

Bearcats harass Kelley again

Aggies keep record even by dividing doubleheader

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor
Charles Kelley failed to break the jinx Sam Houston has over him, but the Aggies managed to pull out a 10-inning victory in the second game of a Wednesday

doubleheader here to keep the A&M season record even at 4-4. The Aggies had 11 hits, 10 walks and two Sam Houston errors give them base runners, but A&M's batting impotence left 21 men stranded in the twinbill.

The Bearcats had only five base runners in the first game, but three of them were in the seventh and final inning, as the Aggies fell, 1-0. Kelley could not overcome the bad luck which has plagued him throughout his career when Sam Houston is the opponent.

He walked a man in the second inning, but he was put out during a double play. The first hit off Kelley was a fluke double by Jim Pitts. An erratic-bouncing ground ball bounced off third baseman Jim Hacker's glove and over the fence for a ground rule two-bagger.

The Aggies, meanwhile, left men on base in every frame but the third. Two men were deserted in the first inning, after Jim Atterbury and Butch Ghutzman had singled. After that, only two A&M base runners got as far as second.

In the disastrous seventh, Floyd Ciruti singled to center field to start things off. John O'Leary attempted to sacrifice him to second, but beat out the slow throw.

Jim Pitts popped to first base, but Terry Roach plated the winning run with a base hit to left-center for the winning run.

Kelley pitched a fine game, walking one and striking out seven. His teammates played errorless ball in the field, but the lack of hits by the Aggies lowered the right hander's season record to 1-2. Both his losses this season have been to the Bearcats by a single tally.

The second game was scoreless for three innings, until both teams got on the board in the fourth frame. O'Leary singled to right and Pitts walked, with Roach hitting safely to load the bases with none out.

Sammy Monteau slapped a sharp grounder to third. Hacker fielded it cleanly and fired to second baseman Carroll Lilly, who relayed to first for the double play. While this was going on, O'Leary scored and Pitts rounded third and crossed the plate also.

Back-to-back singles by Paul Leggett and David Woolley foreshadowed another scoring burst, but

the Bearcats could not keep it going.

The Aggies scored on consecutive walks to Sandy Bate, Hacker and Lilly. Catcher Neil McKittrick hit a long fly to left field, scoring Bate, but A&M could cause no more damage, ending the inning on a short fly to left and grounder to first.

Jackie Binks and Steve Janda held the Bearcats to three hits in the last six innings. Binks went five frames after starter Bruce Katt had gone four. Janda threw in the tenth and was credited with the win.

The Aggies didn't threaten much until the bottom of the ninth, their last chance. Trailing 2-1, McKittrick grounded out to third before pinch hitter Karl Bystrom was walked by Bearcat hurler Gary Wilson. Atterbury singled and Mike Schraeder walked to fill the bases.

R. J. Englert, the top Aggie hitter was at the plate, and Sam Houston coach Bob Britt chose the 3-0 count to make one of the two pitching changes that in-

ning. The center fielder walked, forcing in a run.

Still with one out, Ron Wilson got Ghutzman to pop up to first and Bate to hit into a force play. This was a crucial situation for both teams, since a base hit or a long fly with less than two outs would have ended the game with the winning run.

Sam Houston got two men on base in the top of the tenth, Janda put out the fire with little trouble. Hacker began the Aggie tenth by drawing a walk from the new Bearcat moundsman, Fred Warren. Jim Langford put down a perfect sacrifice bunt, moving Hacker to second. A throwing error by third baseman Pitts put McKittrick on first and moved Hacker to third.

Pinch hitter Tommy Hawthorne, a freshman from Beaumont Forest Park, got his first collegiate hit, a shot to center field, to drive Hacker in with the game-ending run.

The Aggies are in action again Monday and Tuesday, with doubleheaders scheduled both days. The

opponent Monday is St. Mary's, while Tuesday's foe is Lamar University. These four games will mark the debut of A&M's "Diamond Darlings," the group of coeds chosen to serve as batgirls for four home twinbills this year.

First game
Sam Houston 0 0 0 0 0 1-1
A&M 0 0 0 0 0 0-0

Winning pitcher—Jim Miller;
Losing pitcher—Charles Kelley (1-2).

Hits—A&M 5, SHSU 3. Errors—A&M 0, SHSU 1. LOB—A&M 7, SHSU 3. Doubles—A&M 0, SHSU 1 (Jim Pitts). Double plays—(A&M) Butch Ghutzman—Carroll Lilly—Kelley.

Second game
Sam Ho. 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0-2
A&M 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 1-3

Winning pitcher—Steve Janda;
Losing pitcher—Fred Warren.

Hits—A&M 6, SHSU 7. Errors—A&M 4, SHSU 1. LOB—A&M 14, SHSU 13. Extra base hits—none. Double plays—(A&M) Jim Hacker-Lilly-Ghutzman; (SHSU) Sammy Monteau-Jackie Heard-John O'Leary.

Attorney reacts to action by Finley

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vida Blue's attorney said Wednesday that the star pitcher would play for the Oakland A's for \$50,000 if he can be a free agent after the 1972 season.

Robert Gerst said he was sending the terms to Oakland owner Charles O. Finley by telegram in response to Finley's announcement that he has invoked baseball's reserve clause on Blue.

"Vida's willing to play this year for \$50,000 so long as he does not have to sign a contract, and is a free agent at the end of the year, and I am so advising Finley by telegram today," Gerst said.

When contacted at a meeting of American League owners in Sarasota, Fla., Finley was told of Gerst's proposal.

"Absurd," he said. He said he had no more to say on the matter now.

Blue, winner of 24 games against eight losses last season when he captured the American League's Cy Young and Most Valuable Player awards, has sought a \$92,000 contract. He was paid \$14,500 for 1971, his first full season in the major leagues.

The rarely invoked baseball contract reserve clause binds a player to the club for a year after his contract expires, with the club bound to pay him at least 80 per cent of his prior year's salary.

Finley said earlier that he had sent Blue "a letter of renewal and a \$50,000 contract for 1972."

"Mr. Finley has invoked the reserve clause but offered him \$50,000," Gerst said. "But Blue won't sign the contract."

"I am shocked by his (Finley's) unwillingness to submit this matter to arbitration. I am outraged by his suggestion that Vida should attempt to negotiate with him alone, since Vida is 22 years old and Charley Finley is a multi-millionaire . . ."

Gerst said he was told Finley accused him of "brainwashing" Blue, who lives in Mansfield, La. Blue could not be reached, and a telephone operator said his phone was disconnected.

"I think Charley is becoming desperate in attacking me personally, rather than sticking to Blue's contract," Gerst said.

Blue said Tuesday night in Oakland that he hoped to have the contract dispute resolved within the coming week. The pitcher had attended a professional basketball game in Oakland then left for Louisiana.

In an interview with KDIA radio newsman Sam Skinner, Blue declined to discuss how much money he was asking for, but said: "I don't think it's the whole world. I'm just trying to get a figure where I feel I would be happy to play for them. I'm not seeking to be the A's highest paid pitcher . . ."

Gopher brawl participants denied post-season pardon

CHICAGO (AP) — The Big Ten declined Wednesday to allow newly-crowned conference basketball champion Minnesota to beef up for its NCAA tourney effort and lift the five-week suspension of two 6-9 Gopher players.

In final action in the drawn-out effort by Minnesota to free Ron Behagen and Corky Taylor from their sidelining because of a game brawl, the Big Ten policy-making faculty representatives, by an 8-0 vote, wiped out any chance for the Gopher pair to play in the NCAA.

The faculty group also, in a split vote, approved freshman play on varsity football and basketball teams next fall, following NCAA policy.

The faculty group spent three days of studying transcripts, viewing evidence and hearing Behagen and Taylor before sustaining a Feb. 25 verdict maintaining the suspensions by league athletic directors in a federal

court-ordered meeting at Minneapolis.

The Gophers, making new coach Bill Musselman, 31, the youngest mentor ever to win a Big Ten championship, wrapped up the title with an 11-3 record Tuesday night, beating Purdue 49-48.

Sports schedule

Thursday
Tennis: Texas A&I, here, 1:30

Friday
Tennis: Lamar University, Beaumont

Saturday
Track: LSU-Rice, triangular meet, Houston
Tennis: LSU, Baton Rouge

Monday
Baseball: St. Mary's, here, doubleheader, 1:00
Tennis: Indiana, Baton Rouge

Tuesday
Baseball: Lamar, here, doubleheader, 1:00

A matter of life

by Gordon Richardson



You know what there is most of on this earth? No, not water. Not atmosphere. Bills. Haven't you ever had that feeling? It usually comes around the end of the month when the mail seems to be nothing else but a series of outstretched hands, clawing at your shrinking checking account.

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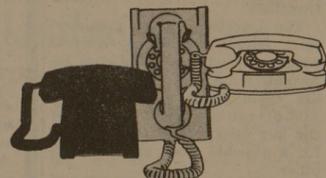
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