

sports

Controversy mars SMU series

By DERRICK GRUBBS

The days of the pushover in the SWC appear to be over.

The Texas Aggies found that out this past weekend in Dallas as they faced tough going against the last-place SMU Mustangs in a SWC series marred by controversy.

The Ags edged out a 2-1 win in the Friday night game at Reverchon Park but it took a clutch RBI single by centerfielder Mike Hurdle in the ninth inning to make it happen.

The Ponies battled back to earn a split in Saturday's doubleheader, A&M winning the first game 3-1 but SMU taking the nightcap, 3-2.

In Friday's contest, the Aggies encountered some trouble with SMU hurler Paul Clogowski. The junior right-hander recorded eight strikeouts and allowed A&M just five hits through nine innings.

A&M took the early lead in the fourth on a solo home run by third baseman Robert Verde, his second of the year.

The Mustangs tied it up in the eighth when catcher Fla Strawn doubled to leftfield after two were out. A&M leftfielder Tim Feickert made a diving attempt to catch the ball and appeared to have made the play, bringing about the first of many controversial calls by the umpires during the series.

The ball had popped out of Feickert's glove, however, and the Ponies had the tying run in scoring position.

Following a walk to second baseman Donny Williams, SMU leftfielder Danny Seed looped a single to left, scoring Strawn to tie the game 1-1. Aggie pitcher Mark Ross got the final out of the inning without further damage.

In the top of the ninth, Aggie rightfielder Gary Bryant led off with a single and was sacrificed to second by first baseman Kyle Hawthorne. Mark Warriner's ground out advanced Bryant to third and Hurdle's single scored him to give the Aggies their 2-1 margin of victory.

Misfortune struck A&M in that inning when a freak injury forced Hurdle to leave the game.

Clogowski made a routine toss to first base to hold the sophomore centerfielder close. On the return trip to the bag, Hurdle twisted his left ankle and strained some ligaments. He missed the rest of the series but should be ready for action this weekend against Texas Tech.

The Ags halted another SMU attempt to tie the game, in the ninth when pinch runner Mike Kennemer was thrown out trying to steal second for the final out of the game.

A bench-clearing fight had broken out earlier in the inning when a confrontation occurred between A&M second baseman Randy Woodruff and SMU centerfielder Larry Long in a force play at second. It began as a shoving match but soon erupted into an all-out brawl in which several punches were thrown from each side. Peace was restored after about five minutes and no one was ejected from the game.

The Ponies out-hit A&M 8-5 in the game but good defense by the

Ags kept them from adding to their run total by turning three double plays, breaking the school season record with 44 twin-killings on the year.

Ross recorded his sixth straight win and brings his season record to 6-3. He went the distance walking one and striking out four.

Clogowski, despite an outstanding performance, was pegged with the loss, bringing his record to 3-3.

Hurdle and Verde were the game's leading hitters both going 2-for-4 with an RBI.

The first game of the doubleheader Saturday was another pitcher's duel as A&M ace Mark Thurmond went up against sophomore Kyle Hollister for the Ponies.

Thurmond struck out the first five SMU batters he faced and did not give up a hit until the fourth.

Equally as effective was Hollister, who spun a no-hitter through five innings.

SMU took the lead in the fifth when SMU rightfielder Mike Hughes dropped a solo homer over the short leftfield fence. The distance to the leftfield foul pole at Reverchon is 296 feet and Hughes' ball fell a few feet to the right of it for a 310-foot homer.

The Aggies jumped into the lead with a three-run explosion in the sixth, highlighted by a two-run single by Hawthorne.

Thurmond kept SMU in check through the final two frames and picked up his ninth win of the year without a loss. He allowed only two hits in the game and struck out eight in registering his 20th straight regular-season victory.

The loss dropped Hollister to 1-5 on the year. He allowed just three hits during his five and one-third innings on the mound. Reliever Larry Hughes gave up two safeties.

In the second game of the twin-bill, the Aggies again found base hits hard to come by as SMU starter John Janosko shut them down for six innings until Verde lined a lead-off double in the seventh to break up the no-hitter.

SMU took an early 2-0 lead in the first when A&M starter David Pieczynski gave up a pair of walks and two singles.

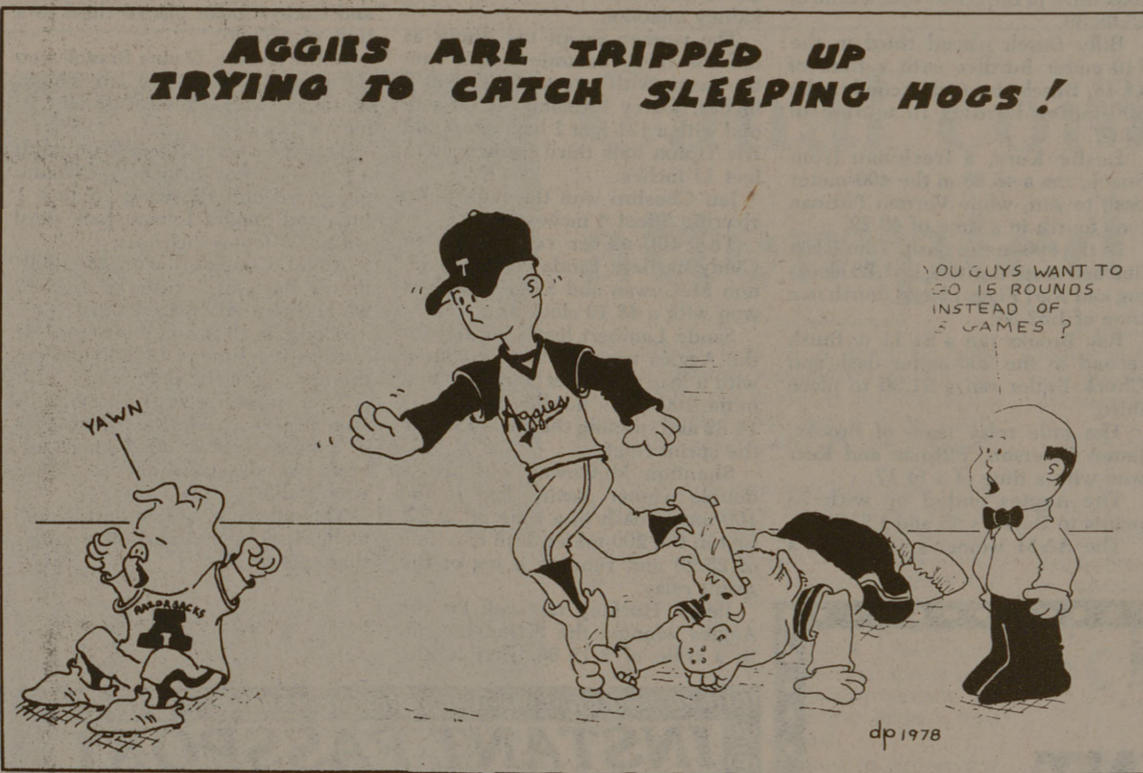
The hard-throwing senior settled down after that and shut down the Ponies for the next six frames.

The most serious SMU threat during that time came in the sixth when first baseman Gordon Ricossa reached first on an error. Hughes then laced a double to left-center field. Bryant made the pick-up, and threw in to Bonner who turned and fired a strike to catcher Kyle Hawthorne to nail Hughes at the plate.

The Aggies, held hitless for six frames, finally made their move in the seventh, beginning with Verde's lead-off double. He eventually scored A&M's first run of the game when Thurmond drove him in with a screaming pinch-hit single that hit the rightfield fence on the fly.

At that point came the first of two highly controversial plays at first base.

With Hawthorne on third and



Thurmond on first, Rodney Hodde grounded a double play ball to the SMU second baseman. Thurmond was forced at second but Hodde appeared to have beaten the return throw to first by sliding into the bag head-first.

Hawthorne scored on the play and the game would have been tied but Hodde was called out at first, igniting an eruption from the Aggie dugout on the first base side.

After about a ten-minute discussion, play resumed with Hodde popping out to end the game.

The 3-2 loss to the Ponies ended the Aggies' longest winning streak of the season at eleven games.

Pieczynski was the losing pitcher and drops to 4-4. Hughes got the win and goes to 5-2.

For the third time in the series, A&M was only able to collect five hits as their offensive production was well below par.

It was the second road loss for the Aggies this season.

The two wins over SMU moves the Ags to within a full game of first place Arkansas who was idle in league play this past weekend. A&M is now 14-4 in SWC play while the Razorbacks are 15-3.

SMU, despite the win over the Aggies, is in a three-way tie for the league cellar at 5-13. They are now 18-24 on the season.

A&M will take a 27-11 season record into a SWC series with Texas Tech at Olsen Field this coming weekend. Friday's game will begin at 2 p.m. instead of 3 p.m. due to Aggie Muster.

Larry Hughes came on in relief once again and got the Ponies out of the inning.

In the bottom half of the inning, Long put his team back in front when his fly ball dropped over that short leftfield fence for a solo homer.

In the top of the ninth, Hawthorne was robbed of extra bases on a spectacular diving catch by Long in right-centerfield.

Thurmond then bounced a grounder up the middle that was fielded nicely by second baseman Donny Williams. Thurmond appeared to have Williams' off-balance throw to first beaten by two steps

but once again, the first base umpire called the Aggie runner out.

The call emptied the Aggie dugout. Both A&M coaches, Tom Chandler and his assistant, Jim Sampson, were ejected from the game in the ensuing argument, as were two A&M players — first base coach Tommy Larsen and pitcher David Pieczynski.

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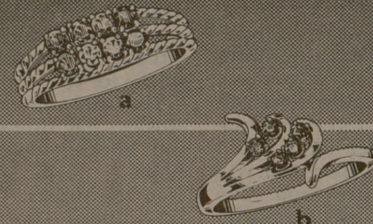
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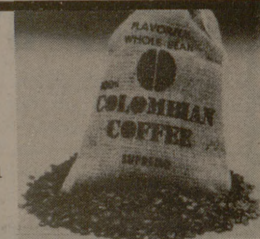
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- House of Dark Shadows _____
- Ulysses (Kirk Douglas) _____
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- Resurrection of Zachery Wheeler _____
- House of Wax _____
- The 7th Voyage of Sinbad _____
- A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (animated) _____
- The Deadly Mantis _____
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- Spirit of the Dead (E.A. Poe's) _____

Please return all film polls to room 216 of the MSC. There will be a special box for film polls in the Cepheid Variable cubicle. There will also be a film poll box next to the Aggie Cinema movie flat on the first floor of the MSC. Thanks for helping us. Deadline: Wednesday, April 19

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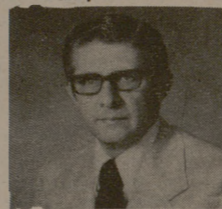
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AMOUNT OF LOAN	MONTHLY PAYMENTS	DEFERRED MO. PAYMENTS	ANNUAL RATE	ADD-ON RATE
3,000.00	97.71	99.17	10.66%	5.75%
4,000.00	130.28	132.22	10.66%	5.75%
5,000.00	162.85	165.28	10.66%	5.75%
6,000.00	195.42	198.34	10.66%	5.75%
7,000.00	227.99	231.39	10.66%	5.75%

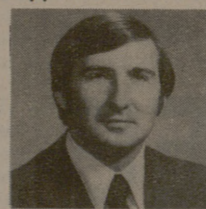
42 months

AMOUNT OF LOAN	MONTHLY PAYMENTS	DEFERRED MO. PAYMENTS	ANNUAL RATE	ADD-ON RATE
3,000.00	85.80	87.05	10.60%	5.75%
4,000.00	114.40	116.06	10.60%	5.75%
5,000.00	143.01	145.08	10.60%	5.75%
6,000.00	171.61	174.10	10.60%	5.75%
7,000.00	200.21	203.11	10.60%	5.75%

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