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Ags split with Golden Gophers

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Sports Writer

Texas A&M came within an inning of gaining a double-header sweep of Minnesota Tuesday night, but a seventh-inning rally in the first game by the Golden Gophers got them a split in the non-conference battle at Olsen Field.

The Gophers' three runs in the top of the seventh came against A&M reliever Barry Smith, and amounted to a 6-4 Minnesota win. The Ags rebounded for a 10-5 victory in the nightcap.

Baseball

A&M, 21-15, got off to a rocky start in game one as Minnesota, 2-3, collected three first inning runs.

The Ags picked up two runs in the second off Minnesota ace Bryan Hickerson as Ever Magallanes and Maury Martin each collected a RBI.

Mike Scanlin's 13th homer of the year in the sixth tied the game at 3-3.

Russ Greene replaced Wernig in the fourth and pitched three scoreless innings. Smith, 0-1, entered in the ninth and was greeted with four hits and two walks.

The nightcap didn't start out much better for the Aggies.

Russ Swan was knocked around for five second-inning runs, including back-to-back homers.

Jimmy Flowers, 1-1, relieved Swan in the second and held the Gophers to two hits and five walks in six-plus innings of work.

A&M slapped around freshman pitcher John Bierderman for 10 runs on eight hits in the bottom of the third.

Scott Livingstone, who was 4-for-8 with three RBI on the night, rapped a one-out triple off the right field fence to score Jeff Schow and Magallanes. Scanlin followed with a home run blast off the left field scoreboard to make it 5-4.

It was Scanlin's 14th round-tripper of the year, which tied an A&M



Minnesota's Sam Schoen, bottom, slides under the tag of Ever Magallanes, right, during the first game of Tuesday's double-header. The Ags split with the Gophers, losing 6-4 and winning 10-5.

record for most homers in a single season.

Gegen followed Scanlin with his fourth homer of the year, and third in as many days, to tie the score.

The Ags picked up two more runs before Bierderman was taken out.

Brent Odegard came in and Martin swatted his first pitch over the

left field fence for his first homer of the year — a two-run shot. Livingstone drove home the 10th Aggie run of the inning on a single. Schow scored from second.

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASP

A&M's Trussell plays second to none in field

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

You have to be able to move quick if you want to track down Judy "Buffy" Trussell.

If she's not watching the Texas A&M baseball team play, you might find her at the library. If she's not there, try her "second home" — second base at the A&M softball field.

Opponents can tell you all about Trussell's quickness.

Softball

The All-America second baseman led the nation with a .991 fielding percentage last season.

But Trussell does her job quietly. She has yet to hit a home run and you won't hear her leading the Aggies in yells.

"It never crossed my mind that I would be an All-American," said Trussell about last year's honor. "I mean, you have (A&M shortstop) Liz (Mizera) who led the nation in home runs, (A&M third baseman) Cindy (Cooper) who is our leader and (A&M pitcher) Shawn (Andaya) who strikes out everyone. Who knew about me?"

Batters who have been gunned down by her quick arm and pitchers who have been pulled because of her singles and doubles, that's who.

You will never see Trussell misplay a ground ball or overthrow first.

"I feel more confident in the field," she said. "I get mad if the ball's hit up the middle or between first and second and I don't make the play. I feel like I should get anything close."

And as the Ags' leadoff hitter, Trussell will show you a lot of base hits and will never strike out.

"I feel like I've really been hitting



A&M Softball Coach Bob Brock says his All-American second baseman, Judy Trussell, left, is "the best fielder in the nation."

the ball hard," she said. "I might not have gotten a lot of hits, but I just need to keep hitting it hard and they will start to fall."

If she needs any tips to help her hitting or fielding, the A&M junior knows right where to turn.

Trussell calls her father, who coached her while in high school at Lake Jackson, "my worst critic."

"Sports were the major part of my life growing up," she said. "I started playing in the fourth grade.

"My dad pushed me. I could tell you some stories. He has left me in tears. But that made me a better player. And he is my biggest fan. I think my making All-American got to my dad more than anyone. He was the proudest of all."

And if dad can't help, boyfriend Rob Swain might be able to.

"If I ask, he'll tell me," Trussell said. "He has lots of stuff to say."

Swain, who was an All-Southwest Conference shortstop at A&M last

season, is currently playing second base in the Cleveland Indians farm system.

"I think (both being players) helped our relationship," Trussell said. "I understand when he's up and he understands when I'm up."

"It's weird because he played shortstop both years here and then I moved to second last year. Then I moved to second last year and now he's playing second."

Trussell and the No. 6 Aggies are hoping they won't need any pointers today.

A&M will play at home for the first time this season when it hosts Minnesota in a double-header at Southwood Athletic Park at 5 p.m.

The Ags are coming off a successful week in California, playing top teams in the nation. Will it be difficult for the Ags to get up for a little-known Golden Gophers?

"No way," Trussell said. "Coach has constantly stressed to be ready for the weaker teams. We have to play at our best all the time and to the level of our competition."

"And when we get overconfident, all we have to do is think about last year."

Last year was "a disappointment" for A&M.

Although they finished with a 12 mark and ranked second in the nation, the Ags failed to reach the College World Series for the first time in seven years.

"That left a real bad taste in my mouths," Trussell said. "We might have peaked too soon, I don't know. The good thing about this year is we're on the right track, but there's still room for improvement. I think we can beat anyone in the nation if we're all playing up to our capabilities."

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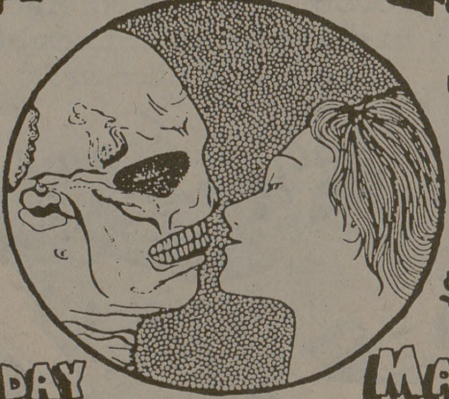
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