

# Aggies lose two games to Cougars

**By DERRICK GRUBBS**  
The Texas Aggies got off to a shaky start in SWC baseball action this past weekend as they dropped two out of three to the University of Houston at Travis Park.  
Senior Billy Blum kept the Aggies off balance in the opener Saturday as the Cougars claimed a 6-2 win. Blum held the Ags scoreless until the ninth inning when they pushed across both their runs on a lead-off single by pinch hitter Gary Bryant, a triple by third baseman Mark Warriner and a single by first baseman Kyle Hawthorne.

The Cougars rapped out 13 hits in the game, most of them off Aggie starter Mark Ross, who was relieved in the eighth inning by Jim McWilliams. Ross gave up 11 hits, walked two and struck out four in taking the loss, putting his season record at 0-2.  
UH jumped out to an early 4-0 lead after three innings, most of that coming on rightfielder Donny Lopez's three-run home run in the third. The Cougars also tallied single markers in the second, sixth and seventh innings.  
First baseman Bobby Hollas led

Houston at the plate, going 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Centerfielder Jay Beard, second baseman Gary Weiss and DH Terry Byrum each had a pair of hits for the Cougars.  
Blum kept Aggie hitters guessing most of the afternoon with his breaking pitches. He gave up only six hits, walked two and struck out three in bringing his season record to 3-0.  
In the first game of the doubleheader Sunday, junior lefty Mark Thurmond notched the fourth shutout of his career as A&M won 5-0.  
Thurmond yielded only three hits and struck out six in leading the Ags to their first SWC win. It brought his season record to 2-0.  
"My curve ball was working good and I felt strong," said Thurmond. "I really wanted this shutout and it meant even more since it broke the ice for us in SWC play."  
Thurmond was aided by good defense on the part of his teammates and some big hits that gave him enough cushion to work with.  
The Aggies' big inning was the

fifth when they pushed across four runs. Most of it came on a three-run homer by pinch-hitter Gary Bryant. It was the JC transfer's first four-bagger as an Aggie and came after Robert Verde reached on an error and Rodney Hodde singled.  
Bryant's blast was immediately followed by a solo homer by right fielder Shelton McMath, who finished as the game's leading hitter.  
A&M scored their other run in the third when shortstop Robert Bonner came across on a bases-loaded wild pitch by UH pitcher John Shannon.  
Shannon was pegged with the loss, putting him 0-1 on the year. He got relief help from Jimmie Cherry and Jeff Simons.  
Four errors by the Aggies in the nightcap allowed Houston to come away with a 4-3 victory.  
A&M took a quick 1-0 lead in the first when Bonner lined a lead-off triple into the right field corner and came home on a single by second baseman Tommy Larsen.  
The Cougars tied it with an un-

earned run in the fifth but the Ags regained the lead the following inning.  
After third baseman Steve Robinson led off with a solo home run, Bonner singled, went to second on a sacrifice by Larsen and scored on a single by leftfielder Robert Verde.  
The roof caved in on the Aggies in the seventh, however, as UH took advantage of two errors by Bonner and scored three runs, two of them unearned.  
Both of those unearned runs came off reliever Jim McWilliams who was tagged with the loss. He had

come on in the seventh to spell starter David Pieczynski and is now 0-1 on the year. Freshman Perry Swanson and junior John Pockus also saw relief duty for A&M.  
Sophomore Tom Lukish went the distance for the Cougars in claiming the win, evening his season record at 1-1. He struck out eight and walked only two.  
The Aggies scattered eight hits in the nightcap, led by Bonner who was 2-for-5 and scored two runs.  
Centerfielder Beard led Houston at the plate going 3-for-5.  
A&M threatened in the bottom of the ninth inning when they loaded

the bases but couldn't get the or winning runs across.  
"Houston has a good ball after Sunday's twinbill. Right now we're just playing around the We left too many men on base the three games) and just didn't the clutch hits. We've got a group now and get ready for the weekend and Oral Roberts."  
The Aggies will take a 7-4 record into their series with the new Olsen Field and will play a single game at 3 p.m. Friday, doubleheader at 1 p.m. Satur-

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## Aggie rugby teams beat the cold and opponents

**By DAVID BOGGAN**  
Battalion Sports Staff  
It was a chilly, but prosperous afternoon for the Texas A&M rugby teams at the drill field Saturday.  
In the afternoon's first contest, the Texas A&M women's team defeated the Houston Hearts 20-0. This made the Aggies 3-0 in Texas Union Cup play.  
The Aggies' first try was scored by fast-running fullback Jan Smalley, who simply swept around the left side and outran her opponents to the goal. A try is similar to a touchdown in football. It is worth four points and a two-point kick conversion attempt follows each try. The first conversion attempt was

missed.  
Lisa Stoeltje ran up the middle for the Aggies' next try and the kick conversion that followed was made by Christine Harju. The Aggies led 10-0 at halftime.  
In the second half, Buff Hildreth took the ball up the middle and added four more points to the Aggies' lead. Harju kicked another conversion to give the Aggies 16 points. Sandy Chandler scored A&M's last try on a sweep to the right side.  
Now 25-1 on the year, the Aggies play Austin on the drill field this Saturday.  
The A&M men's white team fought the cold and the Austin Huns

after the women's game. The came out on top 19-4.  
In the third game of the noon, the A&M men's maroon outscored the Austin Huns 19-0.  
Both Aggie men's teams of the Austin Rugby Club at the field on Saturday.

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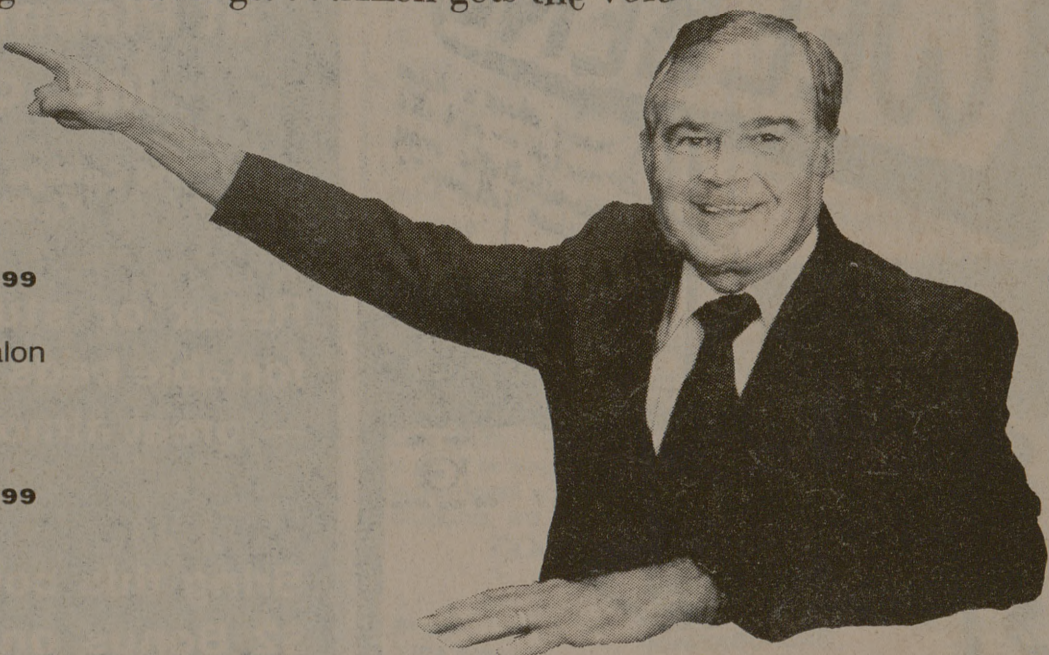
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<b>Friday, 10th</b> Spring Break	<b>Thursday, 9th</b> Cepheid Variable: "Last and the Argonauts" and 10 p.m., Basement Coffeehouse	

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