Down and out

Baseball team drops two of three to Baylor

by Frank L. Christlieb

Battalion Staff
At this point, members of the
Texas A&M baseball team have but one encouraging prospect to

Only seven games remain in the second-worst season Tom Chandler's squad has had in his 25 years here

Funeral arrangements have already been made for the Aggies, who lost two of three

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games to the Baylor Bears this weekend to plunge further into the Southwest Conference league play but has won only three of 15 SWC games. And with the surprising Rice Owls dungeon. The service will be held after Texas A&M plays the league-leading Texas Longhorns here in the final series of the regular season.

And not a moment too soon. The epitaph on the Aggies' tombstone will read: "Here lies a team that played well during the non-conference season but, as had been the case for the previous two seasons, fell apart when the SWC schedule began. The Aggies, bless their souls, played their hearts out, but they just didn't have what it took to beat their fellow conference

"They lost large leads, they finished the season with an astronomical team earned run average and they committed crucial errors that proved to be costly in several SWC games. The Aggies hit well, but a 10game losing streak during the conference season proved to be a fatal blow. May they rest in peace knowing that they no longer must suffer the agony of the 1983 baseball season.

Yes, it's been a disastrous year for Chandler's team, which won what to do next. 16 of 20 games before entering

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and the Longhorns left on the schedule, the Aggies' near future looks mighty bleak.

Check that — if the situation in the Texas A&M baseball camp doesn't shape up quickly, the team's *entire* future looks mighty bleak.

That's not to say the Aggies haven't had their moments. In Friday's 2-1 loss, senior Robert Slavens pitched a two-hit complete game. His teammates had seven hits but couldn't score any

In Saturday's double-header opener, Texas A&M played its best all-around game since a conference-opening series with TCU in mid-March, winning 11-

But in the second game, the Aggies did an abrupt about-face and looked downright awful in losing 12-1 to the Bears. No hitting (eight hits, but five of those in the first two innings), no pitching (12 hits allowed) and no defense (four errors to give Texas A&M a total of 67 in 38

Chandler says he's not sure

"We just can't seem to put it all together," he said Saturday night. "When we get pitching, we can't get hits. When we get the hitting, we can't get the pitching. In the last game today, we just plain fell apart. The pitching is the thing that's hurting us, and we also made some boots in the field that we normally don't make.

Bobby Beach, the junior Aggies' left fielder-designated hitter, said there's not much the team can do about this season. But Beach, whose batting average after the series stands at

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.440, said he has a personal goal in mind.

Now you pretty much have to play for yourself," Beach said. "I'm not going to say I'm not a team player, but when you're losing like this, you really have to go out and battle for yourself. I have a chance to break the season hitting record, so I'm going

to concentrate on that."
With seven games left in the season, Beach has 48 hits in 109 at-bats. The mark he's shooting for is .444, since former Texas A&M player Mike McClure hit 443 in 1965 to establish the current club record for individual

season batting average.
"It's a good team," Beach said,
"but once you hit a slump like this, it's just hard to pull out. I'm glad we won one, but that doesn't do anything for us. You can't pick up team moral that quickly. We can't do anything with the rest of the season, but I'm looking forward to it (shoot-

ing for the record).
"That's the only thing I can really hope to do. You just have to play for yourself now.'

In Friday's one-run loss, Beach had three hits and shortstop Todd Edwards had two. But a sacrifice fly by Ronnie King and an RBI single by Keith Shepherd in the sixth inning brought Baylor pitcher Stan Hilton a complete-game victory his seventh triumph of the season.

Slavens, making his third start, struck out four and walked only two in his first decision of

In the 11-4 victory Saturday, Texas A&M had 10 hits and left only three runners on base. Freshman Barry Smith, starting his fifth game, pitched 43/3 innings and recorded the victory. He gave up three runs and four hits before being relieved by Phillip Taylor, who gave up one run and three hits in the remain-

ing 21/3 innings.

The Aggies scored a run in the second inning on Billy Can-

See BASEBALL page15

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Softball team beats OSU

by Tracey Taylor

The Texas A&M women's softball team swept a double-header grudge match with Oklahoma State Sunday by scores of nings 3-1 and 2-0.

The Aggies beat OSU in the finals of the AIAW National Championships last year.

Competing in the Lady Diamond Invitational in Albuquerque, New Mexico this weekend, the Aggies had split four games earlier — winning one apiece from Cal-State Ful-lerton and New Mexico Univer-

The No. 2 ranked Aggies began play Friday by beating No. 3 Cal-State Fullerton, 1-0. A&M's

winning run was scored by Deb Rollman on an RBI single from ning home run by Holthaus. The Aggies lost the second

game, however, 2-1, in 19 in-

Friday's play was highlighted by Texas A&M pitcher Lori Stoll. Stoll pitched a total of 26 innnings after relieving starting pitcher, Shan McDonald, in the second inning of the first game after suffering arm trouble

Despite the loss, Stoll only seemed to get hotter as the innings wore on. She struck out a total of 15 batters in the second - 11 of which came after the 11th inning. She is 21-4 for

The Aggie's only run in the producing hits

The loss Friday snapped game winning streak fo Aggies. Saturday's games will Mexico University, boiled

to pitcher's duel. Both were two-hitters, the winning the first 4-0, and ping the second, 2-0. The Aggies scored tw

in the fourth as Iva Ja walked, Mary Schwind and Linda Lancaster s The Aggies added two Austgen and Josie Carte

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tics team won their first state championship this weekend at the Texas Gymnastics Confer-

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on campus. Texas A&M won the team title with a point total of 227.75. Grant

Robert Parsons of UTA won the all-around gymnast honors Aggie results from the com-

Floor Exercise: Mark Hartwell, first place.

Pommel Horse: Ray third place. Rings: Tie - Hartwell

Lauderdale, place.
Vault: Tie — Hartwell, ers (Tech), Parsons second; Mike Tanner,

Parallel Bars: Harri

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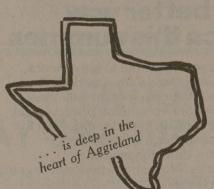
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