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Ags move up as Horns lose

By PAT EDMONDSON
Battalion Staff Writer

The Texas Aggie baseball team currently holds down second place in the Southwest Conference following a superb holiday performance. The Aggs suffered their first losses of the season, but remain undefeated in conference play with a 6-0 record and are 22-2 for the year. Only the University of Houston at 9-0 separates A&M from a share of the conference lead.

The Farmers opened SWC action against the SMU Mustangs in Dallas March 12. They promptly swept the series from the Ponies, exploding for 37 runs in the three day affair. They whipped SMU, 22-5, 4-0, and 11-0 respectively.

From there they traveled to San

Antonio to compete in the Alamo City Bicentennial Tournament.

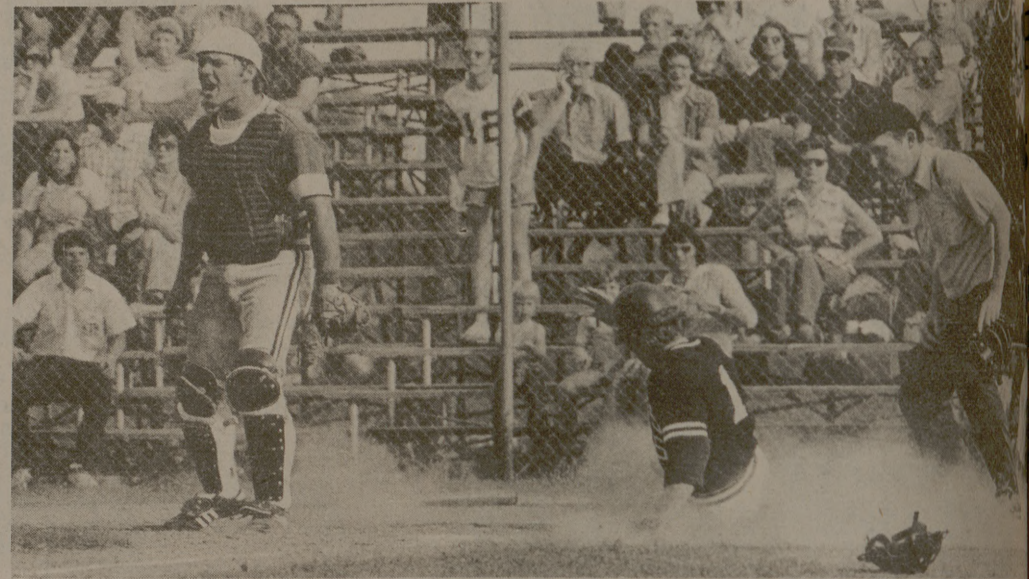
The Aggs knocked off St. Mary's University, 4-1, for the third time this year before Kansas broke the unbeaten string with a 2-0 shutout.

Trinity fell by an 8-0 shutout and the Aggies took two of three from Illinois University. They bombed the Fighting Illini 20-0 in the opener and won the first game of a doubleheader 2-0. Illinois rebounded in the nightcap with a 7-1 victory.

TCU invaded Kyle Field last Friday and went home shaken as the Aggies shelled Horned Frog hurlers in a 13-2 decision. The Aggs then kept their perfect conference mark intact, flogging TCU twice Saturday, 2-0 and 5-4.

Most of the early season success stems from Coach Tom Chandler's veteran pitching staff.

James "Hoot" Gibson, Clint Thomas, and David Lockett share an amazing 18-1 record. They have yielded only 73 hits in 134 innings and have combined to strike out 130 batters. The three-some has tossed eight shutouts and given up a mere 45 walks.



Texas A&M's Buddy Grobe slides safely into home as the Aggs swept a doubleheader from TCU.

Individually, Gibson is 8-0 and owns a 0.38 earned run average. He has not allowed a run since the first inning of his opening appearance. Thomas, 6-1, leads in the strikeout category, fanning 50 batters in 45 innings of work. He is one career victory shy of tying the school record of 21 set by Steve Hillhouse in 1964-1966.

Lockett has thrown 41 2/3 innings, striking out 44 and maintaining a

1.94 ERA. He is 5-0 for the year and has a 15-3 career mark.

In the slugging department, all-America prospect Billy Raymer holds the top spot with a .514 average. He has 26 runs batted in and has crossed the plate 17 times. In 25 games, he has four doubles, one triple, and two home runs.

Following close behind in batting percentage is designated hitter Randy Blanchard at .429. The junior from Lake Jackson has 21 RBIs, rapping out two doubles, three triples, and two home runs.

Centerfielder Mark Thurmond, .403; shortstop Robert Bonner, .366; first baseman Kirk Campbell, .362; and second baseman Buddy Grobe, .333, round out the Aggie hitting attack.

The team will host Minnesota in scheduled doubleheaders Wednesday and Thursday. The Gophers field a well balanced club with veterans manning key positions. Coach Dick Siebert has replaced all-Conference shortstop Joe Kordosky with sophomore Paul Molitor. Molitor hit .345 while handling the second base duties last year. Solid on the mound for Minnesota are stand-

outs Steve Comer and Penn-

The Aggies resume conference play Friday when they visit Baylor to tangle with the Baylor Bears.

SWC standing

Conference	All Games	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Houston	9	0	1,000	.22	9	0	1.000
Texas A&M	6	0	1,000	.22	6	0	1.000
Texas	8	1	.889	.19	8	1	.889
Rice	6	3	.667	.19	6	3	.667
Baylor	5	4	.556	.19	5	4	.556
Arkansas	3	3	.500	.19	3	3	.500
TCU	2	10	.167	.19	2	10	.167
Texas Tech	0	6	.000	.19	0	6	.000
SMU	0	12	.000	.19	0	12	.000

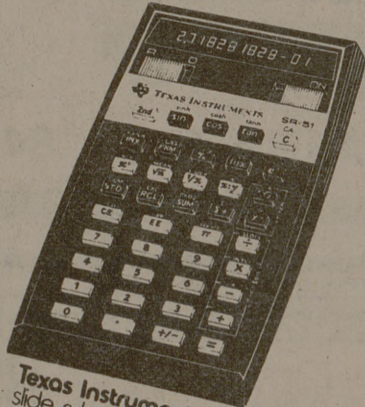
Last Week's Results

Monday — Kansas 2, Texas A&M 4-4; Arizona State 3-2, TCU 10-4; State 3-1.
Tuesday — Texas A&M 2-1, Missouri 2-4; Houston 1-2, Nebraska 0-0; Trinity 0; Texas A&M 20, Illinois 0.
Wednesday — TCU 6, Florida 0.
Thursday — Arkansas 5, Texas Tech 16; Baylor 5, Houston 12; SMU 0, TCU 13; TCU 2; Rice 4-1, Nebraska 3-4.
Saturday — Arkansas 4-10, Texas Tech 4-1; Baylor 0-5; Houston 4-1; Texas A&M 2-5, TCU 0-4; Rice 14-0-2.

This week's schedule

Monday — Lutheran College at Texas; Minnesota at Texas (2); Texas Tech at Oklahoma City (2); Kent State at TCU.
Tuesday — Mankato State at Missouri; Baylor at Sam Houston (2); Missouri at Houston (2); Minnesota at Texas (2); Texas at Oklahoma (2); University of Dallas (2).
Wednesday — Kent State at TCU; Texas Tech at Texas A&M (2); Texas Tech at Oklahoma City (2).
Thursday — Texas Tech at Sam Houston (2); Minnesota at Texas A&M (2); Missouri at SMU; Texas Tech at Baylor; Houston at TCU; Texas Tech at Hardin-Simmons at Texas Tech.
Saturday — Arkansas SMU (2); Baylor (2); Houston at TCU (2); Texas (2); Hardin-Simmons at Texas Tech.

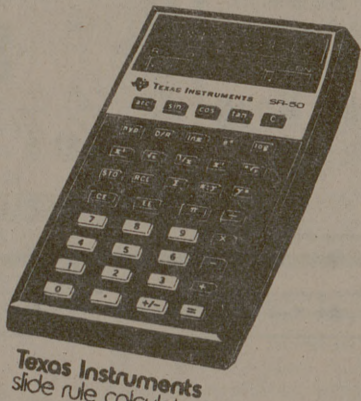
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