

Designated Hitter Enables Sweep

Baseballers Win Two From Gophers

By BILL HENRY
Battalion Sports Editor

Try it, you'll like it—and did the Aggies ever.
A&M was asked if it would like to use the new designated pinch-hitter rule here Tuesday afternoon by Minnesota's baseball coach. They did and used the new American League innovation to score 14 runs in the doubleheader and swept the Gophers.

Tommy Hawthorne, pinch hitter in the opener, slammed in two runs while going three for four which included a triple in the 10-4 win.

In the second game, Mike Frazier, the designated pinch hitter, went two for three and had one RBI in leading the Aggies to a 4-1 win.

The designated pinch hitter is a player selected by the coach before the game to hit for the pitcher each time his turn to bat comes. The pinch hitter plays no defensive position—just waits on the bench until his turn to bat comes.

"I love it (designated pinch hitter rule)," Hawthorne said

after the first game. "You never have to worry about getting an error or making a bad play. You just sit there and wait to hit."

Frazier played catcher in the opener and Hawthorne caught the second.

These two teams will play another doubleheader today, weather permitting, and the designated pinch-hit rule should again be in effect if the Gophers don't renege.

The Aggies used 11 hits in the opener to grab their ten runs while the Gophers slammed eight in achieving their four.

First baseman Paul Miller and newly-added shortstop David Buxkamper each had two hits and two runs-batted-in. Frazier also had two RBIs on a bases-loaded double in the second inning.

Rightfielder Jim Bratsen, centerfielder Craig Hodges and second baseman Sandy Bate also had a hit for the Aggies.

Bobby Wittkamp got credit for the win, the third of the year without a loss, while Jimmy Juhl was credited with a save. Wittkamp pitched four innings, gave

up five hits, four runs and struck out six. Juhl went three innings, gave up three hits, no runs and struck out one.

Minnesota was led by catcher Larry Hoyer who had three hits in three at bats with two RBIs. Centerfielder Mike Holm went two for four.

The Gophers jumped out to a three run lead in the first inning but A&M scored five in the second, one in the third, one in the fourth and three in the sixth. Minnesota scored one in the fourth.

In the nightcap, Minnesota again jumped out with a one-run lead in the opening of the first but A&M stormed back to tie it in the bottom of the inning. Miller and rightfielder Al Thurmond started it off with singles, Jim Hacker hit into a double play but moved Miller to third. Bratsen sent one up the middle scoring Miller. Frazier sent a deep shot to left to end the inning.

The Aggies broke it open in the third scoring three runs after two outs had been made.

Thurmond and Gene Reinarz walked and Frazier hit a line shot up the middle to score Thurmond. Mike Schraeder followed with a single to score Reinarz. Buxkamper got another single to score Frazier but tried to stretch his hit to a double on the throw to the plate but was thrown out to end the inning.

The rest was relatively calm as pitchers Bobby Falcon, credited with his second win of the year with no losses, and Clint Thomas held the Gophers to only four hits in seven innings.

Falcon went four giving up three hits, four walks and struck out seven. Thomas went three,

gave up one hit and struck out three.

Buxkamper was the biggest surprise for Chandler in the doubleheader. He was just elevated to the roster and was forced into action due to a split finger suffered by regular shortstop Mike Schraeder in pre-game warm-ups. The freshman from Columbus went three for seven and batted in three runs in both games and didn't make a single bobble on defense although he must have been shaky having worked out with the varsity just one day.

Conference action again is scheduled with SMU's Mustangs on tap for three games here Friday and Saturday.



FIREMAN CLINT THOMAS pitched three innings of shutout ball in relief of Bobby Falcon to help lead the Aggies to a 4-1 victory over Minnesota in the second game of a doubleheader yesterday. A&M won the first game 10-4. (Photo by Gary Baldasari)

Bellard Says Ags Need Lots Of Work

A&M football coach Emory Bellard said "we have a lot of work ahead of us" following the first session of spring training for his Texas Aggies yesterday.

The Aggies, some 90 strong, worked for over two hours and Bellard said he was pleased with their physical conditioning and enthusiasm.

There were two major changes offensively for the Ags.

Ricky Seeker, starting offensive tackle last year, was moved to center and Richard Osborne, who shared end duties with Carl Roaches was moved to tight end.

The Aggies also lost an old face but gained a new one into their football family.

Bill Wiebold, a two year letterman at defensive tackle and one of only two two-year lettermen on the team, decided to forego his senior season and has dropped football.

The new face around the Aggie camp was coach Bob Stanley. Tuesday was Stanley's first day at A&M and he will be handling offensive line duties during the spring workouts.

Speed and youth was evident

throughout the squad as the first depth chart showed 12 sophomores in starting positions.

The Aggies will practice Tuesday thru Saturday from 4 p.m. till about 6 p.m. with the Maroon and White game slated for April 21.

Intramural's

SOFTBALL

CLASS C: Law over Moore, 18-10; Hart over Hughes, 16-2; Keathley over Walton, 4-2.

CLASS A: Sq. 2 over Sq. 5, 10-5; Sq. 4 over LI, 12-3; Sq. 13 over A-Aths, forfeit; F1 over Sq. 7, 15-0; H2 over W-Band, double forfeit; I1 over Sq. 12, 16-12.

On Tuesday, league winners in Class A and B horseshots drew positions for the single elimination tournament that will determine class champions. Class B quarterfinal action begins Thursday, semifinals will be Monday and the eventual champion will be decided Tuesday. Class A competition will be held April 2, 3 and 4.

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