

Ags maul Bears in doubleheader

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

Shan McDonald and Lori Stoll, who led the Texas A&M University women's softball team to their best finish ever in 1979-80, started the 1980-81 season off in the same winning fashion, allowing Baylor only two hits Wednesday night as the Aggies swept a doubleheader.

McDonald, who won 28 games last spring, started where she left off, tossing a no-hitter in the first game as A&M blasted the Bears, 12-0.

Stoll, who A&M coach Bill Galloway joked "had a bad day," mastered the Bears with a two-hitter to lead a 4-0 second game triumph. She won 35 last year.

The Aggie Ladies finished third in the nation last year, and the two victories were the 19th and 20th in a row for Texas A&M in regular season play.

Rhonda Reese, Mary Lou Wargo and Nancy Sullivan each had two hits in the first game.

In the fifth inning, left fielder Melody Pritchard led off with a double, and was moved up to third one out later as Shannon Murray grounded out. Sullivan then knocked in the first of her three runs batted in the first game with a solid single up the middle.

In the sixth, Texas A&M plated eight runs on only four hits as the Bears committed three errors.

In the meantime, McDonald was nearly untouchable, striking out nine batters and walking three to make her 1-0 this year. "She pitched a really nice game,

obviously," Galloway said. "Our offense really kind of carried us."

The Bears were controlled by more fine pitching in game two, as Stoll, 1-0, allowed only two hits; striking out 12 batters and walking two.

Reese had two hits once again, and Austgen and Patti Holthaus added doubles.

Galloway was also pleased by the defensive play.

"Vicky Kraus took a ball that was going through shortstop and made a fine throw to get a girl out," he said. "Shannon Murray performed well on a pickoff play, and got a girl on a bunt on a force play at second."

"I felt real good about the young people who came in. I feel especially good about the team. We had a great pitching job to start off the season."

The "young people," Kraus and Holthaus, are utility players Gallo-

way added this year to the squad.

Galloway was also impressed with Pam Whigham, another import, who "really laced the ball good" for a hit in the second game.

Texas A&M travels Friday to San Antonio for the San Antonio Invitational Tournament. The action starts at 10 a.m. Friday when the Aggies play Incarnate Word Academy. The biggest match-up occurs at 7 p.m., however, when A&M plays its down-the-road rival, Sam Houston State.

First Game:
Aggies 000 018 3 12 runs, 9 hits, 0 errors
Baylor 000 000 0 0 runs, 0 hits, 3 errors
McDonald (p), 9 SOs, 3 walks, and Reese (c), A&M; Cindy Maddox (p), 6 SOs, 5 walks, and Susie Wilson (c), Baylor.
Second game:
Aggies 210 100 0 4 runs, 9 hits, 3 errors
Baylor 000 000 0 0 runs, 2 hits, 1 error
Stoll (p), 12 SOs, 2 walks, and Reese (c), A&M; Larita Tweedy (p), and Wilson (c), Baylor.

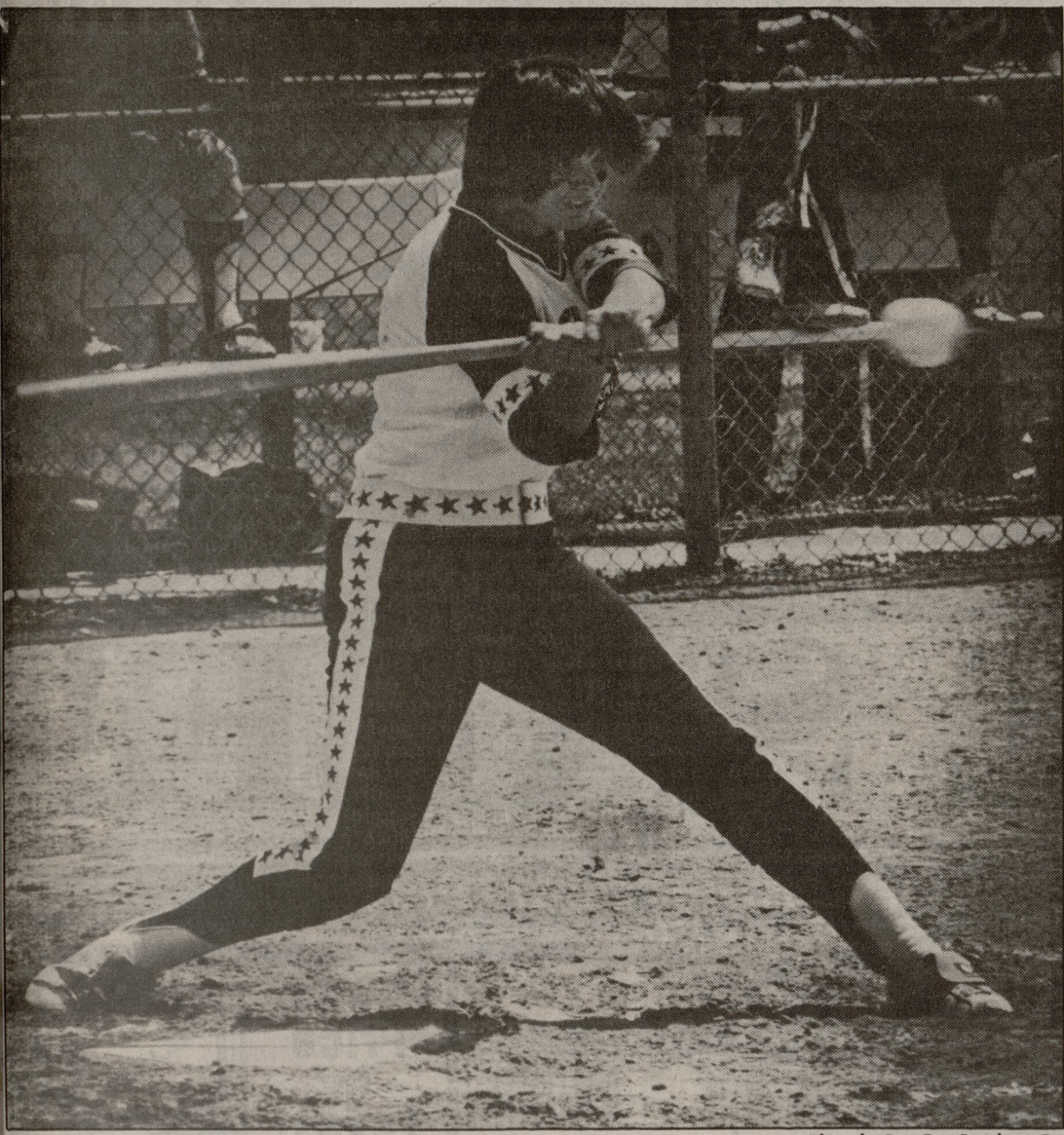


Photo by Lee Roy Leshper Jr.

Aggie softball player Nancy Sullivan steps into a pitch during a tournament last spring. Sullivan and her teammates rode the arms of ace

hurlers Shan McDonald and Lori Stoll to a sweep of Baylor Wednesday, 12-0, 4-0, in the first action of the fall season.

Cruz's HR lifts Astros to 1st place

United Press International
HOUSTON — Jose Cruz slammed Rick Sutcliffe's first pitch to him over the right field wall in the 12th inning Wednesday night to enable the Houston Astros to move into a tie with Los Angeles for first place in the National League West with a dramatic 6-5 victory over the Dodgers.

For Cruz, the second batter of the inning, it was the 10th home run of the season. Bert Roberge, 2-0, earned the victory by retiring three batters in the 12th. Sutcliffe, 3-9, took the loss.

The decision also allowed third-place Cincinnati to move within 2 1/2 games of the lead.

In the top of the 11th, pinch hitter Gary Thomasson singled in two runs to give Los Angeles a 5-3 lead. But Danny Heep's double and Gary Woods' fielder's choice grounder retied it.

The Dodgers threw out the winning run to end two consecutive extra innings.

In the bottom of the 10th, Rick Monday fielded Terry Puhl's hard ground single and threw out Joe Morgan by three steps trying to score from second. In the 11th, Dusty Baker threw out pinch runner Julio Gonzalez trying to score on Enos Cabell's fly to right.

Houston tied the score 3-3 in the seventh. Cesar Cedeno rolled a single into left to score Cruz from second.

The Astros, retired in order in the first four innings, reached starter Burt Hooton for two runs in the fifth on Cruz's infield hit, Cedeno's bloop single and Alan Ashby's two-run double.

Baker opened the scoring with his 28th homer of the season — a solo shot with two out in the first. The Dodgers added a run in each of the next two innings on Mike Scioscia's grounder to second and Steve Garvey's single.

Dodger centerfielder Mickey Hatcher made a sliding catch of Cruz's long blast leading off the ninth and Steve Howe got pinch-hitter Art Howe to pop out and end the inning with runners on first and second.

Landry: 'It's not hard to be humble' with 15 more to go

United Press International
DALLAS — A little more than 12 hours after Tom Landry walked off the field at RFK Stadium, he took time this week to point out that the Dallas Cowboys' season had not yet won the Super Bowl.

But, he said, the Dallas Cowboys' season had won a significant victory. "With only a few hours sleep Tuesday night, I walked out of my offices Tuesday morning across a parking lot toward a hotel where he conducts his weekly media gathering. And as the Cowboys coach neared the hotel he spotted a marquee, which read:

"Tom, it's hard to be humble." "That, of course, is not Landry's style and he simply rolled his eyes at the message.

Regardless of what the marquee says, Landry said moments later, "it's not hard to be humble in the NFL when you have 15 more to go. It is a lot harder to get harder as you go."

Dallas' 17-3 whipping of the Washington Redskins in their season opener, however, was easy for Landry to digest.

"It had a setting for a big game, which it really was," Landry said. "But you can't force a big game. Sometimes it doesn't turn out that way to be an exciting affair. And that wasn't an exciting affair, except for

"We enjoyed the type of approach we took in the game because it is not unusual characteristic of our team to take on another team so strong as we

did in this game and have it end up as it did.

"We felt we had to cut down our errors. We had to stay on the ground, use up time, prevent (Washington quarterback Joe) Theismann from throwing into our secondary — which was inexperienced, but very effective as it turned out."

The Cowboys dominated the game on the ground and despite a youthful group in the secondary — damaged even further on the eve of the game by the loss of cornerback Benny Barnes to appendicitis — the defensive backfield kept Theismann from hitting the long pass.

"Our defense was the thing we felt we needed to win the game," said Landry, "and they did what I thought they would do up front — controlling the running game. They did a superb job. The secondary was a concern and it still has to be a concern. You don't play one game and eliminate our concern back there."

"But I was proud of the team. It's pretty hard to play in that stadium under any circumstances, regardless of how much experience you have. But our guys played well, played tough, didn't make errors that were critical and that was a significant thing."

Landry said the outcome was important from a confidence standpoint.

"It was a very significant game for us," he said. "I think our confidence is very important at this point be-

cause we need to have a confidence factor on offense and defense — in re-establishing Danny White on offense and in our secondary on defense.

"So I think it probably helped us more in winning than it hurt Washington in their loss. I'm sure it hurt them some, but they will probably bounce back. It helped us a great deal because we need these kind of victories for a while."

The Cowboys Wednesday signed free agent Roland Solomon, a defensive back from Utah, to fill in for cornerback Barnes, lost for four to six weeks because of an emergency appendectomy Monday.

Solomon, 6-feet, 196 pounds, had been signed earlier by the Cowboys and trained with the team this summer at Thousand Oaks, Calif., but he was cut when NFL team rosters were pared down.

Solomon was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs and played one pre-season game before being cut again. At both Kansas City and Dallas, he was among the last cuts in the pre-season.

Barnes will remain in Washington's Sibley Memorial Hospital for three or four more days recovering from the appendectomy on the eve of the Cowboys' 17-3 win over the Washington Redskins.

Barnes, who was to start at left corner, will be lost from four to six weeks and removed from the active roster, Coach Tom Landry said.

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