

Sports

Ags shut out Bearkats twice

A&M extends win streak to 10 games

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Sports Writer

Pitchers Dale Barry and Pat Wernig picked up the first two shutouts of the year for Texas A&M, and Mike Scanlin hit his 30th career home run, tying the A&M record, as the Aggies swept the Sam Houston State Bearkats, 1-0 and 4-0, in a double-header at Olsen Field Tuesday.

A&M increased its winning streak to 10 games and improved to 12-6 overall, while SHSU dropped to 8-4. Barry (2-0) and Wernig (2-1) allowed only three hits each and pitched the Aggies' third and fourth complete games of the season.

In the first game, A&M's Maury Martin picked up his first game-winning RBI of the year in the third inning, singling home Pat James, who had doubled to leadoff the inning.

SHSU's Frank Ramirez (0-2), gave up only three hits in six innings of work, but the Bearkat offense never gave him much help.

The Bearkats did threaten A&M's shutout in the second, but Barry fended them off. After giving up a leadoff walk and a single, the senior left-hander struck out the next three SHSU batters to squash the comeback.

In the second game, the Aggies cranked out eight hits and, behind the pitching of Wernig, held the Bearkats to three. Wernig used three Aggie double plays to silence Bearkat threats — the biggest of which came in the seventh.

It wasn't all defense for the Aggies.

Not only did Scanlin tie an A&M record, but he picked up the game-winning RBI. He belted a Mike Stavinocha fastball 375 feet over the



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

A&M's Ever Magallanes (left) takes a throw from the catcher as Sam Houston State's Brad Kelley

(4) slides safely into third base Tuesday at Olsen Field. A&M won the double-header, 1-0 and 4-0.

right-center field fence for his seventh home run of the year. That blast tied him with Kyle Hawthorne, who hit 30 round-trippers for A&M between 1977-1979.

Scanlin's homer was, ironically, hit off SHSU's Stavinocha, who hadn't given up a run, much less a home run, all year long.

A&M's Gary Geiger picked up the third RBI of the game when he singled to score Livingstone in the fifth. Scanlin, who went 2-for-3 in the second game, picked up his third RBI

with a double that scored Ever Magallanes in the seventh.

A&M Coach Mark Johnson said, although he was pleased with the performance of the Aggie pitchers, he was not as pleased with the output of the offense.

"You can't have everything every day," Johnson said. "We didn't hit the ball well, but I think (Sam Houston State's) pitchers did a pretty good job of keeping them in the ball game."

Scanlin said he's relieved to have tied the record he's been chasing for four years.

"It was just a matter of time (until I broke the record)," Scanlin said. "I had a full season to do it. I didn't really expect to tie it this soon, but I'll take it. It's nice."

The Aggies embark on their first road trip of the season Friday when they travel to Monroe, La. to take on Northeast Louisiana and Louisiana Tech in Ruston, La.

SWC Women's Postseason Classic (At Moody Coliseum — Dallas)

Wednesday, March 5 — Quarterfinals
Arkansas (21-6) vs. SMU (11-19), 6 p.m.
Texas A&M (16-12) vs. Houston (18-9), 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 6 — Semifinals
Texas Tech (20-7) vs. Arkansas or SMU, 6 p.m.
Texas (27-0) vs. A&M or Houston, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 8 — Finals
Semifinal winners play, 7:30 p.m.

No surprise: UT team to beat in tournament

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

Unlike the Southwest Conference men's basketball season, which ended in a three-way tie between Texas A&M, Texas and TCU after several upsets in the final week of play, the winner of the fourth annual SWC Women's Postseason Classic probably has already been decided.

No. 1-ranked and undefeated Texas, the tournament's top seed with a 16-0 conference record, is the obvious choice to repeat as champions for the fourth consecutive year.

After the Lady Longhorns, however, the picture is not so clear.

Arkansas and Texas Tech finished the season with identical 13-3 SWC records and in a tie for second place. A coin flip to decide who would be the tourney's No. 2 seed bounced in favor of Tech, giving them, along with UT, a first round bye.

Arkansas, which finished the season at 21-6 overall, plays Southern Methodist at 6 p.m. in Moody Coliseum to open the tournament.

Immediately following that game, Texas A&M battles Houston in probably the most evenly matched game of the tourney.

Both A&M and Houston finished SWC play at 9-7 after splitting their

two regular season games. UH won the first contest 80-75 in Hofheinz Pavilion on the strength of its inside game. But A&M bounced back in the second half of conference play to pull off a 71-70 win in G. Rollie White Coliseum, courtesy of 16 points from freshman center Lisa Jordan.

After that victory, A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said, "Any time you have two teams as evenly matched as these, it's going to be a dogfight."

Earlier this week, Hickey said the Lady Aggies, looking to win their first SWC tournament game, were working on their customary pressure defense and offensive game plan to prepare for the Lady Cougars.

A&M will rely on Lisa Langston, the Lady Ags' all-time leading scorer, to provide the offensive firepower, while Jordan and Paula Crutcher keep the SWC's leading scorer, UH's Sonya Watkins, in check.

But even if A&M defends last year's 84-72 tourney loss to UH, its next opponent won't be any easier. The winner of the A&M-UH game faces No. 1 Texas at 8 p.m. Thursday in the semifinals.

The Arkansas-SMU winner plays Tech Thursday night at 6 in the other semifinal game. The semifinal winners then meet Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the tournament finals.

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