

# The Battalion Sports

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## A&M salvages victory in Rice series finale

by Frank L. Christlieb  
Battalion Staff

The Texas Aggies played another close Southwest Conference baseball series this weekend, but wound up losing two of three to the Rice Owls in Houston.

Entering the weekend with its season all but over, Texas A&M gave Rice a struggle in all three games, losing 5-3 Saturday and 4-2 in the first game of Sunday's double-header before winning the series finale 8-6 Sunday afternoon.

Although the Aggies remain tied with TCU for the league's last-place position, they made the Owls' situation a little tougher by winning one of the three games.

While Texas, Arkansas and Houston have clinched three of the four post-season tourna-

ment spots, the fourth spot still must be decided among Rice and Baylor. Both the Owls and the Bears have completed their seasons with 11-10 SWC records, and even though Rice won two of three games from Baylor earlier in the season to seemingly give the edge to the Owls, such isn't the case.

Instead, the third-place Houston Cougars must win one of three games this weekend from the Longhorns for the Owls to qualify for the final tourney spot. If Texas, ranked No. 1 in the nation, sweeps the Cougars, that'll put Houston, Rice and Baylor into a three-way tie at 11-10.

In that event, Baylor will get the green light on the basis of its four victories in games against Houston and Rice, and Houston will get the fourth spot because

of its three victories over Rice.

The Owls defeated the Bears twice, but their series loss to Houston could push them out of a tournament spot if the Longhorns sweep the Cougars at Austin's Disch-Falk Field.

In the event that the Owls don't make the tournament, the Aggies can say they had a hand in keeping Rice out of the four-team event, which will take place in Austin on May 13-16. If Texas A&M hadn't won Sunday's final game, the Owls would have eased into the tournament with a 12-10 record — no ties, no ifs and no need for Houston to win one from the Longhorns.

Over the weekend, Baylor helped its tournament chances by sweeping the Cougars, winning in Waco by scores of 14-5, 3-0 and 2-1.

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## Softball team takes first in Nebraska Invitational

by Joe Tindel Jr.  
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M women's softball team defeated Creighton University 1-0 to take first place in the Nebraska Invitational tournament Sunday in Lincoln, Neb.

The Aggies won the right to face Creighton in the championship game with two victories Saturday. Texas A&M lost 1-0 to Creighton — the first meeting between the two schools in two years — Friday night after surrendering only two hits, but rebounding Saturday to shut out Cal Berkeley, 5-0, and Nebraska, 5-

Senior pitcher Lori Stoll, now 24-5, was the losing pitcher in

Friday night's game, but she bounced back and pitched a two-hitter against Berkeley. Pitcher Shan McDonald, bothered by a shoulder injury suffered earlier in the season, picked up the victory over Nebraska while pitching a three-hitter.

McDonald was in Houston during part of last week for tests on her shoulder, which she injured while in California on the Aggies' last series of road games. The Nebraska game was the first complete game she's pitched in more than a month.

At the plate for the Aggies, Josie Carter had two RBI against Berkeley, while Carrie Austgen had three hits in four at-bats. Iva

Jackson led the Aggies against Nebraska with two hits and two RBI. Austgen had two hits and scored two runs.

The Aggies are now 33-9 this spring. Their next game will be Friday at Louisiana Tech. Texas A&M will travel to Alvin Sunday for a double-header against Sam Houston State. The Aggies' next home game — and their last game of the regular season — will be against Sam Houston on Sunday at 4 p.m.

The NCAA regional playoffs will begin May 12 at a site to be announced. The national tournament begins May 26 in Omaha, Neb. The Aggies were national champions last year.



staff photo by Irene Mees

Players from Air Force and Nebraska pile on top of an unidentified Cornhusker during their game on the main drill field Saturday. Air Force captured both this contest

and the Western regional title, defeating Oklahoma 13-9 Sunday. The tourney was hosted by the Texas A&M rugby team.

## Air Force wins rugby tourney

The United States Air Force Academy defeated Oklahoma 13-9 Sunday to capture first place in the Western Rugby Football Union Championship, held on the Texas A&M campus over the weekend.

The Air Force team defeated

Southeast Missouri 6-0 and Nebraska 9-4 on Saturday to advance to the final game. Oklahoma earlier defeated Kansas State 12-0 and New Mexico State 7-3.

Host Texas A&M was eliminated from contention for the championship with a 16-3 loss to

Kansas State. The Aggies finished 1-2 in the tournament, defeating New Mexico State but losing to Southeast Missouri for the consolation trophy on Sunday.

Air Force was behind for most of the championship game,

but scored late to take the lead for good. The Sooners were threatening to score when time ran out.

With the victory, the Falcons earned the right to travel to Athens, Ga., for the national championships.



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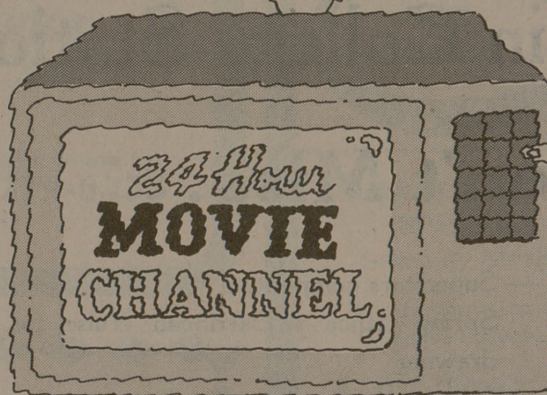
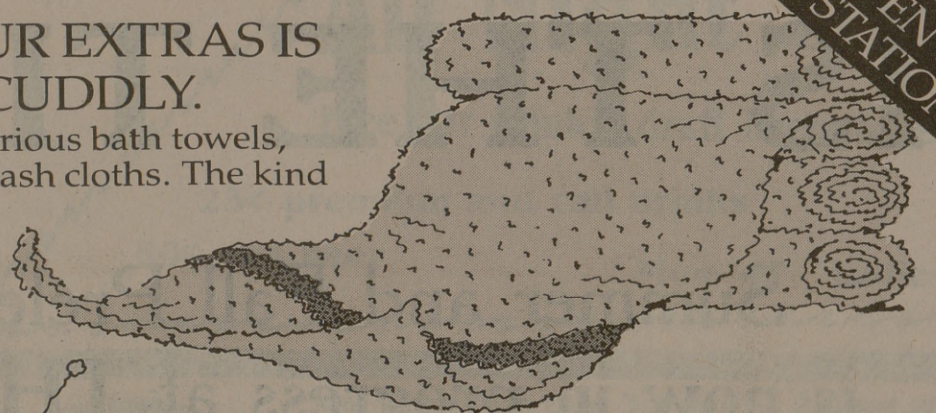
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