

SPORTS

A&M finds no amusement park in Houston

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Aggies' Livingstone shines, despite Cougars' 2-1 series win

For the Texas A&M baseball team, the opening of the Southwest Conference race was a barrel of fun, for one day at least.

The Aggies came away with a 9-7 win over No. 10 Houston Friday at Cougar Field. The win wasn't pretty, but that first "W" in the win column looked real pretty, especially against a Top 10 team.

A&M had four errors and Houston had three in the nine inning affair.

Aggie shortstop Rob Swain made two errors in the first inning, allowing two Cougars to cross the plate. The Aggies got those two runs back, plus two, when Houston gave A&M

four unearned runs. "We were pretty shaky at first," said A&M Coach Mark Johnson. "I think we may have gotten a little too high."

The sixth inning was the big blow for Houston. Designated hitter Jeff Schow had a three-run triple and the Ags added another run to take a 8-5 lead.

Houston ace Mike Walker (5-1) recorded his first loss of the season. Walker gave up eight hits in five and 2/3 innings.

Phillip Taylor picked up his fourth win for the No. 26 ranked Aggies.

"I had no rhythm," Taylor said. "I found it about the six or seventh inning, but by then my arm was getting tired."

The real hero in the Aggies most impressive win to date, was freshman Scott Livingstone who went four-for-four on the day.

"I was really pleased with Scott," said Johnson. "His play was definitely a bright spot for me."

However, gloom set in on the Ags in less than 24 hours, when the Cougars swept past the Ags to take the series 2-1.

Cougar Field was no longer an amusement park for the Ags.

In Saturday's twinbill, the Cougars showed they indeed have enough power to take on the likes of Texas and Arkansas.

Houston slapped seven balls over the outer fences and pounded Aggie pitchers for 21 hits. In the first game alone, the Cougars had five home runs en route to a 12-8 win.

In the second game, only two balls cleared the fence, but the Cougs nine hits were more than enough for an 8-2 whipping of the Ags.

"I didn't get much sleep last

night," said Houston Coach Rolan Walton. "Friday's game was a hard loss to take. I was proud of the way our kids responded against a good team."

A&M's freshman sensation Livingstone continued to shine brightly.

Livingstone had two home runs in the doubleheader. In the first game, it was a three-run shot in the second inning. Overall, he went four-for-seven on the day.

"I felt really good at the plate," Livingstone said. "The wind was blowing straight out, and that was

okay with me." Johnson was more than pleased with his freshman find, who was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the sixth round last year.

"In this ballpark it doesn't have power to hit the ball out, but he's got power," Johnson said. "He had a great series. For a freshman to come in here in his first Southwest Conference series and play like that is doing something."

The only problem was that Livingstone couldn't win the doubleheader by himself.

In any event, the Ags (19-6, 13-5 SWC) will get a chance to rebound from the losses Tuesday by hosting Minnesota to a double-header.

No. 7 Ags outclass Rice tourney field

By MARYBETH ROHSNER
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's tennis team walked off the courts in Houston Sunday with more than just sustans.

The No. 7 Aggies came away from the Rice Invitational Tournament with another championship title. A&M outclassed Long Beach State for the team title by claiming six of nine matches.

The other six teams in the tournament field finished as follows: 3) Houston, 4) Rice, 5) Mississippi, 6) Michigan, 7) Columbia and 8) Lamar.

"I'm proud of the team," said A&M Coach David Kent. "The Rice Invitational is a very prestigious tournament. Everybody played really well."

In one of the biggest upsets of the tournament, A&M's top doubles team defeated the No. 2 doubles team from Houston.

"It was a big win for them," Kent said of the weekend's Ag dynamic duo, Grant Connell and Kimmo Alkio.

Connell, ranked No. 8 in singles nationally, also fared extremely well in singles play this weekend. The Canadian-born sophomore netted his second major collegiate championship singles title this year by defeating Long Beach State's Peter Smith 6-4, 6-4 in the finals Sunday.

Connell's teammates also dominated the tourney's singles field. Kimmo Alkio, Mark Smith, Marcel Vos and Dean Goldfine all won their matches. A&M's No. 2 man Greg Hill was defeated in the semi-finals.

Kent has good reason to be optimistic about the Aggies' chances of remaining in the Top 10.

"We've got a good, solid foundation," he said. "We haven't lost to any team not in the upper echelon, except Trinity."

While the Kent's netters were in Houston, the A&M women's team kept busy in College Station.

A&M downed LSU 5-4 in dual match play Saturday afternoon. The Aggies' Vianne Akagi, Gaye Lynn Gensler, Helen Christaense and Laura Liang conquered the Tigers in their four singles matches. The No. 2 duo of Nandini Rangarajan and Laura Liang wrapped up A&M's only doubles victory in a hard-fought match against LSU's Leticia Herrera and Eleanor Johnsson.

"The team played really well under tough conditions," said A&M Coach Jan Baldwin.

Aggie tracksters off and running as the season rounds the corner

By CINDY GAY
Sports Writer

At both the TSU and Paper Tiger Relays last weekend, the men and women tracksters of Aggieland relayed their message loud and clear: They're off and running at a steadily improving pace.

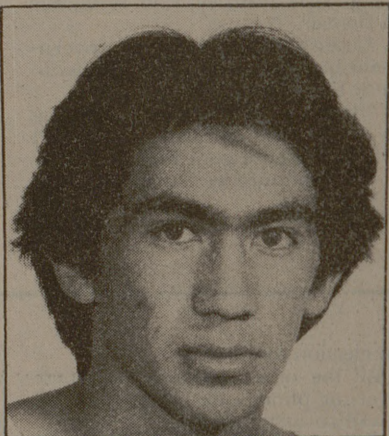
"We had some good performances," said men's Coach Charlie Thomas about the Aggies' showing at the non-scoring TSU track meet. "We felt pretty good about everything."

The Ags snatched the blue ribbon in the shuddle hurdle relay with a time of 58.86 seconds. For the relay team of Harry Johnson, Lorenzo Wilborn, Todd Howard and Rickey Alexander, the victory continued an unbeaten streak.

Ethan Glass aced the high jump bar exam with a first place height of 7-feet, and a promising attempt at 7-3.5, the qualifying height for the NCAA Championships.

Crossing the finish line in second place, senior Tony Tolson produced his all-time best 400-meter clocking of 46.61 seconds.

Along with hoisting up the anchor for the distance medley relay team with a mile time of 4:02 minutes, Arturo Barrios added to his set of victories in the 1500-meters with a 3:49 clocking. The relay team of Barrios, Dean Stone, Kyle Hargett and Mike



A&M's Arturo Barrios



A&M's Ethan Glass



A&M's Tony Tolson

Connington finished fourth. When the sprint medley relay muddled the third handoff, they lost both the lead and the baton.

Huey Treat hurdled both land and water to win second in the 3000-meter steeplechase. Treat also placed fourth in the 3000-meter run accompanied by Steve Grenchik in third, and Mike Conteras in sixth.

With a 16-foot boost in the pole vault, Desmond Kidd finished second, while teammate Francisco Olivares triple jumped 51-3, good enough for fifth.

The mile relay saw the Aggies stride for a second place finale. Richardson, Maurice Holt, Tolson and Kendrick Wesley teamed up for a time of 3:08.

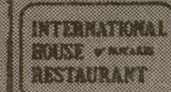
Across the Sabine River at LSU, the Aggie women held their own in a field of over 30 teams at the Paper Tiger Relays.

"Their running keeps improving," said women's Coach Bill Nix, "and that's all I can ask of them."

Esther Dedrick combined with Beth and Becky Dreves for a 5,000-

meter journey that garnered fifth and eighth and ninth places respectively and personal-best times for all three runners. Becky Dreves also completed a fifth-place 3000-meter run in 10:16 minutes, while Debby Nix came in seventh in the 1500-meter with a personal best of 4:36.54.

Both Thomas and Nix think the teams are moving into the fast lane as the women head for the Basin Classic at Rice this weekend and the men set their sights on the prestigious Texas Relays two weeks away.



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