

Playoffs still possible

A&M beats Rice 2 of 3

By DAVID WALKER
Staff Baseball Writer

The Texas Aggies entered last weekend's series at Rice with an outside chance of catching the Texas Longhorns in the race for the Southwest Conference championship.

But 50 runs, 69 hits and 12 home runs later the Aggies found themselves in second place for good for the 1975 baseball title chase.

The Aggies won the Friday single game by a 9-5 count and had a comfortable lead going into the seventh inning of Saturday's first game before lightning struck. Mark Clark ended the game with a three run home run and with it the Aggie title hopes.

Clark's home run only brought the end sooner as the Longhorns were sweeping the TCU Horned Frogs in Austin which would have given them the title even if the Ags had swept Rice.

The Aggies regrouped in time to win the third game 10-7 and with it an almost sure spot in the NCAA playoffs. So while the Aggies aren't in the running for the SWC championship they are still very much alive in the chase for the national championship.

This year, for the first time, the second place team in the conference is eligible for post season play. Winning two out of three from Rice gives the Aggies a 30-6 record for

the season. The worst the Ags can do is 30-9 and it is hard to believe that the NCAA could pass up that kind of record. The Aggies end the regular season this weekend with the Texas Longhorns at Kyle Field.

The Rice series was a super series for the fans. It had everything a fan could want, plenty of hits, lots of runs, some spectacular defensive plays and too many home runs. At least for the Ags there was one too many.

Freshman Mark Clark ended the first game Saturday with a long three run shot over the right field fence. Then in the second game he hit home runs his first two times up to give Rice a 6-2 lead. The Aggies, just recovering from the first game shock, battled back to 6-5 in their half of the fourth.

Then with the score the same in the Rice fifth it was time for Clark again. The Rice fans wanted a fourth straight home run and so did Clark.

On the first pitch Clark sent a long high drive to deep center. Aggie center fielder Mike Frazier had run as far as he could to the wall and at the last minute jumped up and over the fence to rob Clark of number four on a spectacular play.

The play by Frazier not only robbed the Owls but it ignited the Aggies who promptly went out the next inning and scored three runs and were never behind again. The victory was an important one for the Aggies because it was number 30.

It marked the second straight season for the Aggie baseballers to have a 30 win season. Over the two year period the Aggies have a 61-19 record.

Two Aggie records fell in the Rice series. Jim Bratsen became the Aggie career home run leader breaking Alan Koonces' record of 16. Frazier tied the season stolen base record held by Mike Arrington.

ton. Arrington had 15 stolen bases in 1967.

Bratsen was red hot for the Aggies in the three games getting nine hits in 11 trips to the plate, scoring four runs and driving in another nine.

Billy Raymer also had an excellent series going five for 10 scoring five times and driving in three runs.

The Aggies didn't do everything with the bat as there were some outstanding plays in the field. The Frazier catch was the gem of the series. Bratsen made a running-sliding catch of a foul pop in the Saturday nightcap for an important out that some thought was the play. Al Thurmond and Robert Bonner also made fine plays in the field to boost the Ags.

The Texas Longhorns come to town Friday and Saturday to close out the 1975 regular season. The Longhorns are 21-0 in SWC play and have already won their eighth straight undisputed title.



Third baseman Kirk Campbell tags an Owl runner (Photo by David McCarroll)

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Batt sports

Golfers get fifteenth in All-American meet

The A&M golf team finished 15th in a 24-team field as the Florida Gators took all the marbles in the All-American Intercollegiate Invitational Golf Tournament winning by 18 strokes and placing first and second in the individual competition.

The Gators led by Andy Bean and Phil Hancock shot a four-round score of 1,158 easily taking the team honors with Houston finishing a distant second at 1,176. Oklahoma State took third with 1,183 with the fourth and fifth places going to Georgia and Arizona State with scores of 1,186 and 1,198 respectively. The Aggies' score of 1,224 was good enough for a 15th place finish.

Gator teammates Bean and Hancock tied for individual honors with a four-round score of 284 to finish the tournament four under par. Others breaking par were: Jaime Gonzalez, Oklahoma State, 286 and Charlie Gibson, Arizona State, 287. The top Aggie in the individual standings was Bobby Baker, who finished tenth shooting a five over par 293.

Coach Bob Ellis and his golfers

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travel to Tempe, Arizona for the Sun Devil Classic which begins on Wednesday, April 30.

Ag netters whip Frogs 6-3 in duel

The Texas A&M tennis team split the top matches with TCU Saturday, but managed to dust off the Frogs 6-3 in the College Station duel.

In Aggieland, seniors are supposed to be privileged with freshmen being at the bottom of the barrel. But TCU freshman Randy Crawford was unfamiliar with this tradition as he defeated the Aggies' senior ace Bill Hoover 6-4, 6-2 in the top singles match.

The Ags weren't fazed though, with Hoover and Charles Emley coming back to take the No. 1 doubles match 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 over TCU's Crawford and Jim Allin.

Coach Richard Barker and his troops will play one more match at Lubbock against Tech Wednesday before the Southwest Conference Meet which is scheduled for Thursday through Saturday.

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