ace Cowboys, 6-0

Texas A&M warming up for the 1970 SWC tennis tournament to decide individual medalists defeated Hardin-Simmons 6-0 Friday afternoon on varsity courts to even their season record at 11-11.

The Aggies have one more match when they close their season against the Houston Cougars Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. on varsity courts.

Houston nipped the Aggies early in the season 5-4 at Houston.

The Aggie netters completed Southwest Conference match play in fifth place in the seven team standings with a 14-22 mark. Rice won the title with a 30-4 standing.

Coach Omar Smith will take Dickie Fikes Bruce Crumley Tommy Connell, Lawton Park and Mike Hickey to the conference meet Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Houston.

Although the season's record has not been too bright the Aggies have had a winner in doubles six of the last seven years with Jon Ragland and Pete Paust winning the doubles title last year.

Results of the Hardin-Simmons meet are:

Lawton Park, A&M, def. Les Blackburn, H-S, 6-4 6-4.

Lindsey Kroll, A&M, def. John Vanbuskirk, H-S, 6-3 6-3.

Mike Mills, A&M, def. Bob King, H-S, 6-0 6-4.

Carl Jaedicke, A&M, def. Jerry Crane, H-S, 6-0 6-2.

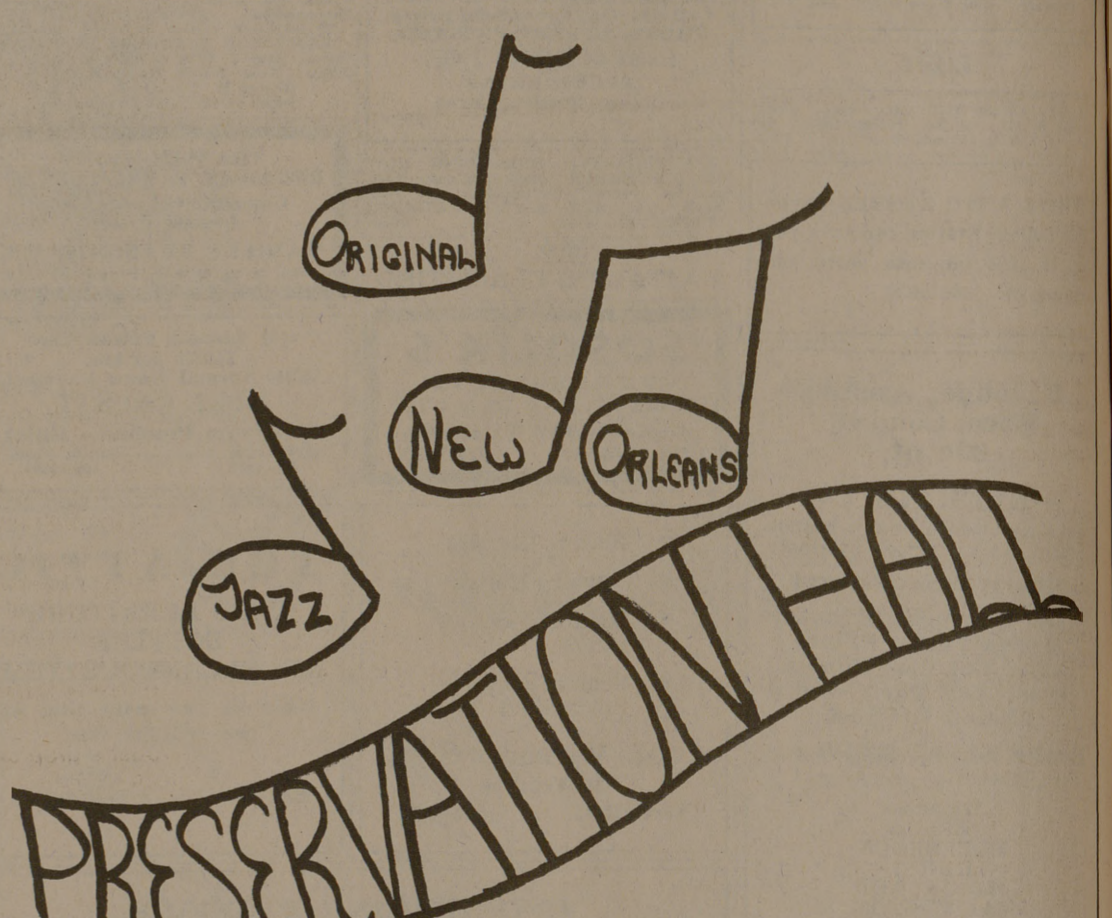
Doubles: Kroll and Mills, A&M, def. Blackburn and Vanbuskirk, H-S, 6-2 6-4.

Jaedicke and Paul Lothrop, A&M, def. King and Crane, H-S, 6-2 6-2.

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