

# The Battalion Sports

Monday, March 28, 1983/The Battalion/Page 11

## Coogs sweep three from Ags to remain unbeaten in SWC

by Joe Tindel Jr.  
Battalion Staff

The Houston Cougars handed Texas A&M three quick Southwest Conference baseball losses this weekend, as the Aggies were unable to prove that the Cougars' No. 4 national ranking is an erroneous one.

Houston swatted the Aggies 9-2 in Friday's game at Cougar Field and returned Saturday to sweep a double-header, 4-3 and 17-2. The losses dropped the Aggies' conference record to 2-4 and their season record to 20-8.

The Cougars erased any thoughts that they might not be a hitting team, as they banged out 41 hits off Aggie pitchers during the three-game series.

Friday's matchup saw Rick Luecken, now 0-2 in conference

play, strike out only one batter in five innings and give up nine of the Cougars' 11 hits during the game. Barry Smith finished the game, giving up two hits.

Houston struck quickly at the plate, bringing in three runs in the first inning. The Aggies' runs came on a Tony Metoyer home run in the fifth and a Billy Cannon double that scored first baseman Buddy Haney in the sixth.

Houston's Doug Drabek, 8-0, was the winning pitcher. Drabek gave up eight Aggie hits through the entire game while striking out seven batters.

In the first of Saturday's outings, the Cougars got seven extra-base hits off Texas A&M's Sherman Corbett, 3-2 and 1-1 in conference play. The Aggies

were up 1-0 until the second inning, when Houston's Gary Wright homered.

The Aggies came close in the fifth inning, as Cannon batted in catcher Mark Magee to tie the game at three. Houston's three runs in the second were the only blemishes on Corbett's performance until Cannon and left fielder Don Robison lost a fly ball in the bright sun. The error produced the Cougars' final run and sealed the Aggies' doom.

Metoyer had two hits and two RBIs in the first game, while second baseman Tim Cartwright hit twice. Despite the loss, Texas A&M outhit Houston 8-7.

The Cougars went wild in the second game, collecting 23 hits, including five doubles and three home runs. Cougar catcher Riley Epps provided most of the

entertainment for Houston by slugging two home runs, knocking in seven runs and scoring four himself.

Phillip Taylor was the first of five Aggie pitchers to try and spoil Houston's fun at the plate, but neither he nor Scott Deskins, Lane Taylor or Rock King could manage any success. Phillip Taylor, now 5-1, gave up eight hits and six runs through two innings in suffering the loss.

The sun was tough on outfielders during the double-header, and one of the Aggies' three errors in the second game came on a fly ball that center fielder Cannon lost in the sun.

The Aggies had only six hits during the second game, less than a third of the hits the Cougars pounded out.

Haney said even though the

series was an important one for Texas A&M, the Aggies should be able to bounce back with a little improvement in offensive and defensive execution. He said the Aggies might not have been up to par in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader because of the disappointment from the first game.

"We just had some bad breaks," Haney said. "We just had a bad series all around. I think it kind of took the wind out of us when we lost that 4-3 game."

"I think we just put the pressure on ourselves."

The Aggies will travel to Beaumont to take on Lamar in a non-conference game Tuesday. The next conference play will come this weekend, when Texas A&M will host Arkansas in a three-game series.

## Chandler says sweep may 'shock' team

by John Wagner  
Sports Editor

Aggie baseball coach Tom Chandler seemed somewhat overwhelmed by it all, but he was still able to put the Houston Cougars' three-game sweep of Texas A&M in perspective.

"Baseball is notorious for being a game of streaks," he said, "and when you're playing well you seem to make the big catches, get the big hits and everything seems to go right for you. Houston is certainly on a streak right now."

That, Chandler says, explains the Coogs' 9-2, 4-3 and 17-2 victories this weekend over Texas

A&M, which dropped to 20-8 on the year with the three losses. But the Aggie coach refused to compare UH's sweep this year with Texas' sweep of Texas A&M in a Southwest Conference-opening series last season.

Last year, the Aggies went 23-9 in non-conference play and headed to Austin with high hopes for a good conference showing. They left with a SWC record of 0-3.

Chandler said he doesn't see any similarities between the two series.

"These kids have been playing good baseball and I just don't see that happening (the

Aggies taking the loss negatively)," he said. "Our pitching is a little thin, but I think if it holds out we can be a good ballclub after all."

The losses, he said, may have a positive effect.

"I think it may shock us a little," Chandler said. "I think the boys will bounce back."

The Cougars pride themselves on pitching and defense — much like the Aggies — but it was their hitting that carried them this time. UH pounded out 41 hits in the three games, prompting a new nickname, "Phi Slama Whamma." Chandler

laughed, but he had to agree.

"We really got wiped out down there. Our pitchers just couldn't control them," Chandler said, adding that the Coogs deserve their No. 4 national ranking.

The Aggies play Lamar in Beaumont on Tuesday before continuing conference play against Arkansas here Friday and Saturday. Chandler said his team is ready to come home to play in Olsen Field.

"We've played our first six conference games on the road," he said, "and I think the team is

anxious to play before the home crowds."

Barry Smith is scheduled to start for Texas A&M against Lamar, and Chandler said the freshman from El Campo, along with classmate Todd Tschantz, will be "getting the ball" more as the season progresses.

"We hate to just throw them to the wolves," he said of his freshmen pitchers, "so we've been bringing them along bit by bit. They're going to be getting the ball a lot more, though."

Friday's game against Arkansas begins at 7:30 p.m. in Olsen Field. Saturday's double-header starts at 1 p.m.

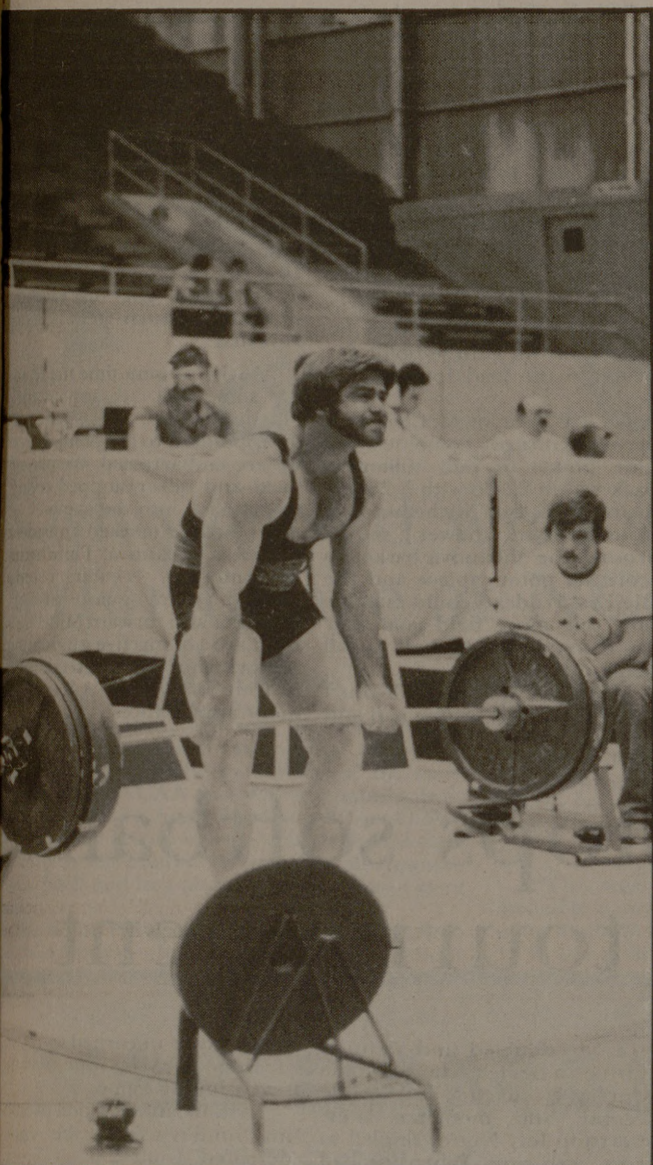


photo by Scott Weeks

Heave ho!

Aggie powerlifting team member Patrick Talley demonstrates his ability by lifting 633 pounds in the deadlift competition at this weekend's national powerlifting meet in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Talley and his teammates scored 62 points to win the national title for the third time in eight years. Temple finished second in this weekend's meet.

Monday  
March 28

Tuesday  
March 29

Wednesday  
March 30

Thursday  
March 31

Friday  
APRIL 1

## The Hottest Event Of The Year

at THE most sought after address in

College Station

9:00 a.m. Friday April 1

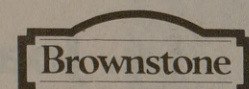
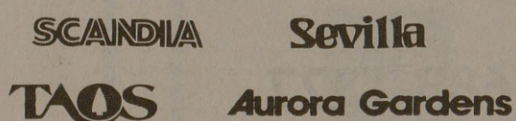
## Summer and Fall Preleasing Begins!

If you missed . . . .

- January — Nacho cookoff with margaritas
- February — Racquetball Tournament
- Valentines couple drawing
- March — Drawing for hot air balloon ride
- Outdoor concert

Don't Miss . . . .

- April — Superstars competition
- Spring dance w/Caribbean cruise for 2 drawing
- May — Kegs by the pool
- June — 2nd annual watermelon extravaganza
- July — Games picnic
- August — End of the summer celebration
- September — Softball Tournament
- October — Pregame warmup parties
- November — Bonfire bash
- December — Christmas parties & contests



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