

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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staff photo by John Ryan

Sooner split

A&M, Oklahoma divide twi-night double-header

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Reporter

The Aggie baseball team hit three home runs, had 12 hits and played errorless baseball Tuesday but split a double-header with the University of Oklahoma. Texas A&M won the first game 2-0 and lost the second 6-3.

In the first game, Texas A&M starting pitcher Rick Luecken gave up only two hits, struck out six and walked three. In the second game, the Aggies used five pitchers, who gave up 10 hits and five walks.

The Aggies scored their runs in the first game when third baseman Grant Pries hit a 400-foot home run over the center field wall to bring in Dave Kennard, who reached first base on an error by Oklahoma first baseman Kerry Hargrove.

From that point on, Luecken pitched 5 2/3 of no-hit ball and Oklahoma pitcher Bob Straight retired 10 straight Aggie batters

before giving up a triple to Billy Cannon in the top of the fourth inning.

Cannon's triple was the 26th by Texas A&M batters this year, which ties the school record set in 1981.

Oklahoma had a chance to rally with one out in the seventh when Luecken gave up a hit to Sooner right fielder John Russell and walked first baseman Kerry Hargrove. However, Luecken fielded a grounder to throw Russell out at second and struck out Greg Carlton to end the game.

"Luecken had the best stuff he has had all year," Tom Chandler, Texas A&M head coach, said after the game.

Luecken agreed, saying he felt better than he has all year.

"My fastball was working real good," he said. "It was my best pitch tonight."

Luecken picked up his third win of the year against one loss. Straight was the losing pitcher

for the Sooners.

In the second game the Texas A&M pitching staff didn't have as much luck as Luecken, as the first two batters in the Sooner lineup reached base and eventually scored.

Aggie starter Gerry Salinas walked Gary Springer and gave up an RBI double to Kevin Bates to start the game. He then struck out Donnie Graham for the first out but walked Russell and Steve Coleman to load the bases.

Salinas struck out Hargrove for the second out but was pulled from the game after giving up a bases-loaded walk to Jay Searcy for another Sooner run.

Sherman Corbett relieved Salinas and retired the Sooners after Richard Cudjo grounded out to the mound for the third out.

The Sooners scored another run in the top of the second but

were countered by the Aggies in the bottom of the inning, when the first three batters for Texas A&M scored.

Joe Szekely started the rally for the Aggies by hitting the second pitch thrown by Oklahoma pitcher Bruce Hinz over the left field wall for his ninth home run of the year. Buddy Haney reached first on an infield hit to shortstop.

With Haney on first, Cannon tied the game when he hit a line drive homer that easily cleared the 375-foot sign on the left field wall.

The Sooners kept the Aggies scoreless for the rest of the game, however, and scored another run in the fourth inning and two in the seventh.

The winning pitcher for Oklahoma was Hinz as Corbett took the loss for the Aggies.

Oklahoma assistant coach Butch Roberts disputes a call with an umpire in the first game of Tuesday's double-header with the Aggies. One of the

Sooner hitters had hit the ball down the third baseline, but when the ball was called foul, Roberts disagreed, saying it should have been called fair.

Vega's three homers lift Twins over Texas

United Press International - POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — Jesus Vega hit three home runs and a run-scoring single Tuesday to lead the Minnesota Twins to a 6-2 exhibition victory over the Texas Rangers.

Vega gave the Twins a 1-0 lead in the second inning with a home run off losing pitcher Rick Honeycutt. After adding a run-scoring single in the third for a 3-0 lead, Vega made it 4-0 in the fifth with another solo homer off Honeycutt.

Vega added another homer to lead off the

seventh inning, and Ron Washington followed one out later with a solo shot off Rangers reliever John Johnson for a 6-1 lead.

The only run off Twins starter Rodger Erickson, who picked up the victory, came in the sixth on a double by Wayne Tolleson and an RBI groundout by rookie George Wright, who had his 17-game hitting streak snapped. The Rangers added their other run in the eighth on an RBI single by Bobby Johnson.

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