

SPORTS

Longhorns leave Ags up in the air

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Olsen Field sat quiet Sunday. Trash was the only thing left moving in the spring wind.

Likewise, the Texas A&M baseball team sat quietly Sunday. Its playoff hopes left up in the air.

The No. 17 Aggies entered this weekend's three-game series against No. 10 Texas looking for the Southwest Conference Championship. After a 9-5, 8-7 and 9-2 sweep by the Horns, the Ags left looking for fourth place and just a chance to host the SWC tournament.

To qualify for the tournament

and earn the right to host it, the Ags (37-15, 10-8 in SWC) need help — and lots of it.

The Aggies are put in the unusual position of rooting for arch-rival Texas (49-10, 13-5), the team that put them in their current bind.

The Horns must sweep Houston and A&M, in turn, must sweep TCU in Fort Worth to get the Ags the fourth playoff spot.

Arkansas, Texas and Baylor clinched post-season berths this weekend.

"It's always hard when you have to count on others," said A&M Coach Mark Johnson. "But, I think we have a real good chance. Texas is hot.

They have a good ball club. Houston's not as hot as they were, so Texas has a good chance to sweep them."

The 1983 NCAA Champion Longhorns out-hit, out-pitched and just out-played the Aggies in all three games.

"We just didn't play as well as they did," said Johnson. "We didn't execute. We didn't hit well or pitch well. They hit well and they pitched well."

"I thought they earned the wins. They played on our turf in front of our fans and they swept us. They were certainly the better ball club this weekend."

Like the little girl in the stands

who swung her baby doll by the arm, the Horns took the Ags by the arm and swung, and swung, and swung.

Friday night, it was Texas' David Denny who had the biggest swing in front of the biggest Olsen Field crowd ever—5,217.

The Horn's left fielder had a fifth inning grand slam to make a close game a blowout. The five-run inning did the Ags and ace pitcher Phillip Taylor (8-3) in.

In Saturday's double-header, it was miscues and blown chances that closed the door on the Ags.

In the early game, Horn left-hander Bruce Ruffin only gave up three hits in going the distance to put his record to 8-1 on the year.

Texas third baseman Dodd Johnson was the hitting hero. Johnson had a three-run homer in the third to run the score to 5-0. His solo homer in the fifth made it 7-2 and ended what little Aggie hopes remained.

In the ninth inning of game three, it looked as if the Ags would finally wrap up a win and improve their playoff chances.

A&M held a 7-6 lead with two outs in the ninth and ace reliever Beje Mahoe was on the mound ready to say "Aloha" to the Horns with one pitch.

Johnson didn't hit a home run, but, more importantly, he didn't get out. The junior college transfer slapped a single up the middle to keep the Horns in the game.

A&M second baseman Robi Chandler made a crucial mistake when he missed a Rusty Richard's grounder which rolled into right field. Johnson rounded third and headed home. A&M right fielder Shawn Choruby misplayed the ball allowing Johnson to score the tying run.

After a walk, reserve catcher Chuck Oertli was sent in to pinch-hit for starter Robbie Byers. The Ags seemed to give a sigh of relief since Oertli was hitting only .197 and had only two hits in SWC play.

However, it was the Horns' night. Oertli drove a Mahoe fastball to left field, allowing the game-winning run to cross the plate.

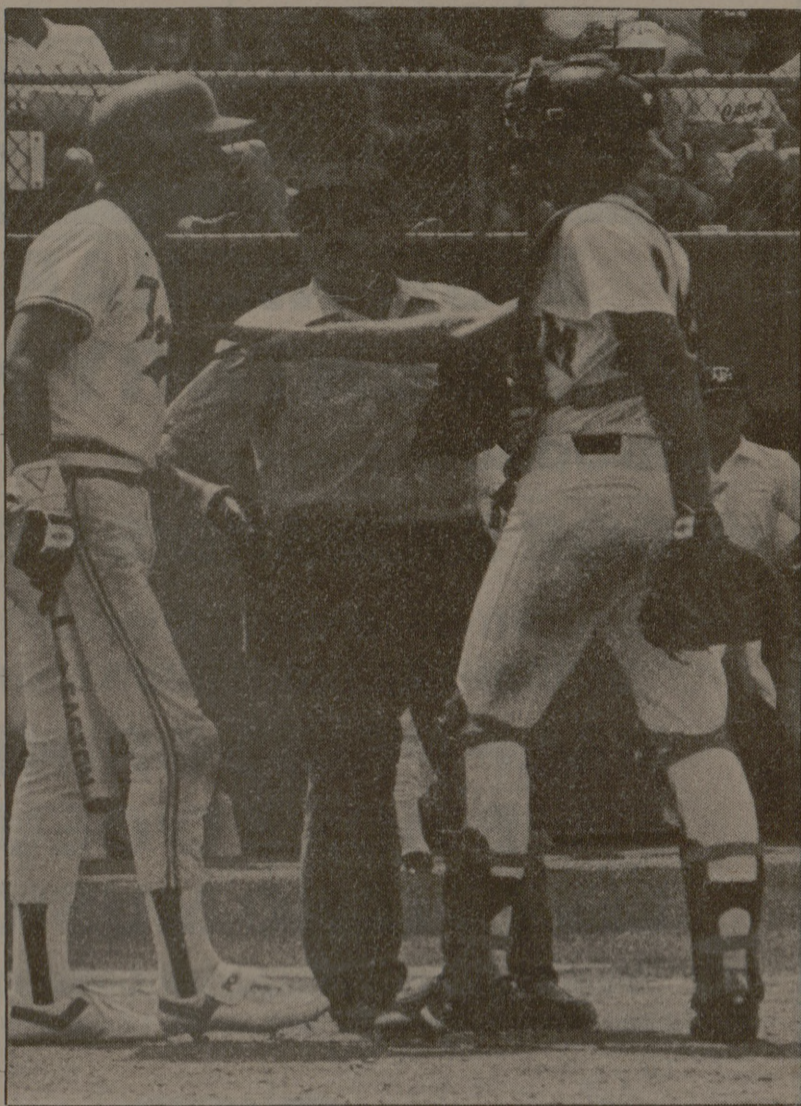


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Home plate umpire Chuck Swallow breaks up an "disagreement" between Texas A&M catcher Steve Johnigan (right) and Texas batter Dennis Cook (left). Cook claimed Aggie pitcher Tom Arrington intentionally threw a ball at him.

A&M Coach Johnson said the Aggies will get over the losses quickly. "It was tough," said the Ags' first-year coach. "Good ball clubs always rebound. That's just the structure of athletics. One day you're a hero, the

next day you're a bum. "In athletics, the wins are magnified and the losses are exaggerated. You're never as good when you win, and you're never as bad when you lose."



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Texas second baseman Bill Bates slides (1) behind the tag of A&M third baseman Scott Livingstone (3). Horn Coach Cliff Gustafson

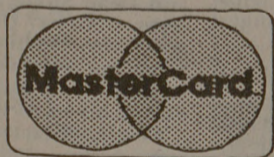
(left) also watched his team slide right by the Ags into first-place in the Southwest Conference. The Aggies (37-15, 10-8) slid to fifth.

The Management Society Presents

Now is the time to establish your credit!

Make sure you don't run short of cash this summer.

Have plenty of credit!



Apply NOW for MasterCard or Visa, Joske's, Dillard's, Zales, Macys, Sears.

Students and Staff can apply for as many as 6 of these credit cards completely free of cost and it only takes 2-3 minutes to fill out each application

You have a 90% chance of receiving a credit card from each company!

TWO DAYS ONLY!

Apply in MSC
April 29, 30 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
45-60 days to receive card

SEARS Credit Card
Sears, Roebuck and Co.

0 00000 00000 0
M LEWIS 0000

Use This Credit Card In Any Sears Store Anywhere

One of the most valuable cards a student can carry

A Sears Credit Card can be extremely helpful to you, especially if you're a junior, senior or graduate student.

Because, aside from its immediate usefulness, a Sears Credit Card will help establish the credit background you will need after you graduate.

It's easier to get a Sears Credit Card than you might think. You don't need a big bank account or a regular job or even a diploma. If you are a responsible person with the ability to pay your bills, Sears believes you deserve credit and will handle it with care.

It's smart to establish credit now

And it's wise to get a Sears Credit Card now, while you're still in school. It will be useful to you right away, letting you get what you need when you need it. In addition, a Sears Charge Account could be your first step in building a credit history. A credit history that will help you get the credit you'll want when you leave school.

No annual fee with a Sears Credit Card

Unlike some credit cards, there's no annual fee for a Sears Credit Card. And there are no hidden credit charges either—finance charges are always fully disclosed on your Sears statement.

Get nationwide credit at Sears

There are over 3400 Retail and Catalog Stores all across the country, and your Sears Credit Card is good at every one of them. This means wherever you live, travel or work—and wherever you may move—you have available credit at a nearby Sears.

Over 100,000 fine products and services

With a Sears Credit Card you can choose from an enormous range of products and services, and just say "Charge it!" Everything from clothes and cameras,

electronic games and calculators, to tires and a tune-up for your car. And all your merchandise purchases are backed by Sears famous promise, "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back."

Buy what you need when you're short on cash

Your Sears Credit Card lets you buy what you need when you need it, even though you may not have the cash on hand at that particular moment. You can take advantage of Sears special sales as well as everyday good values. And you can stretch your payments over many months if you wish.

Shop from Sears catalogs when you're short on time

When you don't have time to get to a Sears Store, use your Sears Credit Card to order by phone from our famous catalogs. Just say "Charge it!" You can even arrange for delivery right to your door.

Apply for a Sears Credit Card right on campus

Sponsored by Management Society
10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. April 29, 30
MSC

There's more for your life at
SEARS