

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

Wednesday, April 20, 1983/The Battalion/Page 13

Quick start

Aggies win behind 13 first-inning runs at Olsen Field's 'Corps Night'

by John P. Lopez

Every home game was "Corps Night," the Texas A&M baseball team would have one of the best home records in the country. At least that was the impression left Tuesday after the Aggies stomped Lamar on "Corps Night" at Olsen Field. With nearly 2,000 cadets literally stomping and forming in the stands, the Texas A&M baseball team defeated the Cardinals 18-4. Aggie head coach Tom Chandler said the noise echoing through Olsen Field definitely made a difference.

"Psychology in sports is really a great thing," Chandler said. "And man, those guys were really making a lot of noise and it rubbed off on our pitchers. It was really great for those guys to come out like they did."

But the cadets weren't the only people who came out in full force. The Aggies wasted no time determining the outcome of the game, batting around twice and scoring 13 runs in the first inning.

Every Aggie scored at least one run in the first inning which lasted 50 minutes and saw ten marks on the "hit" column of the scoreboard. Billy Cannon accounted for six runs as he brought in four on a triple and a double and scored two himself. Clint Heard also went two for two in the inning.

Shortstop Tim Cartwright started the onslaught with a walk. Heard reached base for the first of five times on the night with a single and Kevin Smith doubled to right-center field to bring Cartwright and move Heard to third. The Cardinals then managed to get Tony Metoyer out on a grounder to shortstop, but the Aggies retaliated by putting ten consecutive men on base.

Billy Cannon brought two men in on a screaming triple that bounced off the right field wall and was brought in himself after Tom Thompson, the Scanlin and Buddy Haney all walked.

Thompson and Scanlin scored after catcher Bibba Jackson singled and Haney scored when Cartwright singled to left.

With Jackson on second and Cartwright on third, Heard loaded the bases with his second hit of the inning. All three Aggie runners scored after Smith walked, Metoyer singled and Billy Cannon doubled.

Scanlin brought in Cannon and Metoyer with a base-clearing single to right-center field to round out the Aggie first-inning slaughter.

The Aggies scored two more runs in the second inning and three in the fourth for their final total.

Texas A&M was, to say the least, successful at the plate against Lamar. But that hasn't been the Aggies' problem this season—Texas A&M's team batting average is .312. The trouble has been on the pitcher's mound where the Aggies carry over a five-run earned run average.

So with a non-conference game on the schedule, Chandler decided to test his inexperienced pitchers to see if they could have a good outing—they did.

Left-hander Scott Deskins started for the Aggies and got his second win of the year while shutting out the Cardinals for three innings. Deskins performed well while on the mound for the Aggies, but Chandler also gave Mike Perkins, Todd Tschantz and Kelly Keahey game-time experience.

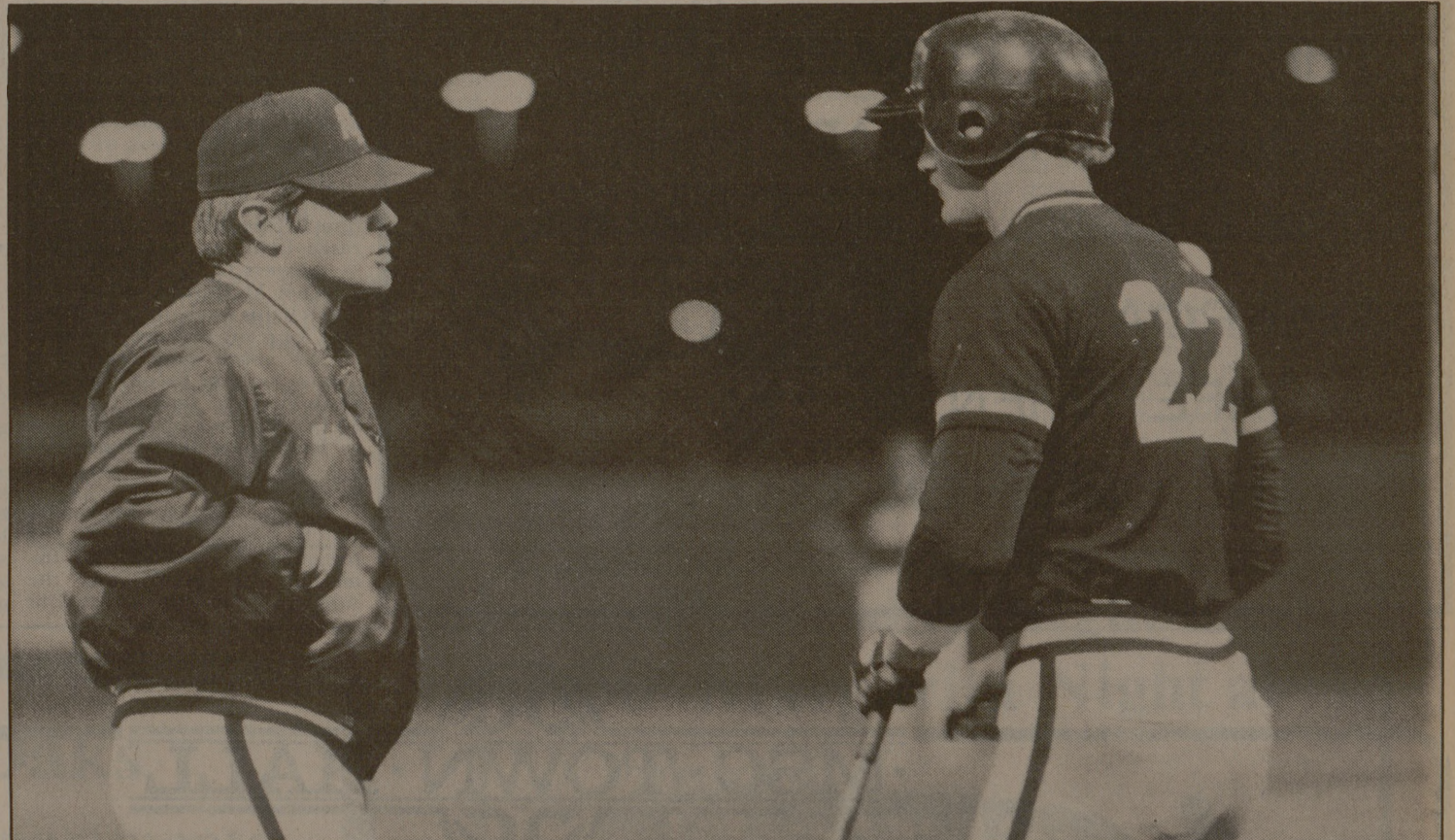
"It's been a rough season on the mound and we just wanted to take a look at those guys," Chandler said. "They did well. They're getting better command of their breaking pitches."

The Aggie pitchers gave up eight hits to the Cardinals and struck out six. Lamar's hurlers, needless to say, had a tougher time on the hill.

Included in the 18 runs and 18 hits given up by the Cardinal pitchers were home runs to Metoyer and Don Robison. Texas A&M also slammed seven other extra-base hits off Lamar.

With the win, Texas A&M's record moved to 23-16 on the year while Lamar dropped to 28-21. Texas A&M will travel to Houston this weekend to face Rice in a three-game conference series. The Aggies will finish conference play at home in a series with the University of Texas starting May 6.

AGGIE FACTS: Among the fans at Tuesday's game were **Wayne Jackson** and **Robert Swain**, who were visiting the Texas A&M campus from Yavapai Junior College in Arizona. Both Jackson, a pitcher, and Swain, an infielder, are highly regarded recruits who would be the first baseball signees of the year for Chandler should they decide to commit to Texas A&M. One source said Jackson was a fastball pitcher who could step right in and do well for the Aggies.



Aggie assistant coach Mark Johnson gives Billy Cannon advice in a recent game against Baylor. Cannon had

four RBI's Tuesday against Lamar, as the Aggies beat the Cardinals 18-4 before 2,307 fans at Olsen Field.

staff photo by David Fisher

Celts take game 1 from Hawks

United Press International
Defense wins NBA playoff games. So do defensive specialists.

"(Quinn) Buckner hit shots which, if they were anyone's fault, were mine," said Atlanta Coach Kevin Loughery after the Boston guard canned three long-range jumpers in the closing minutes of the Celtics' 103-95 victory over the Hawks in the first game of an Eastern Conference mini-series.

Boston can eliminate Atlanta by winning Game 2 of the best-of-three series Friday night at The Omni. A third game would be played Sunday in Boston.

Larry Bird scored 26 points, including

six in a two-minute span late in the game, and added 15 rebounds to help the Celtics. But it was Buckner's offense Tuesday night which plucked the Hawks.

The first key Buckner basket came with 3:55 to play, an 18-footer from the left side which tied the game, 87-87, the sixth and last deadlock of the fourth period. The second one came a minute later and made it 91-87. The third one was with 29 seconds to play, giving Boston a 99-93 lead.

Dan Roundfield led the Hawks with 24 points and 20 rebounds, while Dominique Wilkins had 21, Johnny Davis 18 and Mike

Glenn 11.

In a Western Conference opener, Phoenix downed Denver, 121-108. Dennis Johnson scored 28 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had 8 assists to lead the Suns.

Game 2 of the best-of-three series will shift to Denver Thursday night.

Two other mini-series begin tonight. At East Rutherford, N.J., the New Jersey Nets host the New York Knicks in an Eastern Conference matchup. At Seattle, the SuperSonics meet the Portland Trail Blazers in a Western Conference mini-series. The winner of the series takes on the Lakers.



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