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Baseball drops 2 of 3; SWC tightens

Coogs dominate Aggies, UT sweeps Baylor

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

It happened again! The A&M baseball team jumped to a great start in the conference race, got past a couple of tough teams with tough pitchers without a loss and went off to the University of Houston to demolish the Cougars' lowly pitching corps with their powerful bats.

The opposite happened. The A&M pitching staff showed what coach Tom Chandler had warned about at the beginning of the season; lack of depth.

The Houston batters shelled Aggie pitchers this past weekend as UH took two out of three from the Ags.

A&M's two losses, combined with Texas' three game sweep of Baylor, cuts the Aggies' SWC lead to 34 percentage points.

The Aggies suffered their first conference loss of the season to the Coogs on Friday, 13-6, in what could hardly be described as a pitching duel. Ag ace Jackie Binks picked up the loss, his first of the season, after only an inning and a third of duty. The Cougars slammed four hits off of Binks and were awarded two bases on a walk plus a hit batter.

David Lockett took over for Binks and went two and a third giving up six runs to give Houston a 10-3 lead. Don Bravenec finished off the mound chores for the Ags in the first game.

The normally hot Aggie bats were also quiet Friday as they recorded only five softies.

Jim Bratsen was credited with two of those hits.

The Aggie bats returned to peak efficiency in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader as they defeated Houston 18-13 in one extra inning.

The Ags started off right in the first inning on a double by Paul Miller, a single by John Woods and a double by Jim Hacker at which point Houston coach Lovett Hill made his first pitcher change of the game. Jim Bratsen was walked and designated hitter Al Thurmond followed with a double. Fred Russ sacrificed to put A&M up 5-0.

But Houston retaliated in the first inning with two singles, a double and a walk to close the gap to 5-4.

In the Ag third, Tommy Hawthorne doubled and was driven in

on Bill Raymer's single. Thanks to two Houston errors and Bratsen's single in the fourth, Woods scored to put the Aggies in front 7-4.

But again came the Cougars in the bottom of the fourth to hand Ag pitchers. The Coogs rallied to knot the game as seven all.

In the fifth the Aggies' Raymer beat a dropped ball to first and advanced when Sandy Bate singled. Paul Miller then blasted a 400 foot homer over the left field fence to pick up three rbi's and send the Ags into the lead again.

The Ags then brought Jimmy Juhl to the mound, and he promptly walked three batters. One of those, Tom Dushinski scored on an error, then Mark Stevens scored on pinch-hitter Irl Kincaid's sacrifice fly to center.

Dave Vinson then placed a shot just 15 feet in front of Miller's blast to drive in two more runs and send the Cougars ahead 12-10.

The Cougars scored once in the sixth to make the score 13-10 going into the last inning.

But Bate saved the day for the Ags by sending a ball 390 feet over the left field barrier. Miller then singled, advanced to third on Hacker's fourth double of the game and gained home plate courtesy of a balk on Houston pitcher Danny Lee.

Hacker scored on a single by Bratsen to end the inning.

Jim Wallace, the Ags third pitcher of the game, retired Houston batters in order in the bottom of the seventh to force the

game into an extra inning.

The Aggies came back and scored five runs in the eighth on doubles by Raymer and Craig Hodges, and singles by Bate, Miller and David Bukkamper.

Houston failed to score on Wallace's clutch pitching to give A&M the win.

The Aggies then used four pitchers in dropping the third game of the series.

Ags managed only six hits and six runs as Houston took the game and the series, 9-6.

The only bright spots were Tacker's fifth double of the day and a two base drive by Raymer.

The Cougars took the lead, 1-0 in the third on two singles and a double. But the Ags retaliated in the top of the fourth with three runs, to take the lead back.

But then the Aggie pitching

staff, failing to throw strikes, allowed seven runs in the bottom of the fourth to ice the victory for the Coogs.

Steve Reeves doubled off pitcher Perry Arthur to begin a long inning. Kincaid drove out as the next batter at the plate and Mike Gardner flied out left, right after.

But two outs did not phase Cougars or bolster Aggie pitcher

Hurry singled, then Kincaid blasted his third homer of the series to score three runs. Maddox and Kaiser followed with singles, Dushinski walked. Arthur was replaced by Bink. Binks hopes that his arm would be better than on Friday.

Binks managed to walk Steve Enns, who already had a couple of balls on Arthur's account. Binks then walked in a run as Juhl's sacrifice fly and then it was Juhl's turn and he walked one run in. Then forced the final out at the plate. But it was too late. The damage was done, as a three-run A&M rally in the seventh inning was short.

The weekend was bright in some ways. The A&M team's average suffered little in the 33 hits in three games.

In the second game the Ags set a conference record with doubles in a game by an individual with four.

The Ags came close to breaking their own record of 26 hits in a game as they pounded out 22.

The Ags are hosting Corn University tomorrow in a doubleheader beginning at one o'clock.

A&M track squad injured list grows

The A&M track squad returned sore-legged from Baton Rouge Sunday after suffering a 87-40 dual meet loss at the hands of the LSU Tigers Saturday night.

Four Aggies pulled up in the cold, windy weather bringing A&M's injured list to epidemic proportions.

Three new names were added to the injured list and sprinter Sammy Dierschke reinjured a groin muscle in his first appearance since his injury at the College Station Relays March 23.

In the meet's first field event, the long jump, A&M's Tom Owen pulled a hamstring on his first jump of the night and failed to place. The injury is expected to keep him out of this weekend's Texas Relays but he could come back to compete in the Kansas or Drake Relays the following weeks.

Bill Newton took first in the javelin for the Aggies with a toss of 199-3, in his comeback attempt from an injury suffered two weeks ago. Newton managed to win even though he took only four of his allotted six throws as pain in his knee forced his early retirement.

The Aggie 440-yard relay team won with a time of 4:14 as LSU (who ran a 4:12) was disqualified for passing out of the zone.

Scottie Jones injured his leg on the last hurdle of the 120-yard highs but managed to stumble across the finish line to grab third with a 14.8. Jones has run a 13.7 this year and a 13.5 last season.

After Dierschke's injury in the century, freshman Ron McGonigle ran his finest race of his young college career to take a photo-finish decision over LSU's Robert Pascal with a 1:53.7.

Sophomore Richard McGilvray was a surprise winner in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles with a 54.3 while Craig Carter came out on top in the shot put with a toss of 51-11 1/2.

Don Riggs took first in the high jump, being the only contestant to clear 6-6. A&M's Phil McGuire, who has a leap of 6-10 to his credit, could not get past 6-4 as Tiger hecklers interfered with his concentration.

Frank Zummo became the last entry on A&M's injured list as he pulled up in the 220-yard dash. Zummo was not hurt bad as he managed to avoid serious injury by letting up and trotting across the finish

as he felt his leg tightening.

With last weekend's injuries added to the Aggies' already sizable list of sore muscles, the traveling squad for the Texas Relays will remain somewhat in doubt until Wednesday.

Sams shines in grid scrimmage

Fullback Bucky Sams ran for 147 yards and two touchdowns in leading the first team to a 24-0 victory over the second unit in a controlled spring football scrimmage here Saturday.

Sams averaged 9.2-yards per carry on 16 runs and scored on runs of 20 and 41 yards. Halfback Skip Walker, who got the other two touchdowns on runs of one and 27 yards, netted 76 yards while halfback Bubba Bean ran for 73 yards, quarterback David Walker gained 41 yards and fullback Ronnie Hubby gained 12 yards.

The first offense, running against the second defense, scored one four of eight possessions and made 17 first downs.

The first defense, meanwhile, limited the second offense to seven first downs and 94 yards in eight possessions.

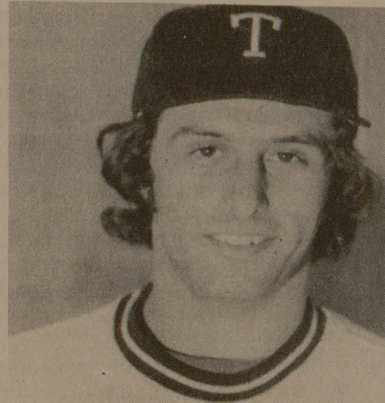
It was a bruising battle that saw Mike Jay, second team quarterback, get a broken nose, first-team linebacker Lester Hayes a broken thumb and first-team linebacker Ken Stratton a sprained ankle.

Prior to that action, there was another scrimmage between the third team and the defense had all the better of it. The offense scored only once, one a 35-yard pass from Carl Menger to Gary Haack.

Coach Emory Bellard was pleased with the afternoon's work. "I thought the first defense played real well and I thought the first offense took some giant strides in the right direction. The offense is getting more physical and its execution was better."

The Aggies haven't been working much on their passing game this spring. In Saturday's action, David Walker completed one of three, a 27-yarder to tight end Richard Osborne. Mike Jay also completed one of three, a 25-yarder to split end Robert Verde.

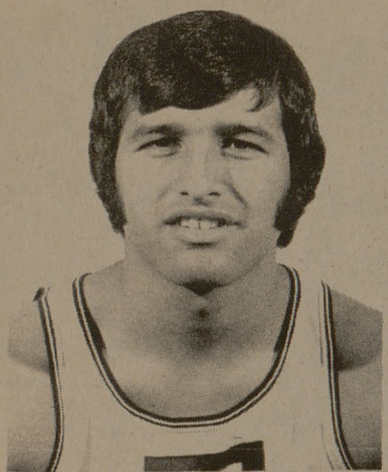
The Aggies resume spring training today at 4 p.m.



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Membership is open to any currently enrolled student at Texas A&M University. The nine month school year membership is \$12.00. Students who join this spring will receive full benefit for the

remaining spring semester and for the entire 74-75 school year.

Students who will graduate before the fall semester are invited to become a member of The Aggie Club in one of the other membership categories. A separate brochure outlining these programs is available at the club office.

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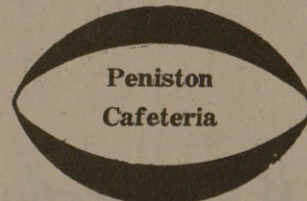
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