

SPORTS

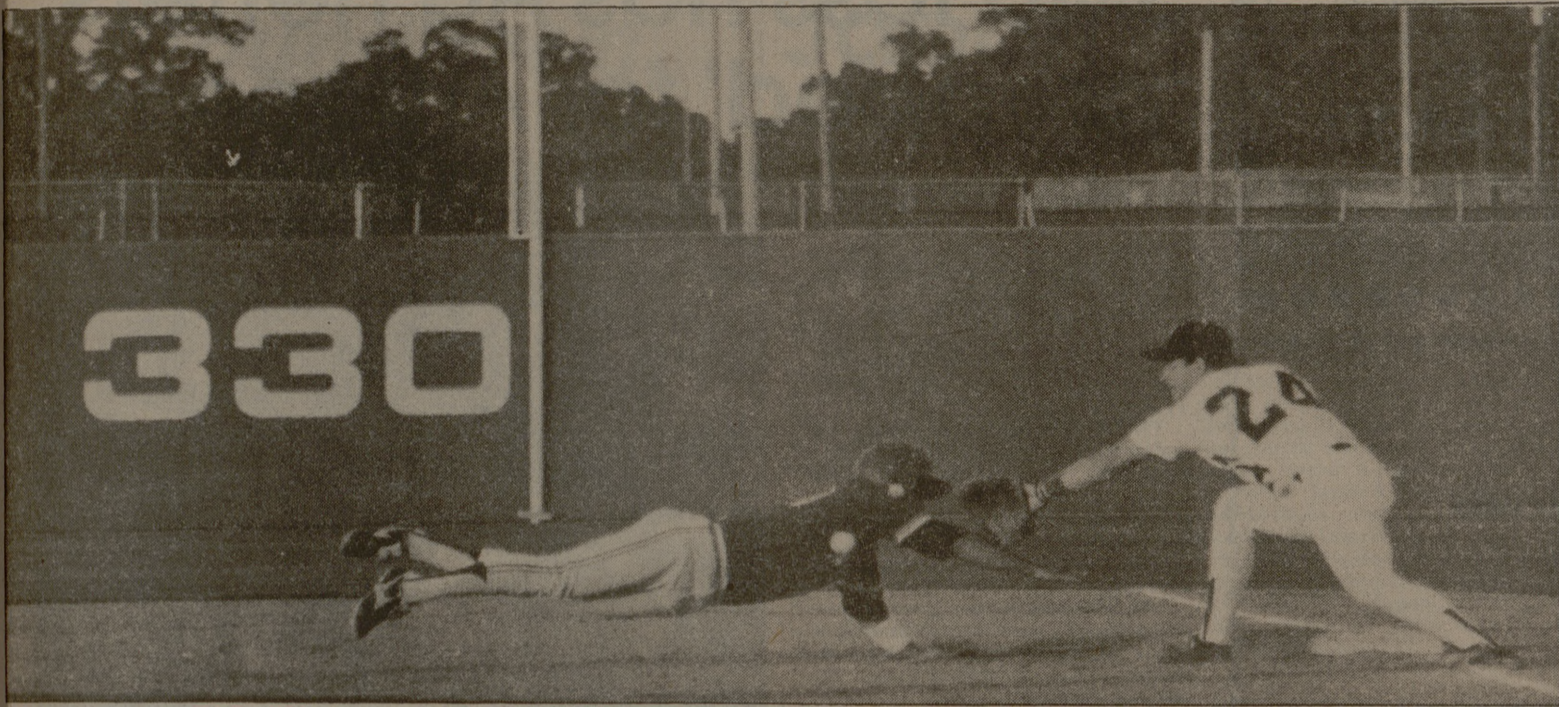


Photo by GREG BAILEY

Texas A&M first baseman Fred Gegan (24) nabs a low pickoff throw from the pitcher's mound, while a Pan American base runner pays for a long lead off the bag. The Aggies (30-10)

swept the double-header from the Broncos (27-18) Tuesday at Olsen Field by scores of 13-4 and 13-9. The three-game series resumes today at Olsen Field with a single game at 3 p.m.

## Houston opens season by edging L.A.

Associated Press

### National League

Astros 2, Dodgers 1

HOUSTON — Nolan Ryan scattered three hits over seven innings and Dickie Thon singled and scored in his first game since being beamed a year ago to give the Houston Astros a 2-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in both teams' season opener Tuesday night.

Ryan retired 16 of 17 batters from the second inning through the seventh. Frank DiPino relieved to start the eighth and got a save. Ryan struck out four to increase his all-time leading strikeout total to 3,878, three ahead of Philadelphia's Steve Carlton, who fanned three in a loss to Atlanta.

Thon, who was hit in the head by a pitch from Mike Torrez at the Astrodome in the fifth game of the 1984 season and missed the remain-

der of the year, singled off Fernando Valenzuela in the third inning. Thon took second on a throwing error by catcher Mike Scioscia and scored on a singled by Phil Garner to make it 1-1.

Thon finished the night with one hit in four at-bats.

The Astros took the lead in the fourth when Bill Doran doubled to center and scored when Ryan's grounder tipped off second baseman Mariano Duncan's glove for an error.

Mike Marshall got the first hit off Ryan with a second-inning double and scored on Sid Bream's single.

Mets 6, Cardinals 5

NEW YORK — Gary Carter, in his first game with his new team, hit a one-out home run in the 10th inning to give the New York Mets a season-opening 6-5 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday.

Reliever Neil Allen struck out

Keith Hernandez to start the 10th, then had one strike on Carter before the Mets' catcher hit a line-drive homer into the Cardinal bullpen in left field.

Tom Gorman, the fourth Mets pitcher, worked a scoreless 10th inning for the victory.

Mets' starter Dwight Gooden, at 20 the youngest opening-day pitcher in modern baseball history, left the game after giving up consecutive singles in the seventh. Gooden yielded six hits, walked two and struck out six.

Braves 6, Phillies 0

PHILADELPHIA — Rick Mahler allowed three hits over seven innings and reliever Bruce Sutter retired the final six batters Tuesday night as the Atlanta Braves took advantage of six Philadelphia errors to beat the Phillies 6-0 Tuesday night in a National League opener.

Mahler struck out five and walked two. Sutter, the free agent who left

the St. Louis Cardinals to sign a six-year, \$10 million contract with Atlanta, struck out three in his two innings to preserve the three-hitter.

Steve Carlton lost for the eighth time in 10 opening-day assignments. He missed a chance to move into a tie for 10th place on the all-time victory list as he gave up four hits, struck out three and walked six in six innings.

Cubs 2, Pirates 1

CHICAGO — Keith Moreland drove in two runs with a single and a home run and Rick Sutcliffe won his 15th consecutive regular-season game Tuesday to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 2-1 opening-day victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Sutcliffe, the 1984 Cy Young winner who had a 16-1 record for the National League East champions last year, went 7 2/3 innings, allowing six hits and striking three.

See Major Leagues, page 10

## Ag homers make a long, long night for Pan American

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

"He's back to the wall. The balls going, going — it's out of here." Aside from "I want to go home," that became the battle cry for the announcers and fans at the Texas A&M baseball double-header against Pan American Tuesday at Olsen Field.

The Aggies hit seven home runs and the Broncos added three. A&M's homers paced the Ags to 13-4 and 13-9 wins in the twinbill that began at 5:30 p.m. and ended at 11:51 p.m.

For the Ags, 30-10 overall, it was worth waiting for. A&M banged out 15 hits in the first game and scored at least one run in every inning but the fifth. Jeff Schow started the Ags off right when he nailed the scoreboard for a homer in the bottom of the first. With two outs, Fred Gegan slammed a ball to right center just over the 375-foot mark. However, the big blow to the Broncos came in the second when A&M scored five runs on four hits.

Gegan added a home run, his eighth of the year, in the sixth and Mike Scanlin pushed his total homers to seven.

So the Ags guns were blazing. The Ags were hitting so well, the Pan Am announcers began to compare them to the 1927 New York Yankees "on a good day."

"We are hitting the ball real well," said A&M Coach Mark Johnson. "We've been on a roll offensively since Texas Tech. I hope it continues."

First baseman Gegan remained on the front burner against the Broncos. Before the Tech series, he went three-for-five. Against the Red Raiders, he was 12-for-15 and was named Southwest Conference Player of the Week.

Gegan's parents flew in from Washington to see their son play and he didn't disappoint them. He went four-for-four in the first game with the two home runs before going one-for-three.

"I have never seen anyone hit the ball so hard for so long," Johnson said. "That type of thing doesn't happen very often. He is having a career in a week."

It was a special night for Gegan since his parents were in town. "I talk to them on the phone and tell them how I did, but it's just not the same as them being here," Gegan said. "I am just feeling real confident at the plate."

In the second game, only the die-hards were left feeling the chilly weather and the hard seats. The corps had dwindled to three and total attendance from 3,200 to perhaps only a couple of hundred.

When the bullets are flying, the wise take cover. And the bombs were indeed dropping in the second game.

The Ags jumped out to a quick 8-2 lead in the second. Robi Chandler, Rob Swain and Greg Wallace all had second-inning home runs.

The Broncos brought their own fire power from the valley although they did manage to steal a missile from the Ags.

Pan Am outfielder Rick Villarreal had a two-run homer in the second to begin the Bronc rally. He also added a triple and a single.

Villarreal is a former A&M player, having walked-on to the Aggie team in his freshman year.

By the seventh inning the Broncos had worked their way back to a 9-9 tie but six walks and a balk were all the Ags needed. Their guns had been shelved until Wednesday.

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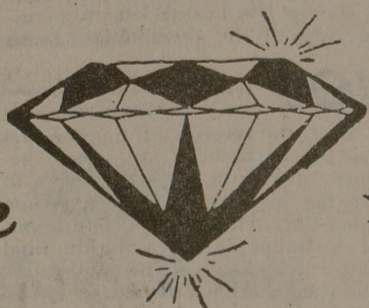
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