



Photo by JOHN MAKELY

A&M's Blake Hutchison (15) slides safely into second base as his brother, Heath, of Lubbock

Christian College (9) drops the ball in the dirt Thursday. A&M ripped LCC 13-4 at Olsen Field.

Aggies cruise past Chaps on strength of hitting, 13-4

Scanlin, Livingstone pace A&M to 3rd straight win

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Sports Writer

Baseball

A three-run first inning home run by Mike Scanlin and Scott Livingstone's four RBIs propelled Texas A&M to a 13-4 shellacking of Lubbock Christian College at Olsen Field Thursday.

The Aggies, now 5-6 overall, amassed 14 hits against the Chaparrals, who fell to 4-15.

LCC jumped out on top, 3-0, in the first, when A&M starter Dale Barry (1-0) gave up a leadoff double to Darrell Smith and an RBI single to Ronnie Ortegon. Barry retired the next Chaparral batter before Hector Limon doubled Ortegon home.

A&M answered LCC's hitting challenge with three runs in the bottom of the first off Chaparral starter Phil Bryant (0-4).

Scanlin followed a Jeff Schow walk and a Livingstone single with

his third home run of the season — a 375-foot shot against an 18 mph wind — to tie the game, 3-3. A&M made it 4-3 in the third, when Scanlin tripled home Schow.

Pat James scored the Aggies' game-winning run in the fourth on Livingstone's RBI ground out.

The Chaps picked up their final run of the game in the fifth. LCC's Heath Hutchison, whose brother, Blake, is an Aggie catcher, scored on Kerry Richardson's sacrifice fly.

In the sixth, A&M scored four runs to put the game out of reach. Livingstone doubled to drive in Ever Magallanes and Schow. Scanlin then walked.

When LCC catcher Mike Mendazona launched the ball into center field trying to catch Scanlin stealing second base, Livingstone scored from third.

LCC's Ron Bostick took to the mound in the seventh, but served up a double to Robi Chandler and an RBI sacrifice fly to Magallanes. Bostick walked Schow before Livingstone picked up his fourth RBI of the day with a ground out to first.

Barry, in his first start of the year for A&M, went seven innings and gave up four runs, 10 hits, issued one walk and struck out seven batters.

A&M Coach Mark Johnson complimented his team's pitching and defense, but said the key to the win was Scanlin's home run in the first.

"The guys are swinging the bats better," Johnson said. "There's no question about that. I was real pleased with Mike Scanlin's play. He hit the big home run for us."

A&M completes the three-game series with LCC Friday with a double-header beginning at 1 p.m.

Baylor surprises No. 18 A&M, 6-3

WACO — The 18th-ranked Texas A&M men's tennis team began its Southwest Conference season on the short end of the racket Thursday, losing to the Baylor Bears, 6-3.

"Baylor just gutted it up and we didn't," A&M Coach David Kent said. "We lost three matches 7-6 in the third set. This was our first loss to Baylor in 15 years, but we have no excuses."

"(Baylor) came out fired up,

Men's Tennis

Their coach (Lee McCleary) has done a good job turning the team around. Baylor will be heard from some more before the season's over."

One of the few bright spots for A&M was Kimmo Alkio's 6-3, 6-3 win over BU's Paul Ezelle. The 27th-ranked Alkio is now 11-0 in spring singles play.

The Aggies' 20th-ranked tandem of Russ Simmons and Mark Smith were among the losses as the Bears' Ezelle and Glen Dickerson handed the pair a 6-4, 6-3 loss.

This weekend's tennis shouldn't get any easier for A&M as it faces a strong Trinity team at the Omar Smith Tennis Center at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

"There's no love lost between Trinity and us," Kent said.

Sampson, Rockets tower over Nuggets

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets got 31 points and 22 rebounds from Ralph Sampson to take a 117-111 victory over the Denver Nuggets Thursday night in front of 15,186 at The Summit.

Robert Reid added 23 and Lewis Lloyd scored eight points during a 21-7 Houston spurt in the third quarter to help the Rockets push further in front of the Nuggets in the Midwest Division.

Houston, 38-21, stretched its lead to 2½ games over Denver, 26-34, which had a six-game winning streak snapped.

Alex English, the league's leading

scorer, paced Denver with 35 points and led the Nuggets with eight rebounds.

With 7:17 left in the third quarter,

NBA Roundup

Other Thursday Scores:
(home team in capitals)

WASHINGTON 114
Seattle 102

UTAH 109
Indiana 92

SEATTLE 107
Portland 94

the Nuggets threatened to pull away at 76-64, but Rodney McCray scored two of his 12 points on an "alley-oop" dunk two minutes later to narrow it to 76-72.

Houston slashed the lead to 81-80 on Lloyd's dunk and two free throws, tied it at 83 on Reid's basket and went ahead 85-83 on Lloyd's dunk assisted by John Lucas to complete their 21-7 streak.

The Rockets continued the offensive pressure in the fourth quarter when Reid hit six of the first eight points of the period and Houston went on to extend its lead to 113-104 with 2:36 left on a three-point play.

Denver came back on three pointers by Mike Evans and Bill Hanzlik to make it 115-111.

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March 5 and 6

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March 5: Overseas Day, MSC

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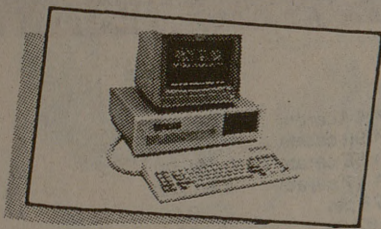
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