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G&S Studies, inc. 846-5933 773/3

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G & S studies, inc. 846-5933

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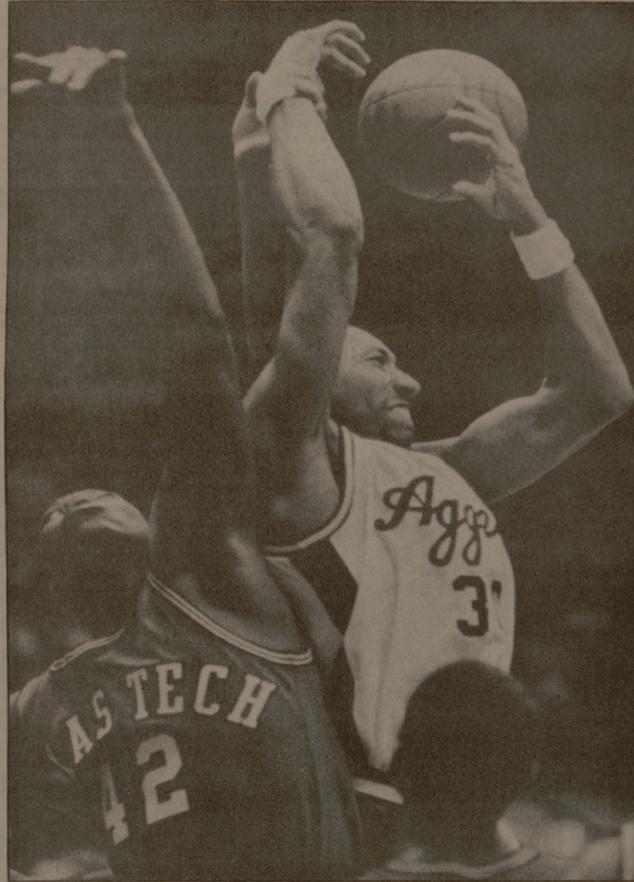
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Sports

A&M will try to avoid UH sweep

Aggies have not forgotten early season defeat to Cougars



A&M's Jimmie Gilbert (right) battles Texas Tech's Bryan Barriere for a rebound last Wednesday. A&M hosts Houston tonight at 7:30.

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Fans at Texas A&M refer to the University of Houston as "Cougar High."

The feeling at Houston is mutual. There's no team the Cougars love to beat more than "Silo Tech."

"Almost all of the (SWC) teams look forward to playing us," A&M guard Don Marbury said. "People work harder when they know they're going to play A&M. There's been talk around the conference. People are saying, 'They won the Cotton Bowl. We can't let them have both (SWC Championship) rings.' You know how athletes think."

Case in point: UH Coach Guy V. Lewis made his announcement that he would retire at the end of the season just before the home contest with the Southwest Conference-leading Aggies. Final score: UH 76, A&M 69.

"We went up seven or eight points on them and then we just let off," Marbury said. "We didn't play hard for 40 minutes. They played well against us. They hit the key shots when they needed to. (Alvin Franklin and (Rickie) Winslow had great games."

Tonight, the Aggies (15-10 overall, 9-4 SWC) will get a chance at revenge when they host the Cougars (13-11 overall, 7-6 SWC) at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

For Marbury, Jimmie Gilbert, Gary Lewis, Al Pulliam and David Thompson it will be their last appearance as players in G. Rollie White.

Marbury, who is leading the conference in scoring at 22.5 points per game, needs just three points to move into fourth place on A&M's list of top single season scorers.

"I can get 15 points or no points and be happy if we win," Marbury said. "I just want to win. It doesn't matter how many points I get."

Three straight losses to SMU, TCU and Texas all but knocked A&M out of the SWC title picture.

"SMU took a lot out of us," Marbury said. "We all felt we should have beaten them. That carried us to TCU and Texas. We just got into a slump and everything went down. Our shooting percentage, our rebounding — everything went."

However, with the SWC postseason tournament determining who represents the conference in the NCAA tournament, A&M wants to string a few wins together to gain some much-needed momentum.

That string began last Wednesday night with 71-58 win over Texas Tech.

"We feel pretty good," he said. "We want to get back on the winning road. We are looking to win all three (SWC) games. That would carry us over to the tournament. A lot of people feel we can go in there and win the tournament."

"I think we have a great shot at winning it. We'll take them one game at a time. We've just got to get ready for Houston. That's the next step for us."

Since the Cougars are the only team in the SWC that can sweep the Aggies this season, A&M would like to make sure it steps a little harder than usual.

"Most definitely," Marbury said. "Playing with intensity will be the key. We've got to concentrate for 40 full minutes. If we do that, we shouldn't have much trouble."

And Marbury wants just one more thing before he leaves — to reach the NCAA tourney.

"Right now that's what we're looking toward," Marbury said. "We went to the NIT last season (losing to New Mexico in the first round). We had the toughest non-conference schedule of any team (in the SWC)."

Aggies' struggle continues against Cowboys

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M baseball team continued its slump over the weekend as it dropped a three-game series to the McNeese State Cowboys, 5-3, 5-4 and 6-2.

The Aggies, now 2-5 overall, were swept for the second weekend in a row by a team with a losing record.

A&M Coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies are struggling in every aspect of the game — fielding, hitting and pitching.

"We are not as bad as we look," Johnson said. "We're playing like a very poorly coached ballclub and that's my responsibility. I'm going to have to regroup my thinking and we're going to have to do a better job. We're going to have to improve."

A&M practically gave away the first game of the series Friday. The Aggies committed five errors in that contest, two which directly resulted in Cowboy runs.

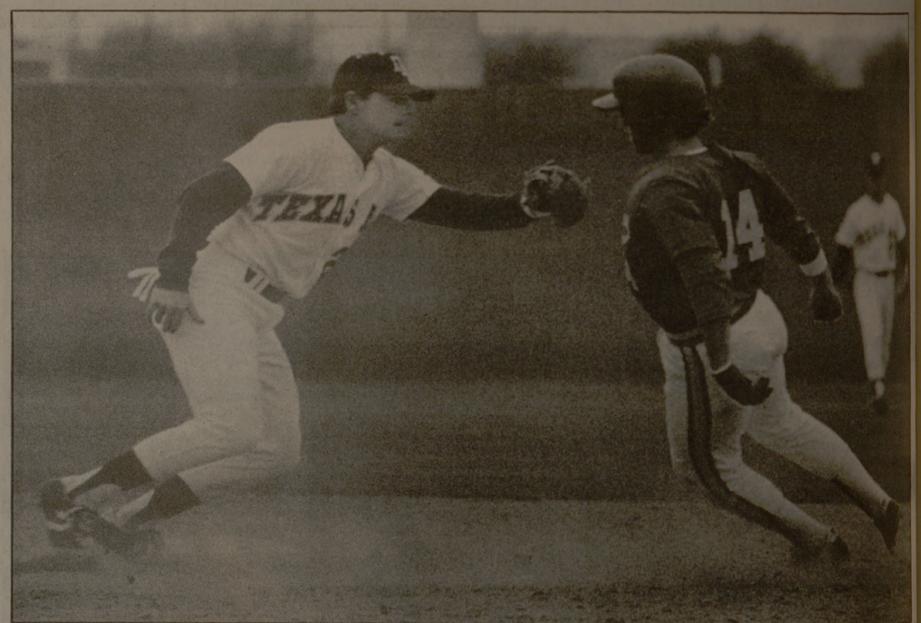
The Aggies were out-hit by the Cowboys and left eight men stranded on base. The low point came in the seventh inning. Down by two runs, A&M left the bases loaded.

During the first game of Saturday's double-header the Aggies showed signs of coming to life offensively. But defensively, they died. Four of the Cowboys' five runs were unearned.

McNeese State put the game away in the fifth because of three A&M "ineptitudes." Johnson said he was not pleased with all the errors the Aggie made.

"We got people that are making the mistakes that shouldn't be making the mistakes," Johnson said. "The last game of series was over almost before it started."

A&M's Gary Geiger started the game and was out before the third



A&M's Robi Chandler (left) tries to put a tag on McNeese State's Curt Leger during the Aggies' 5-3 loss Friday. The Cowboys swept the three-game series over the weekend, 5-3, 5-4 and 6-2.

inning was even over. Geiger, now 0-2, gave up four runs in the first on three singles, a double, a walk and a sacrifice bunt.

Even though A&M helped McNeese State improve its record to 6-4, Johnson said the Aggies just need to relax.

"There's no question that a big rally would loosen everybody up," Johnson said. "I think it would help

if the bats really get going, but when you want something like this, it doesn't always happen like you want it to."

"The big thing is, we can't have each guy trying to force a big play and go to the plate and be the one who's really going to break this thing wide open."

"Everyone's just got to take care of

their own responsibilities and play within themselves."

If that doesn't happen soon, the Aggies could be in for a long season. A&M will host Lamar Tuesday at Olsen Field in a double-header beginning at 1 p.m.

"I told the guys (Saturday), it's not going to be getting any easier and (Lamar) is going to be driving fast to get here," Johnson said.

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