

ports

Ags can jump into lead

# Frogs come to town

By DERRICK GRUBBS  
With a chance of moving into first place in the SWC standings, the Aggies host the TCU Horned Frogs this weekend in a three-game series at Olsen Field.

A&M, at 9-3, is currently in second place, a game-and-a-half behind the running Arkansas, which is 13-3. Should the Ags sweep TCU and the Hogs lose just one game to Tech this weekend in Fayetteville, A&M would move into the top position with three weekends SWC play left on the schedule.

The Aggies come into the TCU series riding their longest winning streak of the season with six consecutive victories. They swept their last conference sets with Rice and Baylor to bring their season record to 22-10.

Wednesday the Aggies defeated the Houston Astros 1-0 in an exhibition game at Olsen Field, but that contest does not figure into the official records.

The Horned Frogs are 10-18 on a year after losing both ends of a doubleheader to Oklahoma Wednesday, 10-2 and 6-3, in Norman. TCU is currently tied with Texas for first place in the SWC with a 4-8 record mark.

The Aggies' pitching rotation for the TCU series will remain unaltered with Mark Ross (4-3, 3.63) pitching the 3 p.m. Friday game and Mark Thurmond (7-0, 2.13) and David Pieczynski (3-3, 3.33) working the 1 p.m. doubleheader Saturday.

The Frogs finished an even 22-22 last season.

Houk is leading the team in hitting while Rosellini leads in doubles with seven.

In last year's A&M-TCU series in Fort Worth, the Ags swept all three games by scores of 5-1, 7-3, and 17-4.

"We think we've got a better club than last year," says TCU coach Elie Maxwell. "Our pitching staff banged up considerably with arm, shoulder and back injuries to five different pitchers. Our staff was very young and untested to start with and the injuries have just compounded the problem."

TCU is a vastly underrated team," says Aggie coach Tom Chandler. "They've got a good hitting club as there is in the league. LaMar, Bellows, LeFevre and Rosellini especially are all proven ballplayers. They also have Brooks at shortstop who was highly recruited out of high school last year."

In that third game, A&M rapped out 23 hits, with Bonner tying the SWC record for hits in a single game as he went 5-for-6.

Maxwell says he has five healthy pitchers who will have to carry the Ags through the A&M series. The most experienced is senior Ruben Melin, who is 3-5 on the year with a .53 ERA. The rest of the group includes junior Dale Arnold (2-3, 3.33), sophomore Cameron Young (3, 5.40) and freshman Greg

Chandler plans to use the same lineup that collected 28 hits in last Saturday's doubleheader sweep of Baylor. That'll be Robert Bonner (.339) at shortstop, Robert Verde (.266) at third base, Gary Bryant (.294) in rightfield, Kyle Hawthorne (.324) at first base, either Mark Warriner (.317), David Pieczynski

or Rodney Hodde (.235) the designated hitter, Mike Hurdle (.317) in centerfield, Tim Feickert (.263) in leftfield, Buster Turner (.266) at catcher and Randy Woodruff (.273) at second base.

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