

the sports

Baseball at last!

# Aggies defeat Tigers 11-2, 3-0

By DAVID BOGGAN  
Battalion Sports Editor

After a weekend of sunshine canceled games, Texas A&M's Field was dry Monday and all was once again at the top of which includes Mom, hot and apple pie. Yes, at long last, the season of peanuts and pop and Cracker Jack in Aggieland again.

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A&M's opening day performance. "Well, I'm not really surprised, but I'm very pleased with the way we played after not being able to work out."

The rains, which slowed construction of the Aggies' new baseball facility last year, this year hampered the team, which is in the process of reconstruction at some positions.

"We are having to depend on a lot of young guys and people we don't know that much about this year," Hawthorne said. "These first games build confidence."

"I know a lot of people on campus, those who follow baseball, are worried about us at shortstop. I'm not worried about it. I know Brian Little can do the job. And Pop (third baseman Mark Warriner) is well and Shelton (McMath, rightfielder) is well. If we can just stay healthy we'll be all right."

Little, a sophomore transfer from North Carolina, is heir to the shortstop throne occupied last season by All-America Robert Bonner.

Warriner and McMath have recovered from knee injuries suffered last season, but the Aggies are not entirely healthy. Outfielder Simon Glenn missed Monday's games with pulled shoulder muscles. Coach Tom Chandler said that Glenn's injury, which occurred in an intra-squad scrimmage, will take another week to heal.

"It is just one of those things that is going to take time," Chandler said. "Simon gives us one thing that we really need and that is speed. He can really move. But we will just have to wait for him to heal."

"Overall, I was pleased with our performance. I thought we should have scored more in the second game. But we did seem to have some clutch hitting. For example, in the first game we were behind by two and we got a clutch hit by McMath to tie the score."

McMath's two-run hit came in the fourth inning with Hawthorne and catcher Buster Turner scoring for Texas A&M. The Aggies scored five

more runs in that inning and never looked back on the trailing Tigers. Senior right-hander Mark Ross was credited with the win as the Aggies out-hit the Tigers 9-3.

In the second game, the Aggies jumped out to an early lead with Turner hitting a two-run single to left field, scoring Warriner and Mike Hurdle. The only other score of the game came when McMath knocked in Rodney Hodde on a triple in the sixth inning. The Aggies had five hits in the game.

Senior left-hander Mark Thurmond won the shutout, striking out nine batters and giving up one hit in five innings.

"It feels good to get in the win column the first day out," Thurmond said. "I think we played real good as a team. We hit the ball good in spurts."

"I think we can have a better team than we had last year. We have the ability. We have more speed. Our hitting and our pitching will come around. And the defense

is always there. We're just happy to get two wins under our belts before playing U of H."

The Aggies begin SWC play immediately, traveling to Houston this weekend. The Cougars, who have had the added advantage of indoor practice facilities, and the Aggies will play a single game Friday and a double-header Saturday.

But first, Chandler's crew must finish its series with Northeast Louisiana. The Aggies and the Tigers play another double-header this afternoon beginning at 1 o'clock in Olsen Field. Senior right-hander John Pockrus will start in the first game for the Aggies while sophomore Randy McDonald will begin the second game for Texas A&M.



Texas A&M's Buster Turner checks to see if he is safe or if Tiger shortstop Phil Keifenheim's tag was in time. Sorry, Buster, it was in time — this time. Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

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United Press International  
MONROE, La. — Leaders move to bring major league baseball to New Orleans announced Monday, saying they stepped up on their efforts for this year.

Joe Bartimo, president of Louisiana Downs Race track, said he formally withdrew a \$13 million bid to buy the club from Oakland A's owner Charlie Finley, who accepted six weeks ago as part of a deal to move his club to New Orleans.

"We are withdrawing our \$13 million bid to Finley for purchase of Oakland A's," Bartimo said from his North Louisiana office.

"We regret our inability to strike a deal for the team, but in view of the fact that there seems to be no reasonable movement in our efforts, we feel that for the best interests of all parties concerned, that we are ceasing our efforts to purchase the club."

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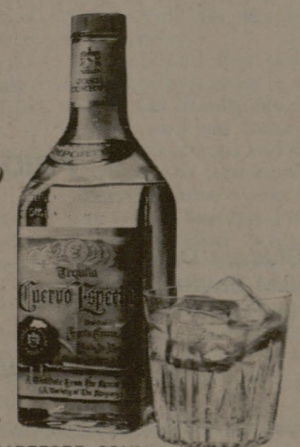
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