

Sports

Ag softball team falls to fourth after Series

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor

The 1980-81 Texas A&M softball season came to a close Saturday, leaving the number one ranked team with shattered dreams and without the national title that has eluded them the past three years.

Coach Bill Galloway's squad came home from Norman, Okla. with a fourth-place finish in the 1981 AIAW World Series. Utah State won the Series and captured the national crown for the second year in a row by defeating Cal-State Fullerton Sunday.

The Aggies opened play Thursday, May 21, dropping a 2-1 decision to Utah State behind the pitching of Shan McDonald.

"They are an excellent defensive club. They don't beat themselves," Galloway said of the eventual national champs.

He said that Utah State defeated teams that had earlier in the season had beaten them and that surprised him.

"I was really surprised. They just seemed to play well. They have one outstanding pitcher and got the hits at the right times."

The Ags began play in the loser's bracket Friday and sailed almost completely through for another chance to play in the winner's division.

The women met South Carolina on Friday, defeating them 4-0 with Lori Stoll on the mound. McDonald replaced Stoll in the fifth inning to give her a chance to rest. Later that afternoon, behind Stoll, the Ags beat powerhouse Western Michigan, 1-0.

On Saturday the Aggies defeated Michigan State, 3-2, and Missouri, 1-0, before losing to UCLA Saturday night in eight innings.

The Ags have lost twice to UCLA this season, both extra inning games, the first lasting a record 29 innings. Galloway acknowledged the disappointment the team suffered after losing to UCLA but was quick to point out that all was not lost.

"It's only natural to be disappointed when you set your sights high and fail to achieve what you worked so hard for. But, I guess you could classify these girls as thoroughbreds. They are the type of athletes that expect a lot of themselves and they will never quit."

"They can look back and see the records they have set this year and say 'By golly we did accomplish a lot,'" he said.

The Aggies finished with a 78-10 record, 48-9 in the spring. It was the second consecutive 70-plus win season.

Galloway said that his team was dedicated to achieving their goals and that a lot of individual and team effort went into every game.

Looking back over the year, he pointed out the pluses and minuses his team encountered:

"I guess our ability to win the close games was a big plus. We are not a power team so we had to take advantage of the other team's mistakes and create our own opportunities."

"These girls have been under a lot of pressure all year long. There's not many teams that can come

back (after the past two years, finishing fifth and third in World Series) and duplicate those feats."

On the minus side, Galloway said that the team didn't achieve their offensive goals and, thus put more pressure on the defense.

"Overall we feel that we are one of the best teams in the country and we have proved it again by finishing in the top five in the country."

"We had a good shot at our goals — we didn't achieve them but we are going to pick it up (next year) and give it our best shot."

Galloway said the team played well in the Series. They committed no errors and hit the ball decent.

"The basic thing is that the other teams got a break or two and took advantage of them. You don't always have to be the best team to win."

He pointed out several players who he said had a good Series.

"Mary Lou Youngblood, Patty Holthaus and Karen Guerrero each had a good hitting Series. Defensive, Carrie Austgen played really good. Some of her plays kept us in the ball games. Pam Whigham came off the bench to add some offensive punch, she had a good Series."

Stoll was voted unanimously to the All-American squad for the second year straight. She was also nominated for the Brodrick Award, which is given to the best woman athlete in each sport each year. The sophomore pitcher recorded five no-hitters, four one-hitters and eight two-hitters this year before post-season play.

Stoll has set nearly every Aggie pitching record, winning 42 games this season alone. She has 347 strikeouts and posts an amazing 0.36 ERA.

Stoll's efforts payed off as she was named Player of the Year in the regional play-off and named to the regional All-American team along with five other Aggies, including three infielders and two outfielders.

Second baseman Austgen, shortstop Nancy Sullivan, third baseman Maria Resendez, rightfielder Guerrero and leftfielder Melody Pritchard were named to the region team for their accomplishments.

Austgen, a sophomore, led the Aggies in stolen bases and posted a .950 fielding average.

Sullivan, a four-year letterwoman for the Aggies, enjoyed her finest year for Texas A&M. Holding the school record for defense from her shortstop position, she accounted for 140 assists and put-outs this season.

Resendez, a junior, finished the year with a .281 batting average and .959 fielding average. Holding the school record for sacrifices, she is one of the team leaders in RBIs and game-winning hits.

Guerrero finished as the leading hitter for the Aggies, posting a .318 batting average. The junior rightfielder led the team in stolen bases.

Pritchard, a junior, led the team in doubles, triples and RBIs and finished with a .309 batting average.

Player strike could be delayed

WASHINGTON — Major-league baseball players were awaiting a National Labor Relations Board decision today that could lead to a court injunction forcing club owners to open their financial records.

The NLRB was expected to decide on a ruling by general counsel William A. Lubbers authorizing issuance of an unfair labor practice complaint against the 26 club owners and the Players Relations Committee, which represents management in collective bargaining with the Players Association.

Lubbers' complaint alleged the owners failed to bargain in good faith by "adamantly refusing to produce the financial data to support their claim" that more compensation for free agents is needed for the economic survival of many major-league clubs.

His announcement came just three days before a threatened strike by the Major League Baseball Players Association. The two sides have reached an impasse over the disclosure of financial records.

The NLRB also may rule on Lubbers' request for an order compelling the 26 clubs to turn over to the Players Association the requested financial information and to bargain in good faith.

Lubbers said he would decide today whether to ask the NLRB to seek the Federal District Court injunction — as requested by the Players Association — against the owners for the financial data the players claim they need to verify the owners' need for additional free-agent compensation.

Should the NLRB agree with Lubbers' position, the planned strike could be averted for a minimum of 30 days. The board must approve Lubbers' requests for them to have any effect.

National League player representative Bob Boone of the Philadelphia Phillies said Tuesday that he hoped a strike could be averted.

"The players do not want a strike," said Boone in New York. "I certainly like the idea of buying more time because whenever you can buy more time you have hope. I want to reiterate that we do not want to strike."

Major League Baseball

American League					National League				
East					East				
Baltimore	26	14	.650	—	St. Louis	22	14	.611	—
Cleveland	22	14	.611	2	Philadelphia	25	17	.595	—
New York	23	18	.561	3½	Montreal	23	18	.561	—
Milwaukee	23	18	.561	3½	Pittsburgh	17	18	.486	—
Boston	23	19	.548	4	New York	12	26	.316	—
Detroit	21	21	.500	6	Chicago	9	29	.237	—
Toronto	13	31	.295	15					
West					West				
Oakland	30	17	.638	—	Los Angeles	31	12	.721	—
Texas	24	16	.600	2½	Cincinnati	24	18	.571	—
Chicago	23	16	.590	3	San Francisco	23	22	.511	—
California	22	24	.478	7½	Houston	22	22	.500	—
Seattle	15	28	.349	13	Atlanta	19	21	.475	—
Kansas City	12	24	.333	12½	San Diego	17	27	.386	—
Minnesota	12	29	.293	15					
Tuesday's Results					Wednesday's Games				
Texas 2, Minnesota 1				Minnesota at Texas				Houston 1, San Diego 0	
Cleveland 5, Boston 2				Chicago at Oakland				Los Angeles at Atlanta ppd. rain	
Baltimore 6, New York 4				Cleveland at Boston				San Francisco at Cincinnati ppd. rain	
Milwaukee 7, Detroit 3				New York at Baltimore				Pittsburgh 6, Chicago 4	
Kansas City 5, Seattle 4				Detroit at Milwaukee				Montreal 4, St. Louis 3	
Toronto 8, California 4				Toronto at California				Philadelphia 7, New York 5	
Chicago 4, Oakland 1				Kansas City at Seattle					

Rookie leads Houston to win over San Diego

HOUSTON — When rookie Joe Pittman walked into the Houston Astros locker room Tuesday he saw something new had been added — his name on the starting lineup.

"When I came in, I looked at the lineup and when I saw my name on it, I had to look again," said Pittman, who slapped a game-winning triple in his first major league start to give the Houston Astros a 1-0 decision over the San Diego Padres.

Pittman, replacing injured third baseman Art Howe, picked up two other hits in a 3-for-3 performance to back up a combined five-hit effort by Nolan Ryan and Joe Sambito.

"In spring training I always had it in the back of my mind that I could get here," said Pittman. "When I first came up they told me it would be for 15 days, but other players have come up for 15 days and stayed the whole season. I hope that happens to me."

Pittman's winning hit came in the seventh inning after catcher Alan Ashby singled with one out in the seventh.

Ryan pitched seven innings before leaving the game for a pinch hitter, lowering his major-league leading earned run average to 0.98. He also recorded six strikeouts, upping his total to 54 for the year.

Sambito held the Padres over the final two innings, extending his string of scoreless innings to 12-2-3.

Ashby characterized his performance as "just his best game. Ryan plays along seven innings, goes out, and he runs have scored. You hardly notice it."

San Diego stranded runner scoring position in two innings with Ryan striking out Brooks Perkins with the bases loaded.

end the third and fanning Los Angeles pitcher Juan Eichelberger with runners on second and third in the seventh.

Rangers win fifth straight

ARLINGTON — A manager is always delighted when he sees one of his pitchers who had been down in the dumps suddenly come through with a good outing.

But when two of them do it on the same night it is enough to bring about flip flops.

Don Zimmer's rotund shape precludes his doing any flip flops, but the Texas Rangers' manager would have if he had been able Tuesday night.

First of all Ferguson Jenkins, who had experienced a tough early season and who had been walking batters at an unprecedented rate, held the Minnesota Twins to one run through eight innings and did not give up a single base on balls.

Then Charlie Hough, the forgotten man of the Texas bullpen, came on in a critical ninth inning situation and recorded his first save of the year. It all added up to a 2-1 Rangers victory, their fifth straight.

"Fergie had been pitching defensively," said Zimmer. "He wasn't missing the plate by much. But tonight the man walked out there and said he just wasn't going to walk anybody. That's pitching offensively."

Jenkins had walked 21 men in 38 innings before Tuesday night, but his win over the Twins evened his season record at 3-3.

"I don't ever remember walking that many people before," said Jenkins, who worked his way out of a seventh-inning problem spot to preserve the win. "I just hadn't had the kind of control you need to carry into the late innings. The guys had been playing good behind me, but I hadn't been doing the job and that made me feel bad."

Hough had seen only 18 innings work this year and seeing the knuckle ball specialist enter the game at such a crucial moment was a surprise.

"It won't be the last surprise you will see this year," said Zimmer. "When we were in spring training all I heard was Jim Kern, Jim Kern. I told everybody we didn't have a one-man bullpen."

With a runner on first and nobody out in the ninth Hough got Danny Goodwin to ground into a double play and then struck out Pete Mackanin to end the game.

Texas' runs came on a solo homer by Pat Putnam in the second off loser Pete Redfern, now 3-5, and an RBI single in the fourth by Mario Mendoza. He has now driven in 16 runs, one more than he did all of last year while with Seattle.

"Those are situations where you have to throw your best stuff and hope they strike out or hit the ball on the ground. Fortunately, both struck out," said Ryan.

Howe, who saw his 23-game hitting streak snapped Monday

night, said he was glad to see Pittman do well. "We really needed it. Without his hitting, we were just standing around out there," Howe said. "He's a good fielder and he can play any position."

Aggie tennis camp opens Monday

Head tennis coach David Kent recently announced the dates and times for the Third Annual 1981 Texas A&M University Tennis Camp.

The camp, directed by Kent and Dr. Ronnie Smith, features individual instruction for each camper from some of the top tennis coaches and players throughout the state.

The camp is divided into three sessions, the first beginning May 31 and extending through June 6. The second begins June 7 and runs

through the 13th. The third session is scheduled for July 5 through July 11th.

Each session is limited to the first 100 applicants and is open for advanced, intermediates and beginners between the ages of 9 and 17.

"It's a good chance for people to see A&M and for us to make some money. We provide a service and each year it has grown. We started small three years ago and it has gotten bigger and better," Kent said of the camp.

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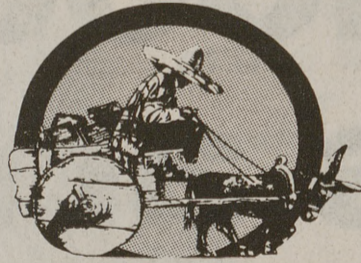
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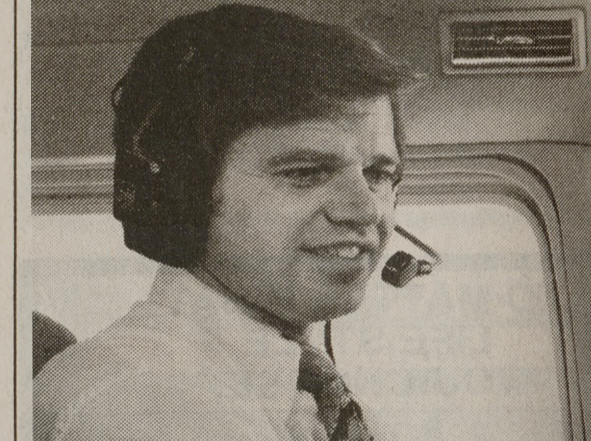
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