

Aggies lose doubleheader

By DERRICK GRUBBS
The Texas A&M baseball team suffered its third loss at C.E. "Pat" Olsen Field Wednesday afternoon by dropping a 5-4 decision to Minnesota before bowing to the USC Trojans for the second time in as many days 8-5.

The Aggies lost to USC 5-2 Tuesday in the first game to be played in the new \$2 million stadium and are now looking towards Rice as being the first victims when the Owls come to town for a three-game SWC series this weekend.

The twin losses Wednesday leave the Ags in the throes of a four-game losing streak, their longest of the season thus far.

In the first game against Minnesota, A&M led 4-2 going into the top of the sixth when, after retiring

the lead batter, Aggie starter Randy McDonald walked the next two Gophers in succession. At that point, A&M coach Tom Chandler brought in reliever John Pockrus.

The Aggies got only six hits off Minnesota righthander Scott Rosenthal, who went the distance and picked up the win, his first decision of the season.

McDonald, a freshman making his first start as an Aggie, gave up two runs on four hits in the first inning to put A&M in the hole early.

They narrowed the margin in the second when catcher Kyle Hawthorne slammed a solo home run over the leftfield wall for his ninth four-bagger of the season. That ties the school record set by Byron Barber back in 1961.

The Aggies scored one in the fourth on an RBI double by first baseman Rodney Hodde, and took the lead in the fifth when second baseman Randy Woodruff singled, advanced to third on a throwing error by Rosenthal that put shortstop Tommy Larsen on second and scored on a wild pitch.

Larsen scored when leftfielder Gary Bryant looped a single into center field.

The three-run homer by Lentsch off Pockrus gave Minnesota the edge they needed to hang its first win over A&M in three years.

Pockrus was charged with the loss, making him 2-1 on the year. McDonald pitched the first 5 1/2 innings, giving up six hits, walking five and striking out seven.

The Gophers collected seven total hits, led by third baseman Dan McEachern, who was 2-for-2 with a pair of RBIs.

Woodruff paced the Aggies, going 2-for-2. In the nightcap against USC, A&M committed four errors while the Trojan bats proved too powerful for the Aggie mound corps to handle.

USC pounded out nine hits, led by third baseman Dave Engle, who was 4-for-4 with four RBIs and scored four runs. He also hit for the "cycle," meaning he clubbed a single, double, triple and a home run in his four at-bats.

The Trojans touched Aggie starter Perry Swanson for five runs on seven hits through the first five frames and held a 6-2 lead going into the bottom of the sixth.

A&M got back into the game at that point on a two-out, three-run home run by right fielder Shelton McMath over the scoreboard in left-center field to cut the margin to 6-5. It was McMath's fourth round-tripper of the season.

Chandler brought in junior Mark Thurmond to hurl the final two innings. Senior Jim McWilliams had turned in two frames on the mound in relief of Swanson and yielded only one unearned run.

After walking the first man he faced, Thurmond served up a gopher ball that Engle belted over the right field wall to complete the "cycle," and provide USC with 8-5 margin of victory.

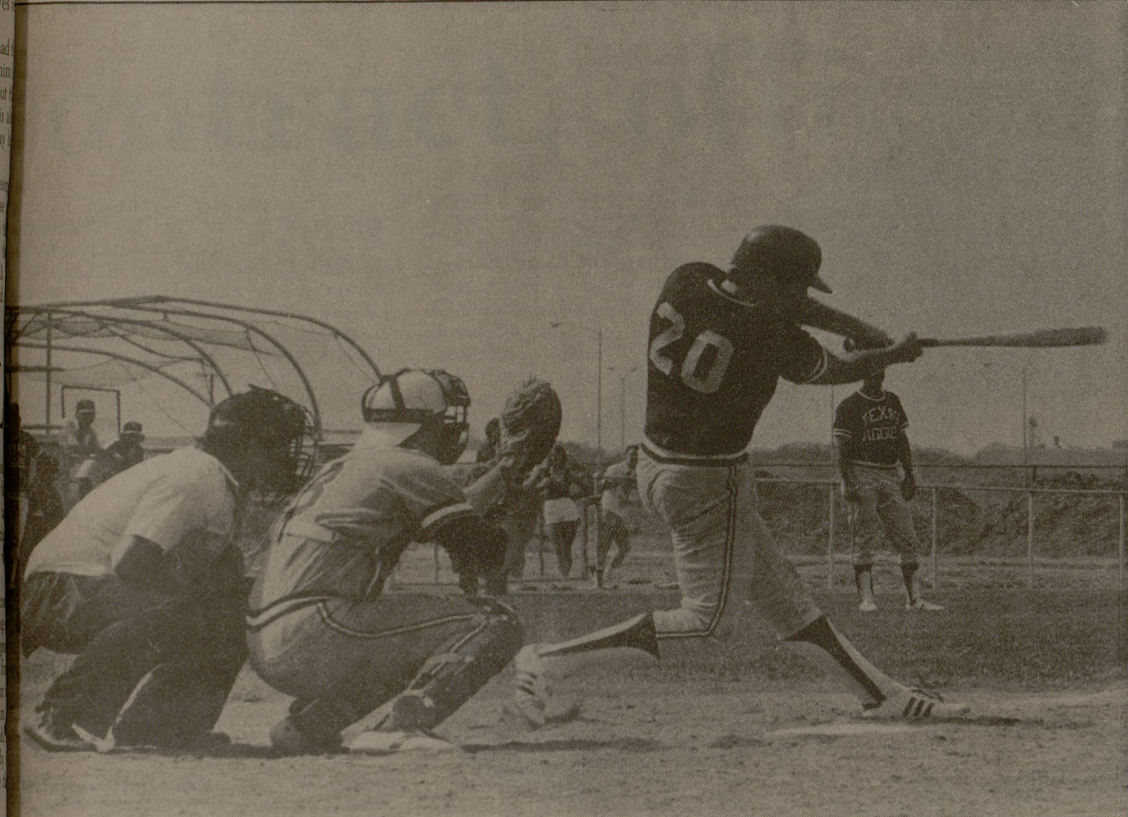
Swanson was pegged with the loss, leaving him 2-1 on the year.

Righthander Ernie Mouritson got the win for the Trojans for his third win of the year without a loss. He got relief help from Jeff Shattinger in the sixth after McMath's three-run blast.

The Aggies got eight hits in the game, led by Bonner and catcher Buster Turner who each had a pair of singles.

When they did get runners on, the Aggies had trouble in moving them around as they hit into eight double plays in the three games against USC and Minnesota.

A&M will take its 16-10 record into the series with Rice this weekend in hopes of improving their 7-9 record at home. They were 7-6 while playing at Travis Park in Bryan and are 0-3 at Olsen.



Catcher Kyle Hawthorne, lifts a fly ball to left field for an out. The junior from Beaumont went hitless against the USC Tro-

jans and the Aggies lost the USC game 8-5. They also lost to Minnesota 5-4.

Battalion photo by Debbie Killough

Sutton says Hogs slumping

United Press International
ST. LOUIS—If momentum is everything in the drive to become the nation's college basketball champ, Arkansas semfinalists Kentucky and Kansas are lucky they're playing each other.

Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton and Kentucky coach Joe Hall gave almost identical evaluations of their teams Wednesday when asked how they had been playing on their way becoming part of the final four.

"We've been pretty much in a decline the last part of the season," Sutton said during a four-way telephone news conference with Sutton, Digger Phelps of Notre Dame and Bill Foster of Duke. "We really want to come back in the next two weeks."

Sutton had a more blunt description of the play of his Hogs in the few games, particularly of their performance against a tough press employed by UCLA.

"We were horrible," he said. "If the Arkansas-Kentucky match-up — the second half of a double-header Saturday at the Checker-Casino — is seen by the coaches involved as a game between teams on their way down, the afternoon's first game should feature teams at their best."

Phelps said his Fighting Irish are at the top of their game, ready to use their depth to outlast Duke and make it to Monday night's nationally televised finals.

"This is the best we've played," Phelps said of his 23-6 Irish. "We've peaked right now. The intensity we had in our last game is really what we've been working for, because we

were really low-key in the first five months of the season."

Foster's young Blue Devils — two freshmen, two sophomores and junior sparkplug Jim Spanarkel — may have been a little shaky at first, scaling heights no one expected them to reach in what was to have been a rebuilding year. But he says his troops are just fine right now.

"I was more nervous against

Rhode Island and Penn," Foster said of two of the teams Duke beat to reach St. Louis.

"I feel better and more confident after our last victory, over Villanova."

"At this point in the season, I don't think anyone is going to put in any tricky plays," said Sutton, whose team leads the nation with 31 victories. "We're not going to ditch what got us to St. Louis."

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