

Aggie holiday baseball trip successful

Perfect 6-0 record gives A&M SWC lead

By KEVIN COFFEY
Sports Editor

Six hours of torrential rain cast an unclimatic ending to the Texas Aggies' holiday baseball trip. A&M covered three cities and almost 1,400 miles and when the fumes of the Greyhound bus cleared, the Aggies found themselves with a 18-4 record and in first place in Southwest Conference play.

The rain wiped out a scheduled double header with Pan American Saturday. The Citrus baseball title and a lot of pride were at stake as the Broncs are totting a 22 game win streak. The wash-out gave the holiday title to Pan Am with a 6-0 record.

A&M finished the tourney with a 3-1 mark after splitting a doubleheader with Missouri and sweeping Kansas. A&M also split with St. Mary's in San Antonio and swept three games from SMU for a 6-0 league mark.

Coach Tom Chandler termed the trip "successful" and expressed disappointment in not getting to face Pan Am.

"If the national rankings came out tomorrow I feel that both A&M and Pan Am would be rated quite high," said Chandler. "They expected 5,000 fans and it would have been a real experience for the boys."

The Ags kept pounding the ball and finished the trip with a .360 team batting average. Fred Russ led all hitters with 16 hits in 28

trip plate appearances. The JC transfer tallied eight RBI, second only to Jim Bratsen's 11.

Jackie Binks racked up two wins to pace the pitching staff. He downed SMU on a five hitter and Missouri one week later while running his record to 5-0 on the year.

Clint Thomas also stopped the Mustangs on five hits as A&M pounded the Ponies 20-0. Thomas' shutout performance dropped his earned run average to a team leading 1.42.

Perry Arthur picked up his second win of the season with a 10-5 win over SMU. Arthur has a 2.66 ERA.

David Lockett, a freshman from La Grange, picked up his first win as an Aggie 8-2 win over St. Mary's. The Rattlers handed JC transfer Don Bravence his first loss in the first game of the doubleheader.

Aggie hurlers put together a string of nine complete games over the holidays. Chandler, not wanting to break his conference rotation of Binks, Thomas and Arthur, threw his relievers and younger pitchers at the beginning of Edinburg's Citrus tournament.

Missouri nipped the Ags and Jim Wallace 5-4 after A&M handed the Tigers a 7-1 lashing. Scheumack allowed just two hits in hurling the Aggies to their first tourney win. He suffered strings of wildness as the lanky frosh walked eight batters but three A&M double plays kept all Missouri rallies from flourishing.

Russ' 2 of 2 and three RBI paced the Aggie offensive attack. Al Thurmond wielded the big A&M bat in the second game. His first inning home run gave A&M a 2-0 lead but the Tigers picked up three runs in the bottom of the third to spell Wallace's defeat. Wallace, A&M's No. 2 relief pitcher, almost doubled his total innings for the year with 5½ in taking his first loss of the season.

The Ags, perked up by the impending contest with Pan American and some needling from the Kansas players the night before, blasted the Jayhawks 7-2 and 8-2.

Binks gave up a season's high of nine hits to the Jayhawks but the Ags pounded out 12. John Woods, who battled a mild slump the entire trip, seemed to break loose with three hits in four appearances.

Juhl, the only hurler to make two starts on the trip, collected the win in the second game. He held the Birds to six hits and

his teammates collected another dozen.

Russ continued his hitting streak with a 2 for 3 day, including a home run.

Overall the Aggies registered 102 hits in 283 appearances. "We hit the ball real well but we were a little disappointed with some

of the pitching," said Chandler. "We did get to use the warm weather to get into better shape. I hope we just keep improving and swing the bat good."

Russ' .571 average for the trip led all hitters, followed by Thurmond with .421 and Paul Miller at .416. Miller took the team home run lead, his third round tripper

of the year. Thurmond hit the first and second four baggers of the year.

The Aggies return to conference action Friday and Saturday against Arkansas on Kyle Field.

Chandler said his league leading Aggies "will have to roll up our sleeves and work hard. We can't just sit on our lead."

SWC standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Texas A&M	6	0	1.000	18	4	.818
Texas	7	2	.777	24	2	.923
TCU	6	3	.667	14	7	.667
Rice	5	4	.555	12	6	.667
Baylor	4	3	.500	12	9	.571
Arkansas	3	3	.500	8	6	.571
Texas Tech	2	4	.260	4	11	.266
Houston	1	6	.167	7	13	.350
SMU	0	9	.000	5	14	.264

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Monday — Baylor 4-3, Kearney State 3-0.
Tuesday — Kansas State 2-2, Arkansas 1-1; Sam Houston 6-8, Houston 2-7; Southeast Oklahoma 8-14, SMU 5-8; Texas 9-13, Texas Lutheran 9-1; St. Mary's 9-2, Texas A&M 2-8; Rice 5-12, St. Edward's 0-4; TCU 9-10, Learney State 2-1.
Wednesday — Kearney State 7-9, SMU 2-7.
Thursday — Texas A&M 7-4, Missouri 1-5.
Friday — Arkansas 4, SMU 2, Texas Tech 5, Texas 8; Rice 4, TCU 0; Texas A&M 7-8, Kansas 2-5; Baylor at Houston, p.p.d., rain.
Saturday — Arkansas, 11-6, SMU 3-2; Texas 5-16, Texas Tech 0-1; TCU 9-1, Rice 0-1; A&M versus Pan American, cancelled, rain; Baylor at Houston, p.p.d., rain.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday — Mankato State at Arkansas (2), Baylor at Houston.
Tuesday — Washington at Rice (2), Nebraska at TCU (2); Baylor at Houston (2).
Wednesday — William Jewell at Arkansas (2); Nebraska at SMU (2); St. Mary's at Rice (2).
Friday — Arkansas at Texas A&M; TCU at Baylor; SMU at Texas; Texas Tech at Rice.
Saturday — Arkansas at A&M (2); TCU at Baylor (2); SMU at Texas (2); Texas Tech at Rice (2).

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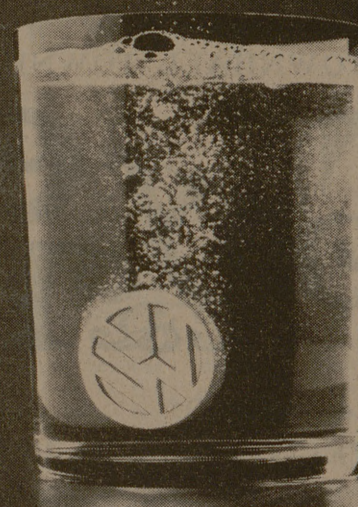
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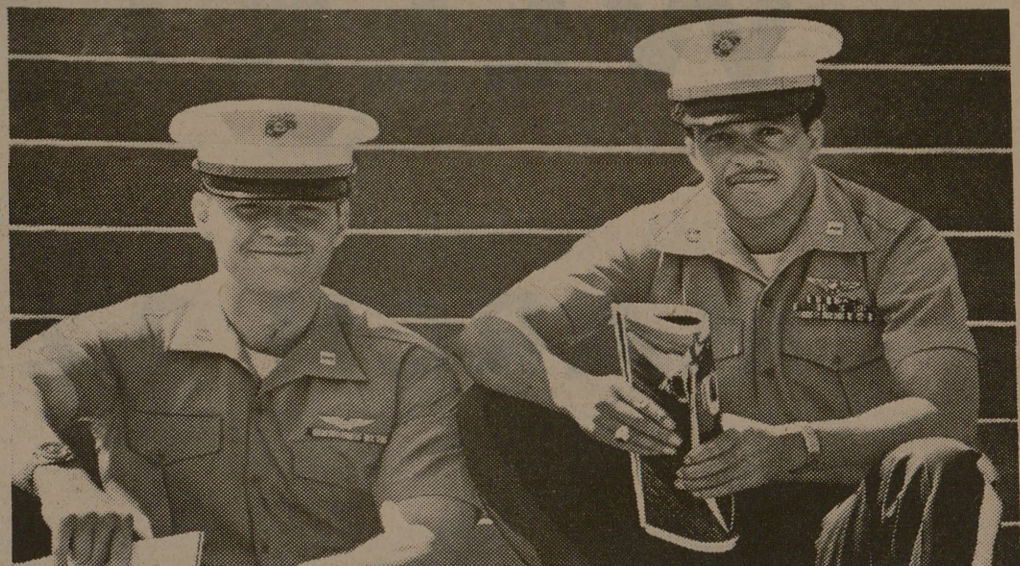
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