

Sports

'Just no place like home'

Aggies sweep double-header

By RICHARD OLIVER

Battalion Staff

Embarrassed after being swept in a three-game series for the first time in 10 years, the Texas A&M baseball team swept Oklahoma City University in a twilight double-header Monday.

The Aggies play the Chiefs again today in a twinbill beginning at 1 p.m.

After riding the four-hit pitching of Steve Davis to an 8-1 victory in the first game, the Aggies scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh to take a dramatic 9-8 win in the game two in front of only 200 fans.

Nicknamed the "Comeback Corps" by the media, the Ags have won several games in their last at-bat in the last three weeks.

The Aggies are now 18-10 on the season.

A Tim Boyes single through a drawn-in infield scored Terry Lawrence from third base to cap a four-run seventh inning in game two. The Aggies entered the bottom of the inning behind 8-5 after starter Perry Swanson had been victimized by two Chiefs' homers and three errors by the Aggie infield.

Joey Szekely opened the frame with a single, and then Rodney Hodde slammed another safely into right field. Reserve catcher Mark Magee, who hit a grand slam home run two weeks ago against Sam Houston State, continued his heroics with a triple down the right field line, scoring Szekely and Hodde.

Kevin Smith then walked and was advanced to second before Lawrence slammed the first pitch down the left field line for the tying RBI. Boyes then singled in the winning run.

Francis "B.B." Schott, 3-0, received the victory in relief of Swanson.

Swanson had a no-hitter going into the fifth inning.

J.P. Bramhall was three-for-three in the contest with one RBI and two runs scored. David Kennard (two RBIs), Hodde and Lawrence added two hits each as the Aggies tallied 13 total.

Hodde had a solo homerun in the third inning.

In the first game, Steve Davis, also 3-0, strengthened his claim for a starting position with a four-hitter against the Chiefs.

"He certainly upped his stock with that performance," said Head Coach Tom Chandler.

Davis pitched his second complete game of the season, striking out five and walking four. He also went four innings before allowing his first hit.

Davis has one save.

The Aggies, stymied offensively versus TCU this past weekend, regained their hitting shoes early Monday as they scored five times in the third inning.

Bramhall walked and then stole second. Kennard then rifled an RBI triple on one bounce off the center field fence, 400 feet from home plate. Hodde then scored Kennard on a sacrifice fly.

Szekely stroked his second single of the game, and walks to Grant Priess and Lawrence followed. Smith then hit a triple off the right center field wall to score three runs. He ended the game with three hits and four RBIs.

In the fifth, Texas A&M scored three more runs as Hodde led off the inning with a double down the right field line and was brought home by Priess' single. Lawrence was then hit by a pitch. Smith followed with a base hit to left field, scoring Priess. An errant throw from the outfield allowed Lawrence to score from third with the third run, and the Ags were up, 8-0.

Davis lost his shutout in the top of the seventh when two successive line drives to left center and left field respectively dropped just short of excellent diving efforts by center fielder Lawrence and reserve left fielder Stan Claxton.



Tim Boyes

base, said he was waiting for his chance in the second game.

"I was waiting to get up," he said. "I felt pretty confident."

"This has got to help our confidence. We just had one of those weekends last weekend. It'll kind of give us confidence to go into Houston this weekend."

Head coach playing at Pat Olsen Field made a definite difference.

"They (OCU) have a good ballclub," he noted. "But there's just no place like home."

Aggie Notes:

Head Coach Tom Chandler juggled his lineup for Monday's double-header, removing slumping Billy Cannon and inserting regular second baseman David Kennard at shortstop. Clint Heard played second. The duo turned two double plays in the first game, but Kennard had his first two errors of the year in game two and Heard had one.

Grant Priess started at third in place of regular Tim Boyes and responded well, starting one double play after snagging a line drive and throwing two runners out trying for extra bases.

Chandler said he will start Billy Cannon in center field for this

afternoon's double-header against the Chiefs. Chandler said he may experiment with other positions as well.

J.P. Bramhall walked twice Monday night, bringing his season total to 35, only five short of tying a team season record. Bramhall also has 15 stolen bases, 11 away from tying the team record of 26 set last year by Simon Glenn. Terry Lawrence has 10 thefts.

Boyes crucial single in game two was his third game-winning hit of the season, a team high.

Davis and Schott, both 3-0 on the year, remain the only undefeated hurlers on the Aggie staff, which entered the contest with a not-so-sterling 4.87 ERA.

In six SWC games, the Aggies have a fine staff ERA of 2.94, but have a poor .192 team batting average.

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