

Ags defeat Cowboys 13-3 raise season record to 5-1

By DERRICK GRUBBS
Texas A&M catcher Buster Turner broke out of an early season batting slump as the Aggies romped to a 13-3 win over the McNeese State Cowboys Tuesday afternoon at Travis Park in Bryan.

Turner came into the game 0-for-9 for the young 1978 baseball season, but went 3-for-4 yesterday with a pair of homers, one of them a grand slam. The Texarkana junior also had a double and finished the day with six RBI's.

As a team, A&M collected 11 hits

off McNeese pitching for their second straight 10-plus hitting game. In the second game of Monday's doubleheader with the Cowboys, the Ags pounded out 17 hits in trouncing the visitors 16-2.

Center fielder Mike Hurdle also had a good day at the plate, going 3-for-5 with a double and a home-run.

McNeese took the early lead with two runs in the second inning, but Turner's first homer, a solo shot in the third, narrowed the margin to 2-1.

The Aggies took the lead in the fifth when they pushed across five runs, the big blow being Turner's grand slam. Upon rounding second base, Turner realized that he hadn't touched first and had to retrace his steps. After two trips around the bases, he finally crossed the plate and the Ags were up by an 8-2 count.

They added three more runs in the seventh and a pair in the eighth, the final two markers coming on Hurdle's two-run homer.

Mark Thurmond got the pitching

win for the Aggies. The junior left-hander went the first five innings, yielding three hits and striking out eight. Freshman Randy McDonald pitched the final four frames for the Ags, giving up three hits, striking out four and recording the save.

The losing pitcher for McNeese was Ray Fontenot.

A doubleheader was originally scheduled for Tuesday, but cold weather prompted the decision to play one nine-inning game instead.

The Aggies have a week off now before taking their 5-1 record in against St. Mary's next Tuesday. That 1 p.m. doubleheader is slated to be the first game played at A&M's Olsen Field.



Battalion photo by Dean G...

Another hit

Robert Verde (No. 16) gets one of A&M's 11 hits against the McNeese State Cowboys. The Aggies defeated the men from Louisiana 13-3, raising their record to 5-1. The Ags next game is next Tuesday at home against St. Mary's.

Town Hall Is Looking For You ... "THE GOOD AG"

In connection with the Crystal Gayle concert, Town Hall will be staging several incidents on the interior campus this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, February 22-24 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Anything from a heartfelt "Howdy" to a helping hand could win you and your date reserve seat tickets to the concert which will be performed Friday, March 3 at — G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7:30 p.m.

To win:

1. Student must be currently enrolled at Texas A&M University.
2. The participant in the situation will determine which student comes to his aid first. None of the participants will be Town Hall members.
3. Town Hall reserves the right to determine the number of staged incidents and the number of tickets given away per day.
4. No student can win more than one set of tickets during the three-day contest.
5. Town Hall members and families are ineligible to win.
6. Town Hall reserves the right to end the contest at any time.



It's last time for Rice seniors

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Staff

While last night's A&M-Rice basketball game was of little significance to the conference standings, it was very important to four members of the Owls' team.

Rice seniors Frank Jackson, James Simmons, Alan Reynolds and Dave Louverse played their last game at Autrey Court as the Owls were defeated by the Texas Aggies 81-75.

"I'm very disappointed for our seniors," Rice coach Mike Schuler said. "I'm sorry that we couldn't go out and get a victory for them. But they can walk out of here with their heads held very high because their work has helped our basketball program tremendously. It has been a privilege for me to have coached

these young men."

A meager crowd of 1,000 people witnessed Jackson lead his fellow seniors in points scored with 14. Jackson, whose wife, Robin, gave birth to an eight-pound-14-ounce girl on Monday, was upset with the Owls' loss but pleased with the birth of his daughter, Jennifer Marie.

"She's just great," the new father said as he handed out cigars in the Rice locker room. "Losing tonight is frustrating, though. I really thought we would beat them. I thought it all week long."

"We made some critical mistakes that we really shouldn't have made. We didn't start penetrating their zone until right at the last. And even then we missed some shots that we should have hit."

Jackson hit five of 10 shots from

the field and made four of six attempted free throws. But it was a junior, Elbert Darden, who kept the Owls in the ball game. Darden made 12 of 20 from the floor and never missed in seven attempts from the charity stripe, totalling 31 points.

"What!" Darden exclaimed. "I hit 31 points? I knew I made some shots, but I didn't realize I made that many. In the second half, I spotted something in their zone and I was able to get inside it and get open. I took my shots and they just seemed to go in tonight."

"We came out ready to win tonight and I think we tried too hard. Also, the Aggies were tougher here than they were at their place, for some reason."

Earlier in the season, the Aggies defeated the Owls 74-70 in College Station.

"We had a chance to win tonight," coach Schuler said. "(Rynn) Wright hit a three-point play that took us right out of the game."

"At first A&M played us man-to-man and we did very good offensively. Once they got ahead, though, they switched to a zone de-

fense. Darden had to come in for us or we would have really been out of it. He had a good offense game."

As for Rice's future basketball teams, Schuler expects some changes.

"Rice has several streaks we'd rather not have," the coach said. "Rice has gone for five years without beating SMU. That streak is going to end soon."

Final Southwest Conference Standings

Team	CONFERENCE			
	W	L	Pct.	P
Texas	14	2	.875	1346
Arkansas	14	2	.875	1133
Houston	11	5	.688	1341
Texas Tech	10	6	.625	1075
Baylor	8	8	.500	1068
SMU	6	10	.375	1123
Texas A&M	5	11	.313	1149
Rice	2	14	.125	1086
TCU	2	14	.125	898

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

First round of the SWC tournament — TCU at Arkansas, Baylor at Houston, Texas A&M at Texas Tech, SMU at Baylor.

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May 11	May 25	2 weeks	\$459	Mar 26
May 18	Jun 1	2 weeks	\$459	Apr 2
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Jun 1	Jun 29	4 weeks	\$459	Apr 16
Jun 1	Jun 15	2 weeks	\$459	Apr 16
Jun 8	Jun 22	2 weeks	\$489	Apr 23
Jun 8	Sep 7	13 weeks	\$499	Apr 23
Jun 15	Jul 6	3 weeks	\$489	Apr 30
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Jun 22	Aug 17	8 weeks	\$499	May 7
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Jul 13	Aug 10	4 weeks	\$489	May 28
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Jul 20	Aug 3	2 weeks	\$489	Jun 4
Jul 20	Sep 21	9 weeks	\$499	Jun 4
Jul 27	Aug 17	3 weeks	\$489	Jun 11
Jul 27	Aug 24	4 weeks	\$489	Jun 11
Aug 3	Aug 31	4 weeks	\$489	Jun 18
Aug 3	Sep 28	8 weeks	\$499	Jun 18
Aug 10	Aug 24	2 weeks	\$489	Jun 25
Aug 10	Oct 5	8 weeks	\$499	Jun 25
Aug 17	Sep 7	3 weeks	\$489	Jul 2
Aug 24	Sep 21	4 weeks	\$489	Jul 9
Aug 31	Sep 14	2 weeks	\$489	Jul 16
Sep 7	Sep 28	3 weeks	\$459	Jul 23
Sep 14	Oct 12	4 weeks	\$459	Jul 30
Sep 21	Oct 5	2 weeks	\$459	Aug 6
Sep 28	Oct 19	3 weeks	\$459	Aug 13
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