

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Hogs feast on Aggie mistakes

Breakdown an A&M 'mystery' ...

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

It could have been an Agatha Christie best-seller — "The Perilous Mystery of the Texas A&M Baseball Team."

Unfortunately for the Aggies, however, this weekend's performance was true-to-life, or death, since that's what happened to their chances of a Southwest Conference title in 1983.

In a word, the Aggies played horrible, losing three games to the Arkansas Razorbacks 10-8, 3-0 and 10-9.

The Hogs' sweep bounces the Aggies to a dismal 2-7 conference record after Texas A&M opened the season with high expectations and an 18-4 non-conference record.

In Friday night's game, the Razorbacks set the tempo for the Aggie series by jumping all over the Texas A&M pitching staff for 10 runs. The Aggies staged a

brief comeback attempt in the late innings, but were held off by key defensive plays.

The Hogs slipped offensively in Saturday's first game, but Arkansas showed why they too should be considered championship-contenders after a no-hit performance by sophomore Tim Dietz.

Dietz faced only 23 of the minimum 21 batters for a seven-inning game and he walked only one Aggie. The tall left-hander wasn't exactly overpowering — he didn't record a single strikeout — but he was devastatingly accurate.

Only two harmless fly balls were caught in the outfield by the Hog defenders as Dietz frustrated Aggie hitters by forcing weak ground balls and pop-ups to the infield.

Dietz' performance on the mound, to say the least, was consistent. And that consistency helped Dietz consecutively re-

tire the last 20 batters he faced after a shaky first inning.

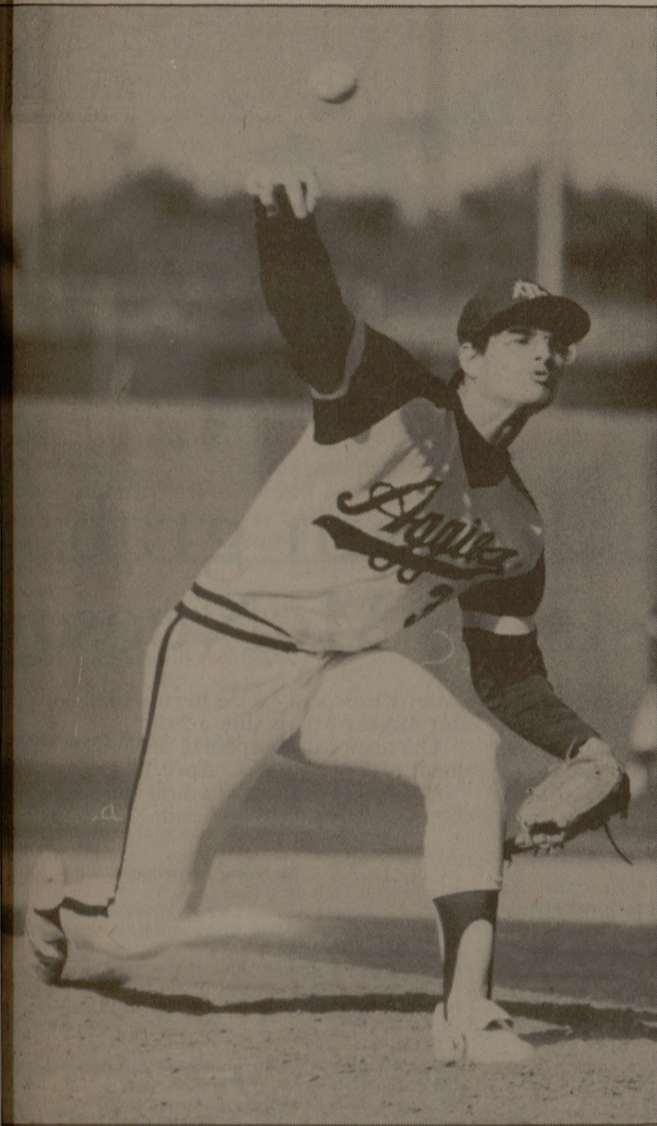
In the opening frame, Aggie Billy Cannon walked and went to second when Bobby Beach reached first on an error by the pitcher. But Dietz and the Razorbacks managed to get out of that jam and cruise through the rest of the game untouched.

The Aggies definitely managed to touch the Arkansas pitching staff in the third game of the series. In fact, Texas A&M molested the Hog pitchers and jumped out to what seemed to be a commanding 9-1 lead.

True to the mystery-novel scenario, however, the Razorbacks came back to baffle the Aggies by scoring four runs in the sixth inning, two in the seventh, one in the eighth and two in the top of the ninth to wrap up the clean-sweep.

With the loss in the third game, the Aggie mystery con-

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staff photo by David Fisher

Texas A&M pitcher Phillip Taylor delivers a pitch in the third game of this weekend's conference series with Arkansas. The Aggies lost all three games to the Hogs and are now 2-7 in SWC play.

... But Chandler says tourney bid still alive if pitching improves now

by Frank L. Christlieb
Battalion Staff

After three Southwest Conference baseball series during the 1981 season, Texas A&M had a 3-6 record. After three league series in 1982, the Aggies had a 3-5-1 record. And after nine SWC games in 1983, Coach Tom Chandler's Aggies have a 2-7 conference record.

Recognize a pattern? During each of those three seasons, Texas A&M has performed well in non-conference games, only to have the bottom fall out when SWC competition rolls around.

This year, the Aggies played their toughest non-conference schedule in years, but still entered a league-opening series with TCU boasting a 16-4 record. Texas A&M won two from TCU, but since then has done an

about-face and has lost six straight games to Houston and Arkansas.

No one expected the Aggies to sweep the Cougars, since they're ranked No. 3 in the nation. And even though they'd fallen to 2-4 in the league, the Aggies could jump back into the race for a SWC tournament berth with a solid series against the Razorbacks.

But the Razorbacks, who came to Texas A&M with a lousy 3-6 conference record, treated the Aggies like a pile of dust and swept them under the rug with three straight victories.

From looking at the scores, it wouldn't appear that the Hogs dominated the Aggies. But they did.

An Arkansas no-hitter in Saturday's first game, a nine-

run Hog comeback in Saturday's second game and seven Texas A&M errors in that second game all contributed to the Aggies' downfall.

Chandler, who's grown accustomed to this sort of streak during the past two years, says most of the problem involves pitching. Or more plainly, as Rick Luecken struggles, so struggle the Aggies.

Luecken, Texas A&M's senior right-hander from Houston Spring Woods, should be the most effective pitcher in the league. But five of Luecken's nine decisions have been losses. He's 0-3 in the conference.

"The whole thing all year has just been that our pitching has been so spotty," Chandler said Sunday. "At our player posi-

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UH battles for No. 1 tonight

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The NCAA basketball championship will be contested tonight between a team that preaches power and one that practices patience.

And if that is not enough of a contrast, there is plenty more to place the Houston Cougars and North Carolina State Wolfpack at the opposite ends of the college basketball spectrum.

Tipoff at The Pit on the campus of the University of New Mexico is set for 7:12 p.m. MST with the Cougars trying to bring the Southwest Conference its first national basketball title and the Wolfpack hoping to bring the Atlantic Coast Conference its second straight.

And this year the teams battling for the big prize have about as much in common as the rocky, forbidding landscape that surrounds this city and the Sandia Mountains which tower over it.

Houston has won 26 games in a row and owns a 31-2 record. North Carolina State is trying to become the "losingest" team ever to win the NCAA crown, currently standing at 25-10.

The Cougars love to run, jump and slam. Their coach, in fact, insists on their dunking the ball as often as possible. The Wolfpack, meanwhile, relies to a great extent on the long-range gunning of guard Derek Whittenburg.

Houston has a 61-year-old coach who has had his share of criticism in the past despite a long and impressive record. North Carolina is coached by a boyish wisecracker, who, like his veteran counterpart, is looking for his first national title.

"Yes," said Houston coach Guy Lewis, "winning the national championship would mean a lot to me personally. At my age I figure I might not be getting too many more chances. I like to feel that if you have got a chance to do something, you ought to go ahead and do it."

"I'm sure (North Carolina State coach) Jim Valvano feels the same way. The only difference is that he has about 30 more years to get it done."

Most of all, however, tonight's game will present a contrast of styles. With seven-foot Akeem Olajuwon, 6-9 Larry Micheaux, 6-7 Clyde Drexler and 6-6 Michael Young always looking to the basket, the Cougars provide one of the most explosive offensive threats in the history of the game.

They want to run full bore as much as possible. Valvano and his Wolfpack troops, therefore, must try to ease the pace of the game as much as possible.

"We will play, shall I say, a slower tempo game," said Valvano, whose team rode a crest of narrow wins to make it to the Final Four and then knocked off Georgia in the semifinals Saturday, 67-60.

But just how slow a tempo is that? Would Valvano consider taking the air out of the ball, as Maryland attempted to do against Houston early in the tournament?

"What Maryland did was stall," said Valvano. "This is the national finals. We aren't going to do that. I'm talking about the kind of pace we had against Georgia. We want to try to put ourselves in position to win. If we can play a game in the 50's or 60's we have a chance. We aren't going to put it (the ball) away. It isn't going to be a 12-8 game. But if the score is 100-to-something, we won't win."

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What type of companies? Each company type listed below employs a wide variety of individuals, including data processing personnel, accounting, clerical, etc.

- AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, AMUSEMENT and RECREATION
- BUSINESS SERVICES
- Legal, accounting, data processing, etc.
- COMMUNICATIONS
- Publishing, radio, tv, advertising, etc.
- ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE and CONSTRUCTION
- FINANCE
- Banks, credit institutions, savings and loan associations, etc.
- HEALTH SERVICES
- Hospitals, medical centers, etc.
- INSURANCE
- MANUFACTURING
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- REAL ESTATE
- Planning, development and design
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Who are they looking for? They are looking for graduates seeking full-time and under-graduates seeking summer employment with an academic background in areas such as:

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- BUSINESS and BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- COMPUTER SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS
- ENGINEERING
- FINE and APPLIED ARTS
- HEALTH and MEDICAL
- JOURNALISM, COMMUNICATIONS and ADVERTISING
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- VETERINARY MEDICINE

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