the sports

Raiders bump Ags

By MARK PATTERSON

UBBOCK — The Texas Tech-A&M baseball series last end was like a good party; it reat while it lasted, but no fun ing up afterwards. The three s had a little bit of something

veryone. ghting a 30 m.p.h. wind in the game, Mark Ross five-hit the ers on the way to 9-0 win. It is first shutout of the year and fth of his collegiate career. Aggies jumped on Tech

Steve Ibarguen in the first scoring three runs on three Bryan Little led off the game single, followed by a walk to Woodruff.

er an infield out by Rodney e, Kyle Hawthorne slammed a e, collecting his 24th and 25th s of the season. Shelton fath knocked a single to drive in

Aggies added two runs in the solo scores in the seventh and h and two more tallies in the giving Ross, now 7-3 on the and 4-2 in conference, all the ing he needed.

he wind didn't aid me at all," said. "I tried to jam them inso they would jerk it into left. I knew it wouldn't go any-

e out there.
found the strike zone and was
g ahead of the hitters so I was ng them hit my pitches."
e party, and the wind, con-Saturday afternoon in Lub-

But it was the hosts' turn to when the band began to play e Aggies jumped out to an 2-0 lead with Mark Johnston e mound for the Raiders. Little

with a double in the first folby Woodruff's single. odde came to the plate and d a shot at second baseman

my Vestal. The Tech fielder bled the ball, couldn't make a and Little scored for the Ag-

e score remained 1-0 until the inning when Little led off with gle and then scored on Hawths single, giving A&M starter Thurmond a two-run cushion. or only the second time this on, the senior left-hander did leave the mound with a victory. ch jumped on Thurmond for runs in the bottom of the

sending eight men to the

and collecting five straight

After the leadoff hitter struck out, Jeff Harp, Kevin Rucker, Randy Newton, Craig Noonan and Larry Seldy reached base safely for the Raiders. Noonan's single, drove in one run and Seldy plated two with

"I had one bad inning," Thurmond said. "They got three runs quick and it was all they needed. You have to pitch seven good innings to win or it will cost you. It did

'I threw too much straight stuff and didn't change speeds enough. My curve ball just wasn't breaking. I threw 50 percent fastballs and changeups the last three or four in-

"But I gave it everything I had today. I just didn't come up with the

down through the fourth. He was lifted in favor of Bobby Kohler with one out in the fifth.

Kohler came on to pitch two and two-thirds innings of near perfect baseball, walking one and not giving up a hit to the nine men he faced.

The victory was the 16th of the year and the ninth conference win for the Red Raiders. The Tech victory also marked, in all probability, the end of any title hopes the

Aggies held this season.

But the Aggies and Raiders had a third game to play before the party was officially over and the third meeting proved to be the most ex-

The Red Raiders jumped on starter Johnny Pockrus early, tallying three runs in the second inning on two hits and an error by first baseman Hodde. Tech catcher Scott Leimgruber plated one run with a sacrifice fly and right fielder Newton, drove in a pair of runs with the double. The Aggies closed the gap to 3-1 in the fourth on a single by Hodde, an infield error, and a ground out by McMath. But starter

Robert Bryant squelched the Aggie rally to preserve the Tech lead.

The Raiders added to their 3-1 advantage with three more runs in the fifth. Pockrus was pulled with two out in the fifth and Alan Brossesses as its radio for the Buonasera came on in relief for the

After giving up a single to Vestal, Buonasera got the third Tech out to end the rally. It was the last time the Raiders would threaten in the

The Aggie bats were silent until win the tournament we go home the ninth when trailing 6-1, they early."

After Gary Bryant grounded out to open the last frame, Harry Francis ripped a single. Simon Glenn drew a walk from Tech's Bryant and Little followed with a single.

At that point, Tech coach Kal Segrist elected to pull his starter and go with junkball pitcher Steve

Woodruff greeted Dennis with a single to drive home Francis and Hodde followed with a shot to shortstop Brooks Wallace.

Wallace, who had but nine errors all season, bobbled the ball, allowing Glenn to score. Hawthorne followed with an infield grounder that Tech second baseman Rusty Laughlin kicked, allowing Little to

victory."

McMath came to bat and, against a strong wind blowing in from left field, sent the Tech left fielder to the fence with a shot. The sacrifice fly scored Woodruff from third and set the scene for Mike Hurdle.

Hurdle came to the plate with the score 6-5 and men on second and first. But Hurdle would be no hero this day as he popped up to first baseman Noonan to end the game and give Tech the victory.

With the two losses Saturday, A&M fell to 11-6 in the Southwest Conference play and five-and-a-half games behind league-leading Texas.

"Our title chances are more or less dead," said A&M coach Tom Chandler. "We have to end up as high as we can, we have to shoot for the playoffs. But we're not assured of a spot yet.

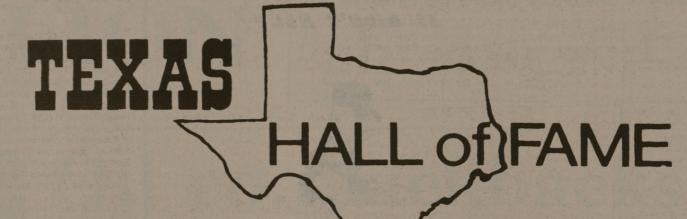
"We need to peak out going into the tournament. We lost the edge the last two years but I hope we can peak our last six games and into the

McMath, the leading hitter on the A&M club going into the Tech series, agrees that the Aggies' championship hopes are bleak. "Our chances are pretty much

gone," McMath said of the championship. "We blew it. We just need to get some momentum now and we've got to win the tourna-

The Aggies are not in the same position they were last year going to the SWC tournament. Last year, the Aggies had a guaranteed trip to the NCAA tournament.

"The pressure wasn't on us at the tournament last year," McMath said. "We knew we were going to go on. But not this year. If we don't



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