

UT takes lead as Ags drop 2 at Tech

Resting Longhorns take advantage into final six games

Aggie pitching failed one game, hitting another and fielding all three as A&M could manage but one win in three tries against Texas Tech in a prolonged Southwest Conference baseball series.

As the University of Texas took the weekend off, they vaulted past the Aggies into first place as the title chase enters the final contests. A&M stands 14-4. UT is 15-3 with six games remaining.

Texas pulled into the lead Friday as A&M fell, 15-13. Saturday's doubleheader was postponed till Sunday as 40 mile per hour winds made the water hungry West Texas plains unfit for man or beast.

Sunday A&M managed a split, dropping the first game 4-1 and winning the nightcap, 5-3.

Defensively, it was A&M's worst performance of the year, committing five errors in the first game which enabled the Raider win despite 22 Aggie hits.

Jackie Binks, still seeking his 20th career win here, was blasted after only 2 2/3 innings. The Aggie hurler, having trouble in the early innings in his last three outings, warmed up twice before the game but to no avail.

A&M equally pounded Tech starter Steve Brock along with several Tech relievers but in the end the A&M errors spelled dif-

ference.

Alan Wilson, making his first road trip with the club in place of the disposed Don Bravenec, was the only Aggie pitcher to have any effectiveness against the supposedly weak hitting Raiders.

Bravenec was relieved of his uniform for disciplinary reasons.

Jim Bratsen sparked a valiant come from behind effort for the Ags but it fell two runs short, Down 15-8 in the ninth, Bratsen pulled his second three-run homer of the day to pull the Ags to 15-

11. Tommy Hawthorne, seeing his first action as the designated hitter, tallied two RBIs with a double but John Davidson halted the rally to end the contest.

Jim Hacker continued his league leading hitting with four hits in Friday's contest. Hawthorne and Bratsen also had four hits each with Bratsen collecting six RBIs.

Clint Thomas didn't get the support of the potent Aggie hitting attack. A&M could tally but six hits off hard throwing Randy Prince and three costly errors

cost dearly.

Thomas gave up only seven hits as his record fell to 6-2.

Tech took a 3-0 lead in the first as two Aggie errors, two walks and a Raider hit put Thomas in the hole from the start. Aggie coach Tom Chandler didn't feel the Ags were getting the best end of the ball-strike calls and his vocal disagreement earned him an exit from the ball park in the fifth inning.

Bratsen continued his batting streak, adding two more in the first game. Paul Miller also tallied two safeties.

Tech threatened to sweep the series but Perry Arthur rallied with his finest pitching performance of the year to halt the Aggie skid.

Arthur pitched under pressure the entire game, leading 3-2 entering the eighth.

The Raiders, spurred on by escaping a base-loaded, no out situation, unharmed in the Aggie half of the innings, tied the game at 3-3.

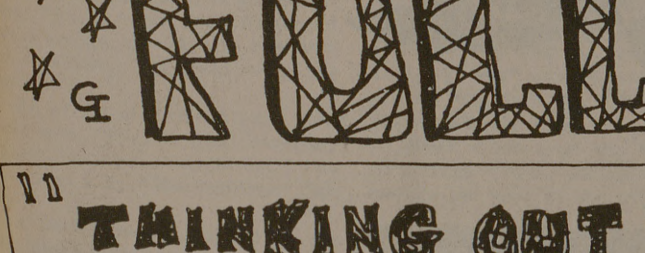
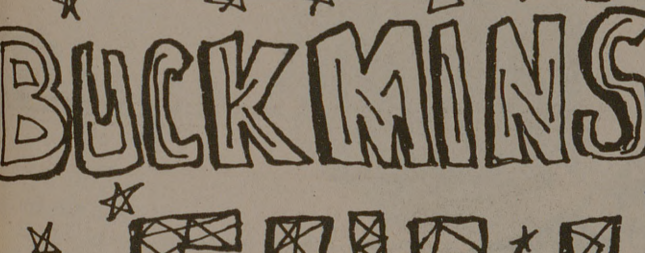
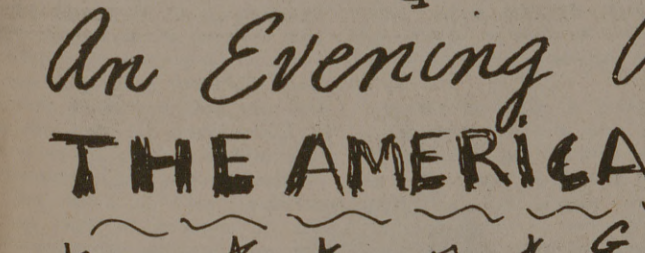
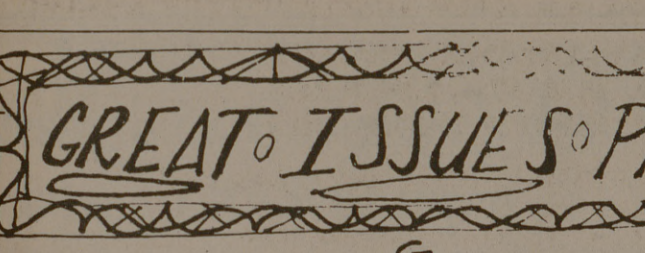
Hacker gave the Aggies the offensive punch with a two-run homer and then knocked in Hawthorne with the go ahead run. Hawthorne reached base on a triple. Bill Raymer gace the Age a cushion by driving home Hacker.

Hacker kept his conference leading statistics with a 7 for 12 series. Bratsen, who now threatens the SWC RBI mark, knocked in seven to bring his total to 26, two shy of the record.

Arthur, racked hard his last two outings halted the Raiders with just five hits, advancing his record to 6-1.

PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



Ags developing in spring training

What was a young football squad with a lot of talent now is developing into a solid football club with maturity and confidence as the Texas Aggie head into the final two weeks of spring training.

With 21 of 22 starters returning the Aggies have shown tremendous progress during the first three weeks of spring work and should continue to make giant strides.

There have been very few changes in the depth chart and although reserves have not won starting spots, they have been challenging strongly enough to make the starters improve.

Coach Emory Bellard has not announced just how he'll divide the squad for the final Maroon-White game that is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 27, at Kyle Field. In the past two Saturday scrimmages, the first team has beaten the second by identical, 24-0 scores, but the touchdowns did not come easily.

If he divides it fairly evenly, it could be one whale of a battle. And, if he decides to leave it first against second, it would get closer because both of the second units have shown a great deal of improvement lately.

The Aggies haven't worked a great deal on their passing game but will go into it more this week, wit some scrimmages during the

week to improve the pass protection.

But, the showings thus far in spring training indicate that the Aggies will field solid, competitive units next fall. It could be a great year for the Aggies.

Skip Walker paced all runners with 116 yards in 10 carries for an 11.6 yard average. His afternoon's work included a 57-yard romp for a touchdown while first team counterparts David Walker, Bubba Bean and Ronnie Hubby also each tallied a six-pointer. Bucky Sams ground out 44 tough yards in 11 carries, most coming through the middle.

Running for the second team, Hubby had 17 yards in four carries for a 4.2 average while Carl Roaches was impressive from his new running back position, gaining 16 yards on four carries. Full-back Jerry Honore had six yards on four attempts, Jim Hartman gained three yards on two tries while quarterback Mike Jay was held to a minus three yards on seven attempts.

Passing still played a relatively minor role in the scrimmage with Jay completing three of six passes for nine yards and David Walker connecting on one of four attempts, a 39-yard screen pass to Sams.

Golfers seek tourney berth

Qualifying still is underway for A&M's golf team to see who'll play in the All-American Intercollegiate Invitation meet in Houston this week.

The Aggies are one of eight schools that have competed in all 19th A&M tournaments.

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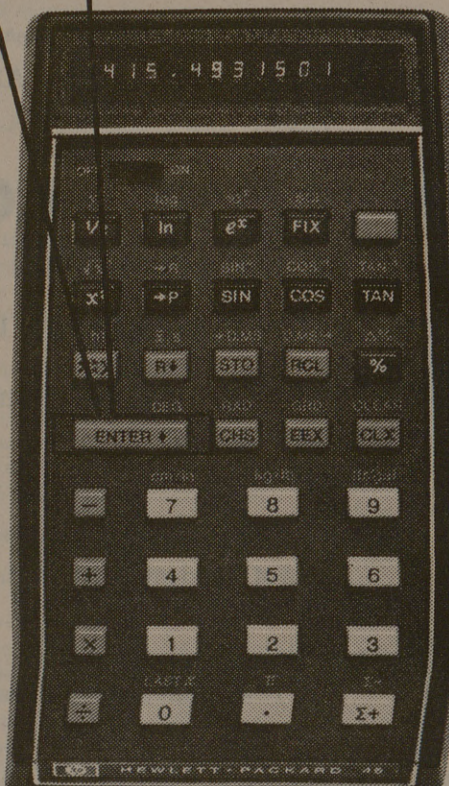
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