

Two big fourths and Ags roll on

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
The Texas Aggie baseball team took advantage of two streaks of wildness by University of Minnesota pitchers here Wednesday afternoon or two come-from-behind wins, giving the Aggies 10 consecutive wins and a 14-1 season record.
The Aggies and Gophers meet twice more today, then the Ags will journey to Houston for a three-game Southwest Conference series with Rice.
Wednesday the Aggies broke loose for four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning of the opener for a 4-3 win and then tallied five times in the fourth of the second game in a 7-4 win.
Both rallies were sparked by wildness as Steve Chapman walked four straight batters in the opener and then Bruce Ericson put the Ags in motion in the second game by walking with the bases full.
Chapman walked four batters with one out in the fourth after entering the inning with a 3-0 lead, which he had helped get with a second-inning home run after Minnesota scored twice in the first.
Following the four walks, the final one to Butch Ghutzman that forced in the first run, R. J. Englert punched a sharp single to right that scored two runs to tie it. Then Sandy Bates—moved up from the junior varsity to give extra hitting from the right-side of the plate—singled in the fourth run that stood up for the win.
Charlie Jenkins worked the first four innings for A&M, and was touched for all the Minnesota runs. Jackie Binks worked one frame and Jat Jamison two to preserve the opening-game win.
The Aggies were stymied by Ericson until the fourth when he issued walks to Chris Sans, Denny Beall and Jim Hacker before retiring catcher Terry Overton on strikes. Then pinch-hitter Jim Atterbury smashed a single to right scoring the tying runs and Ghutzman put the Aggies up by two with a solid triple that went just fair down the left field line all the way to the fence. Englert drove home the fifth run with another single.
Jim Wallace was the winner in the second game, settling down in the final two innings

after struggling through the first half of his four-inning stint. Sam Camilli pitched the fifth and then Charlie Kelley impressively silenced the Gophers in the final two.
The Aggies continued to be snakebitten with injuries as catcher Billy Hodge suffered a split finger when hit by a foul tip in the first game and second baseman Carroll Lilly was taken out of the second game after being hit in the head by a throw from the Gopher second baseman as he tried to throw Lilly out.
Neither injury was believed to be serious enough to cause them to miss the Rice series this weekend, although Hodge will not play in today's doubleheader.

Netters dominate Sooners easily

The A&M tennis team totally overwhelmed Oklahoma Wednesday sweeping all the singles, and winning the match, 8-1.
Among the six singles matches, there was only one ending in split sets, as the Aggies clinched victory before the doubles began.
Success came all the way down the line, starting with Jon Ragland's win over Daryl Hess in sets of 6-4 each. Then, Dickie Fikes beat Barr Baynton, 6-4, 6-2. Mike Hickey kept it going with a 6-2, 6-3 domination of his match with Jack Hughes.
Tommy Connell dropped the first set to Dick Theimes, 2-6, but he came back to take the next two, 6-4, 6-3. Dan Curson won over Dale Quigley, 6-2, 6-1, and Mike Mills finished off the rousing start with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Tim Headington.
Oklahoma got its only point on a 6-4, 6-3 doubles victory, as Hess and Baynton downed Fikes and Hickey in the first match. Ragland and Connell came back with a 6-2, 6-1 decision over Theimes and Quigley, and then Curson and David Chastain finished off the day with an 8-6, 6-4 match over Hughes and Headington.
The Aggies meet LSU today on the A&M courts, with the match starting at 1:30 p.m.

Damp weather doesn't slow Ags

Despite cool, damp weather, the Texas Aggies romped through another spirited workout Wednesday in their second day of spring football practice.
Coach Gene Stallings did not single out any individuals for special praise.
The key quarterback position was handled by three players in maroon jerseys Wednesday. They were Joe Mac King, top reserve of last year; Kyle Gary, a varsity squadman and Mark Green, a talented freshman.
The long, booming kicks off the toe of Mitch Robertson indicated that the Aggies will continue their string of outstanding punters.
The afternoon temperature dipped down to nearly 50 degrees and a slight drizzle commenced before the Aggies finished their workout.

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The deeper the better

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sport Editor

The Texas Aggies have a 3-0 record in Southwest Conference baseball and good depth is proving to be a major factor in their bid to stay on top of the race.

As it stands now, Texas Christian and Baylor are second with 2-1 records and the two square off in a three-game series this weekend in Fort Worth. The Frogs will travel to Austin next weekend to play the University of Texas, and the Longhorns are in the process of trying to replace six graduated starters. So far they've managed a 3-3 record.
In their three straight conference wins, a good bench has been evident since the Aggies have suffered the loss of centerfielder Dave Elmendorf.
When Elmendorf was injured Larry Smith was called on to move into the outfield and has responded with key hits in at least three of the five games since then.
Smith moved into a starting post in left field, with R. J. Englert taking over centerfield and Jim Sampson in right.
When Smith went to the regular post the main thing it did was take away the Aggies depth in pinch hitters.
But on Friday Jim Atterbury went in as a late inning replacement and got two clutch hits.

Then in the Wednesday doubleheader with Minnesota, the Aggies lost catcher Billy Hodge and second baseman Carroll Lilly to freak accidents and Atterbury, freshman from Corpus Christi, came in to crash a pinch-hit single that knocked in two runs that tied a game the Aggies eventually won 7-4.

On Saturday it was Gene Reinarz, a sophomore squadman from New Braunfels who took the spotlight. Reinarz smashed out two hits including the winning triple in the game with SMU, although not entering the game until the seventh inning as a defensive replacement.
Freshman Jimmy Hacker has taken over at third base and also is looking more impressive with the bat game by game. When the season started Hacker and Jimmy Langford were switching out with Butch Ghutzman between short and third and now Hacker is at third and has a batting average around .300 to show.

Wednesday, Coach Chandler went hunting for some more right hand hitting help while Elmendorf is out with the eye injury, realizing that his regular lineup could include as many as seven of nine players hitting from the left side, not a good idea when the opposing pitcher throws lefthanded.

He found Sandy Bate, a freshman from Lufkin on the junior varsity, gave him a look at left field in the opener with a lefthander on the mound. Bate delivered with two hits, drove in what proved to be the winning run, handled four outfield putouts and threw out a runner trying to stretch a single into a double.

But without the contributions of the Aggie veterans the play of the youngsters probably wouldn't have helped the Aggies enough to have a 14-1 record for the season.

Billy Hodge has been tremendous in the clutch and first baseman Chris Sans has played well especially in the clutch and Sans has to be the best fielding firstbaseman in the league.

Ghutzman has been a great leadoff batter, getting on base with the clutch hit or the big walk. Ghutzman has drawn three walks that drove in runs this year and also has a better than .300 batting mark.

Lilly, at second, is hitting over .400 and hit in the team's first 11 games. Along with Ghutzman it gives the Aggies an outstanding doubleplay combination.

Jim Sampson is the most powerful threat on the team and Wednesday's three-hit, two-RBI performance is indicative of what he can do.

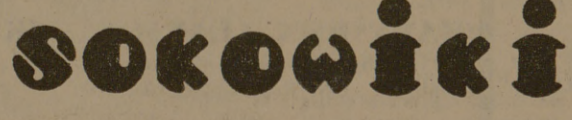
Then there's R. J. Englert in center. With Elmendorf out of the lineup, Englert has stabilized the outfield, with his good defensive play and a .340 stick average.

With that kind of play in the meat of the order and help backing it up the Aggies can be well on their way to one great season.

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