

sports

Play two tomorrow

Ags split doubleheader

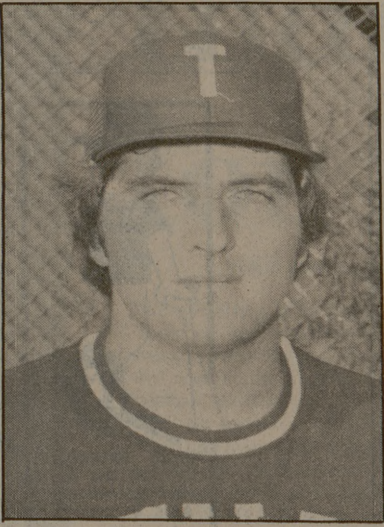
By D.D. GRUBBS
The Texas A&M baseball team ran its season record to 4-1 with a doubleheader split with McNeese State Monday afternoon at Travis Park in Bryan.

McNeese won the opener 5-1. Pitcher Rick Underwood held the Ags hitless through 5½ innings before A&M shortstop Robert Bonner drilled a single up the middle in the sixth inning.

It was the only hit the Aggies got in the first game. They were presented with plenty of scoring opportunities as Underwood walked 10 batters. The Cowboys also committed three errors.

Texas A&M could not cash in on them except in the fifth inning when they pushed across one unearned run on a couple of walks and two McNeese errors.

The Aggies left 12 men on base through the seven-inning contest. Underwood picked up the win for the Cowboys, while freshman Rodney Hodde was tagged with the loss for Texas A&M. Hodde, a lefthander from Burton, was not scheduled to start the first game Monday, but the flu bug bit senior pitcher Jim McWilliams. Coach Tom Chandler decided to go with Hodde, who in seven innings yielded eight hits, seven walks and struck out four.



Kyle Hawthorne

The second game was a complete turnaround for Texas A&M. The Ags bombed three Cowboy pitchers for 17 hits and came away with a 16-2 win. The Ags staged rallies of five, four, and six runs in the last

three innings to account for most of their scoring.

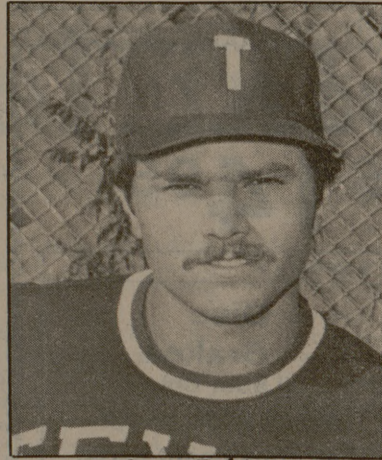
Catcher Kyle Hawthorne had a pair of home runs for Texas A&M: a two-run blast in the fourth inning and three-run shot in the sixth. Centerfielder Mike Hurdle belted his first four-bagger of the season with a three-run blast in the fifth. Rightfielder Shelton McMath also homered for the Aggies; a three-run run job in the sixth. Hurdle also had a triple and a total of five RBIs for the game, while second baseman Steve Robinson was 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles.

Most of the long hits were aided by a 30 mph wind blowing out towards right field.

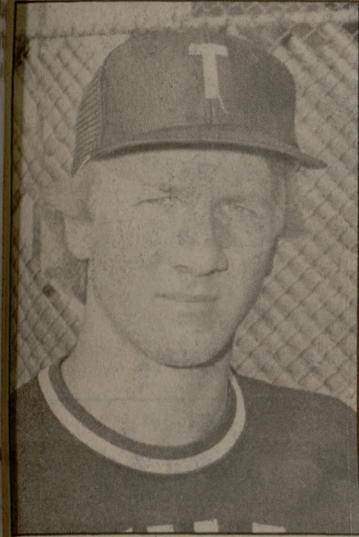
Freshman Perry Swanson went the distance and picked up the win for Texas A&M, his first as an Aggie. Swanson gave up only five hits, walked two and struckout five. Junior Lin Blanchette was charged with the loss for McNeese.

Most of the offense for the Cowboys was provided by centerfielder Jim Young, who had five hits in the double header including a pair of home runs.

The Aggies and McNeese close out the series today with a 1 p.m. doubleheader at Travis Park.



Steve Robinson



Perry Swanson

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Ladies fall to SHS 75-68

By DAVID BOGGAN
Not Von Bunn's near-perfect field goal shooting, nor Julia Crawford's rebounding efforts, nor the support of 20 Aggie fans could secure a victory for the Aggie Ladies last night in Huntsville. They were defeated by Sam Houston State University 75-68.

In their last game before the post-season tournaments, the Aggies got off to one of their slowest starts all year. At halftime, the Aggies were behind 44-28.

"We weren't ready to play ball," Aggie coach Wanda Bender said. "We just stood around out there. We allowed them to penetrate our zone, we didn't block them out, we didn't rebound and we were totally unalert on defense."

After a disastrous first half, a coach's halftime speech is not something to look forward to. But the Aggie Ladies didn't get a halftime speech last night.

"I didn't say anything," Bender said. "I didn't even go into the dressing room. I had given them everything I had; they had to do it on their own."

The Aggies came out in the second half and almost did it. They moved the ball effectively, they hit their shots and they made their defense work. With six minutes left in the game they tied the score 61-61.

Then, with five minutes remaining and the Aggies leading 65-61, a foul was called on Julia Crawford. When she protested, she was charged with a technical foul. The Bearkats made all three foul shots.

They then threw the ball in, scored a basket and never relinquished the lead.

"That technical just killed us," Bender said. "Sam Houston was just fired up and ready to play ball and we were not."

One thing that was fired up for the Aggies was the hot hand of Von Bunn. She hit 12 of 13 shots from the floor, including one 30-footer from the sideline. Bunn had her highest scoring game as an Aggie

with 26 points. The Bearkats' leading scorer was Bobby Bruton with 17 points.

Crawford was the game's leading rebounder with 12 grabs; however, Sam Houston outrebounded A&M 44-28.

The Aggies will return to Sam Houston State Coliseum on Thursday to face Texas Southern University in their zone tournament.

"We are seeded third in the tournament," the Aggie coach said.

"Stephen F. Austin is first, Houston is second, Lamar is fourth and Texas Southern is fifth."

"We need to finish third in this tournament to go to the state tournament. If we play ball like we did tonight Texas Southern will blow us out of the gym. They're fast, they move quickly and they rebound well."

The A&M-TSU game tips-off at 7 p.m. Thursday at Sam Houston State Coliseum in Huntsville.

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