

Sports

Baseball team faces Cougars

By MIKE BURRICKER

Sports Editor

The Texas A&M baseball team will play its second consecutive home game win tonight when the Aggies take on the Houston Cougars at Olsen Field.

The Aggies celebrated their first appearance under the home field with a 2-0 win over the University of Southern California before a record crowd of 4400 Wednesday night.

The Ags used three freshmen and sophomore on the mound against the Trojans, and they combined to give the Ags their fourth win of the season.

The Trojans, who are on a spring road trip, may think twice before coming to Texas on their vacation again. Before getting to Texas, they had a season record of 12-9, respectable for the tough Pac-10 conference. This week the Trojans joined a split with the Texas Tech Raiders to give them their only win of the spring break. The University of Texas swept the Trojans in four straight before they came to College Station.

Aggie head coach Tom Chandler said the victory over Southern California was especially important because of the Trojans' reputation as a perennial college baseball powerhouse.

Robert Slavens, a 6-foot-7-inch, 205-pound freshman from Houston, helped his season record to 8-0, tops in the Southwest Conference.

Slavens, obviously not used to the delight in big-time college sports, was off his success.

"We just gone out and tried to do a job, that's all," he said. "I've been really lucky so far. I should have lost a few games, like the one against Arkansas last week (which the Ags won, 8-5). Anytime you give up a run, you're not supposed to do it. I've had plenty of help from my mom."

Slavens said the team is excited about playing the rest of their Friday night games at night.

"I love playing under the lights," said Slavens, who usually pitches in the Saturday afternoon games. "I wish I could pitch under the lights more often, but I usually pitch on Sundays."

Slavens and Rick Luecken, another freshman having a good season, will pitch this Saturday. The game against UH Saturday will begin at 1 p.m. Pitching for the Ags tonight will be another freshman, David Flores. The game will begin at 8 p.m.

Luecken has a record of 6-1, second-best on the team. Flores is 5-0 on the season. Six freshmen pitchers on the Aggie staff have a combined record of 19-1.

Slavens said the major difference

between pitching in high school and pitching in college is the number of batters in the lineup he has to pitch around.

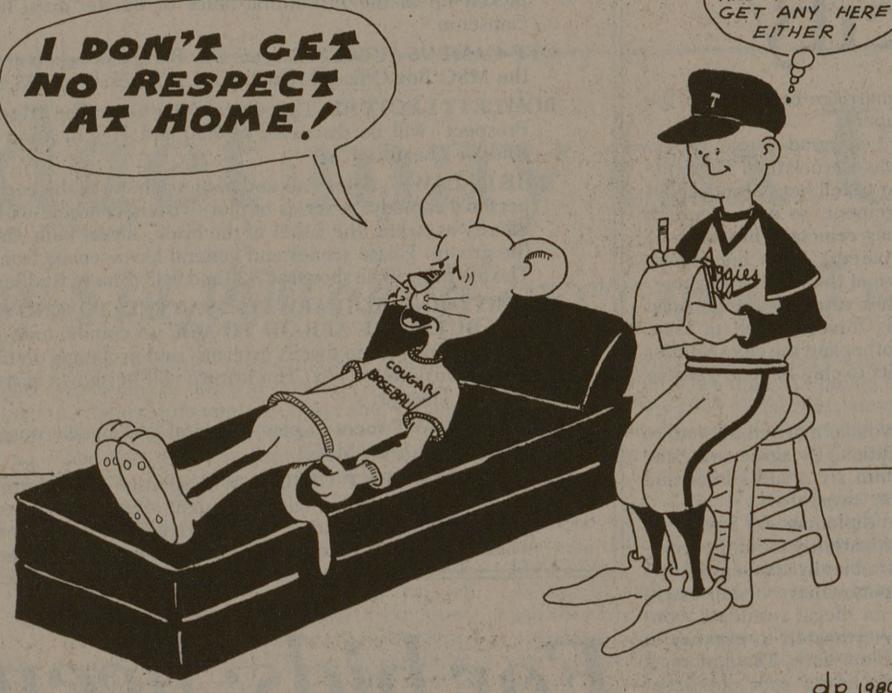
"In high school, only one or two batters in the lineup could hurt you," he said. "In college, there are usually four or five batters that can really hurt you."

Obviously, Slavens has done a good job of pitching around people. Going into Wednesday night's game, he had an ERA of 2.16, second on the team behind Luecken, whose ERA is 1.92. Luecken also leads the team in strikeouts, with 31 in 47 innings.

The freshman pitchers have been getting plenty of support from the Aggie offense, which carried a team batting average of .305 into the game against USC. Junior first baseman Rodney Hodde leads the team with a season batting average of .377. He is three points ahead of senior center fielder Simon Glenn, who is hitting .374. Junior left fielder Joe Paul Bramhall is hitting .361, junior shortstop Twig Little is at .341, senior right fielder Mike Hurdle has a .321 clip and freshman designated hitter Bobby Beach rounds out the over-.300 club with his .317 average.

The Houston Cougars are having their troubles this season. The Cougars, whose season record is 14-15-1, are hitting the ball well, with a team batting average of .302, but haven't had adequate pitching. The team ERA is 5.38, over two runs higher than the Aggies' team total of 3.31.

The Aggies, 24-5 overall and 10-4 in conference, are trying to catch the league-leading Texas Longhorns, who have a conference record of 11-1. The Cougars are 4-7-1 in conference play.



Women running in Austin

By JON HEIDTKE

Sports Reporter

The Texas A&M women's track team will be competing in the biggest outdoor track meet of the season so far when they travel to Austin today to compete in the Texas Relays.

Coach Bill Nix said that the Texas Relays, a two-day meet, is one of the three biggest in the nation behind the Drake and Penn Relays. Nix will take 11 women to compete in the relays and two others will run in the

quarter marathon (6.6 miles).

The Aggies' strength will again lie in the 1,500-meter and 5,000-meter runs. Sandra Brown, in the 1,500-meter, and Lorrie Scott, in the 5,000-meter, are both capable of finishing in the top six places.

Another strength for the Aggies this year has been in the field events. Iris Tipton in the shot put and Vickie Coborn in the discus will also have a good shot at placing in the top six in their events.

Other Aggies making the trip to Austin this weekend include Sande

Lambert in the 100-meter hurdles, Jan Chesbro in the high jump and Karen Morgan in the javelin.

The team of Cindy Barlett, Ellen and Evelyn Smith, and Julie White will be competing in the 400-meter relay, the sprint medley and the 1,600-meter relay.

Barbara Collinsworth and Adelaine Bratton will run the quarter marathon.

Nix will be making his first visit to the Texas Relays, in which no points are awarded and only individual champions are named.

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Class Agents will be elected at the banquets so make plans to attend!!!

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Ags invited to represent state

After beating the University of Texas last week, the Texas A&M women's soccer team was invited to represent the state in the Colorado Tourney on April 18-19.

The Ags, state champions in collegiate play last fall, beat the Longhorns, 5-2, in Austin Saturday.

The Ags jumped out in front, scoring two goals in the first ten minutes, one by right wing Stephanie Barrett and the other by inside wing Carol Sullivan.

The Longhorns, who lost to the

Ags in the state finals last season by a score of 2-1, scored two quick goals to tie the score. But Becky Carpenter booted in a goal from 16 meters out to give the Ags a 3-2 lead by the

Sullivan and Louise Davis score goals in the second half to wrap up the scoring.

The team, coached by Alan Heath, has now beaten the Longhorns three straight times. Their next game will be in San Antonio April 12 against Trinity.

Aggie netters face Mustangs in Dallas

The Texas A&M tennis team, after a close call Tuesday against Rice University, will play two matches on the road this weekend.

The first will be against North Texas State University at Denton today. The team's big match, however, will be played Sunday against conference rival SMU, whom the Aggies upset earlier this season.

The Mustangs were ranked fourth in the nation when they faced the Ags a month ago in the Corpus Christi tourney. The Ags, though unranked, edged the Mustangs, 5-4, for the biggest upset in Texas A&M tennis history.

"We'd really like to beat them again," Aggie tennis player Trey Schutz said. "I know they want to beat us really bad. I like beating SMU because their players are such jerks."

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