

**SPORTS**

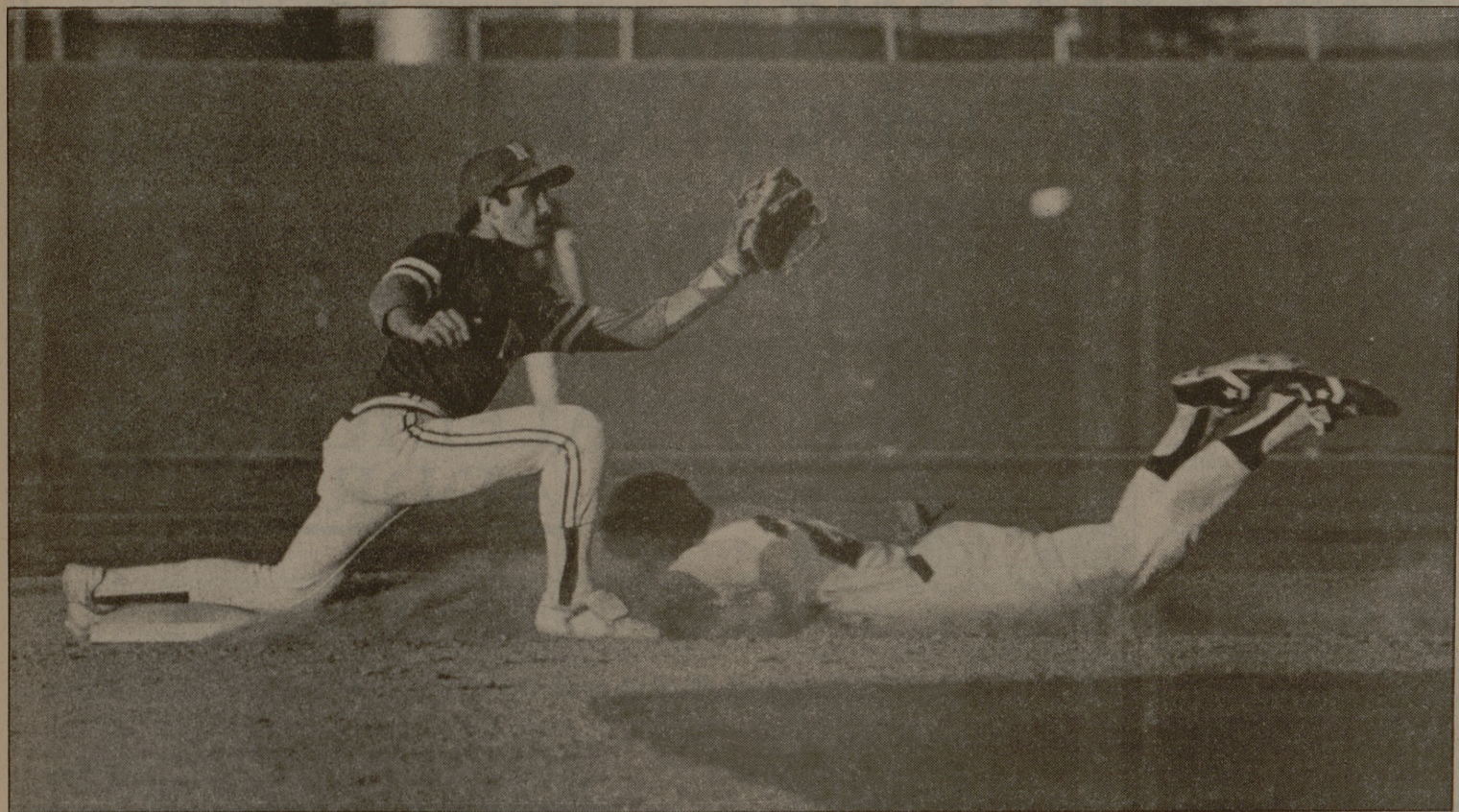


Photo by ANTHONY CASPER

Texas A&M second baseman Robi Chandler gets to know his base even better during Tuesday's double-header against

North Texas State. The head first slid assured Chandler of beating the throw to NTSU Mean Green shortstop Jack Bunn.

# A&M borrows old, new, blue to sweep NTSU

By BRANDON BERRY  
Sports Writer

In last night's doubleheader sweep of North Texas State, the Texas Aggies used something old, something new, something borrowed and beat the pitchers black and blue.

In the first game, right hander Philip Taylor, the Ags most effective pitcher this season with a 5-1 record, and Tom Arrington, the Ags most absent pitcher this season due to injuries, combined on a five-hitter and a 1-0 victory.

In the second game, A&M starting pitcher Kelly Kealey, who has had a rough start to the '85 season with a 5.56 ERA, survived his own wildness and some rather spotty relief pitching from left-hander Russ Swan to give the Ags a 14-12 sweep. Swan, who gave up six runs and six hits in a little more than one inning, is also just returning from an injury.

Those were the somethings old and new.

But while the Aggie pitchers were toiling (and sometimes flailing) away against the Mean Green, senior center fielder Mike Scanlin borrowed a scene from "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Romancing the Stone" and Silver Creek Chewing Tobacco commercials as he came through in the nick of time.

Scanlin singled home the winning run in the bottom of the seventh and final inning of the first game to give the Ags their only score, but Taylor and Arrington made sure it was all the offense that was needed.

And therein lay one of the black and blue beatings of the pitching staff.

In the first game, the bruises were purely emotional, as an A&M pitching staff that had taken on that "Hawaii in December in the 40's" look was forced to hold the Mean Green bombless.

In the second game, the bruises came from balls flying all over the infield, through the outfield, off the wall, over the wall and even across

the railroad tracks.

The Ags and Eagles (the Mean Green's other name) combined for 26 runs, 33 hits, 15 extra base hits, four errors and one ugly game.

The Ags had what looked to be a safe 12-5 lead going into the seventh inning. So safe in fact that A&M Coach Mark Johnson brought in Swan for the first time in three weeks. He retired the first three men he faced and looked like he was ready to pick up where he left off before his injury (3-0, 3.00 ERA).

Ten batters, a bloated ERA and only one out later, Barry Smith entered with a one-run lead and a save opportunity.

"We were really pleased to get some guys some innings out there," Johnson said. "Arrington and Swan really needed some work out there and I thought that Tom obviously had a better outing for us this time."

Scanlin led an A&M "Hit Parade" offensively with two home runs and a double. Right fielder Jeff Schow added four RBI's and Buddy Haneey, Rob Swain and Fred Gegan all had three hit nights.

"I'm really pleased with the way we hit the ball," Johnson said, "especially Rob (Swain) and Mike (Scanlin). We could really use those guys to come out of some slumps and contribute the way they are capable of contributing."

"This is the time where we need to start winning some series against some people and we need to start building some momentum."

The Aggies host NTSU again Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Olsen Field in the concluding game of the series.

"I hope (NTSU) don't get too much better," Johnson said, "because they never gave up out there, they kept coming back and we threw everything at them but the kitchen sink."

The outfield should be checked for porcelain.

## Ag countdown to Omaha resumes with Baylor

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

The countdown to Omaha, Neb. has begun.

Only 49 days, nine games, two tournaments and regionals remain before the Texas A&M softball team can head to the NCAA tournament to try and regain the championship it lost in the 10th inning to UCLA last year.

But, before the No. 3 Aggies regain their lost prize, they must face some mighty tough foes. Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Waco, A&M resumes the countdown with a double-header against Baylor.

The Ags will take a six-game win streak into the twinbill, including a 9-0 whipping of the Bears Sunday in the Aggie Invitational Tournament.

Coach Bob Brock's Ags captured first-place in the tourney, held at Southwood Athletic Complex, with an 8-1 record over the three-day weekend.

"I'm pretty happy with an 8-1 record especially after we lost the third game," Brock said. "We won six in a row after that one."

A&M was upset by unranked Southwest Missouri State on Friday, 5-3—a game in which Aggie pitcher Yvette Lopez couldn't find her rhythm.

Lopez (9-3 overall) redeemed herself in the tournament. She won two games after the loss and allowed only three earned runs for the entire tournament.

Pitching has been the Aggies' strength for years. This season has

seen little change.

Pitcher Shawn Andaya, who will likely start the first game against Baylor, won four games in the tourney without a loss. She struck out 48, counted 48 batters in 32 innings and allowed only eight hits and no runs. Andaya's overall record is 13-3.

The Aggie bats finally came to life in the tourney (funny what a little rest and your own backyard will do).

A&M had 89 hits in the nine-game tourney for a .354 team batting average. Against No. 17 Baylor, the Ags belted 16 hits.

Aggie third baseman Cindy Cooper finally found her form. Cooper batted .666 with two homeruns, including a homerun in the championship game against Utah

State for a 1-0 A&M win.

"Cindy's been in a slump," Brock said. "And lo and behold, I look up and she's hit a homerun to win the championship. She's out of (her slump) now."

"We hit the ball. We didn't get a lot of runs, but we hit the ball. There isn't a team that has as many homeruns as we have. I've never had a team that hit so many. Liz (Mizera) has 12 homeruns on the year. What more can you say about Liz? Everyone hit well. I think our bats are back."

The bats are back. The pitching has never gone anywhere. And the wins? A record of 28-7 is all that needs to be said—at least until Omaha.

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