

A&M takes series from McNeese St.

By Homer Jacobs
Sports Editor

Texas A&M baseball Coach Mark Johnson called it "contagious." Third baseman Scott Livingstone doesn't know why the Aggies have it.

But it's not a dreadful disease the two are speaking about. Johnson and Livingstone are referring to A&M's phenomenal hitting success that has engulfed this 1987 squad.

And A&M continued its hitting barrage this weekend in a three-game sweep of McNeese State at Olsen Field.

The Aggies, 8-1, took Saturday's double-header over the Cowboys by the scores of 13-1 and 12-1. A&M then cooled off at the plate slightly with a 6-5 victory in a rescheduled game Sunday afternoon.

In the three games, Aggie batters racked up 42 hits and produced 31 runs.

"There's no complaints about the hitting," Johnson said.

In the pitching department, former Bryan High School player Sean Snedeker grabbed his second win of the year giving up four hits and three walks; in the second half of the double-header, Gary Geiger picked up the victory, giving up six hits and six walks in seven innings before Russ Greene entered the game in relief.

Pat Wernig won his first game of the year in Sunday's game striking out 11 Cowboy batters.

Although the Aggies were in total control of the first two games of the series, A&M had a tougher time with McNeese State in the final game.

The Aggies led off the first inning with back-to-back doubles by Livingstone and left fielder Tim McWilliam to take a 1-0 lead.



Photo by Bill Hughes

Texas A&M right fielder Don Wren slides back to first base to avoid a pickoff by McNeese State

pitcher Scott Richard. The Aggies swept the three-game series to improve their record to 8-1.

But the Cowboys returned the favor as first baseman Chip Stratton and catcher Rod Lung also hit back-to-back doubles to even the score at 1-1; and after the Cowboys loaded the bases on A&M pitcher Tim Herrmann, Lung scored on an error by Livingstone to up the Cowboys' lead to 2-1 in the top of the second.

A&M went scoreless in its half of the second, and then McNeese State used two wild pitches by Herrmann to score third baseman Chris Fackler, who had sin-

gled earlier in the inning.

With the Cowboys out in front 3-1, Johnson went to the bullpen and brought in Wernig. The result was five straight scoreless innings for McNeese State, while the Aggie batters began to click into gear.

In the bottom of the fourth, designated hitter John Byington got things rolling with a one-run homer over the left-field wall to close the gap at 3-2.

And in the bottom of the sixth and seventh innings, A&M scored

two runs in each to grab a 6-3 lead.

The Cowboys kept things interesting by scoring two runs in the top of the ninth with two outs; and with the tying run on base, Wernig got the win as he struck out Fackler for the third out.

Johnson said he is very pleased with A&M's quick start, especially because the Aggies are so young.

A&M travels to Huntsville today to tangle with Sam Houston State University.

A&M men's tennis team snatches two wins in weekend action to improve record to 6-1

By Hal L. Hammons
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's tennis team continued its winning ways this weekend, winning matches against Arkansas-Little Rock and Trinity.

The 6-1 Aggies won a tight 6-2 match Saturday afternoon with UALR at the Omar Smith Tennis Center. They followed the win by going to San Antonio Sunday and earning a 7-2 victory over Trinity, their second in eight days.

A&M Coach David Kent said he was really pleased with the win Saturday over a "really good team" in UALR.

Kent said the key to the UALR win was the gutsy comeback of Dean Goldfine in his 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 No. 2 singles win over Lars Malmgren. The win put the Aggies up 4-1, which proved to be a hole too large for the Indians to climb out of.

"Goldfine played great," Kent said. "He really came through when we really needed him to."

"He's been gutting it out for a number of years now," Kent said about the senior.

No. 5 player Shawn O'Donovan continued to look impressive. The freshman improved his season record to 7-0 with two victories, includ-

ing a tough 1-6, 7-6, 6-3 win Saturday over Phillippe Vanlos.

The No. 2 doubles match between Anders Mansson and John Smith of UALR and A&M's Dean Johnson and Brent Haygarth was officially called for darkness with UALR ahead 6-4, 4-2.

Sunday was the first time in the long rivalry that A&M had won on Trinity's home court.

"Trinity has the best fans this side of Georgia," Kent said. "You should have seen them. It was like a football game for them."

Highlights of the Trinity win included No. 1 and No. 2 singles victories by Johnson and Marcel Vos.

Johnson fought hard for a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 win over Mauricio Silva of Trinity. Silva is ranked No. 11 in the nation.

"(Dean) Johnson has arrived," Kent said about the win.

Kent thought before the match that the return of Fanie Renech, who missed the first A&M-Trinity match, would make the second time much more difficult for the Aggies. Vos showed that was not necessarily the case as he disposed of Renech 6-4, 6-4.



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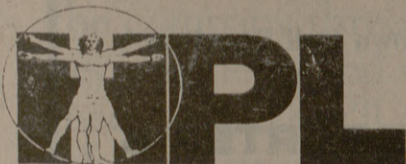
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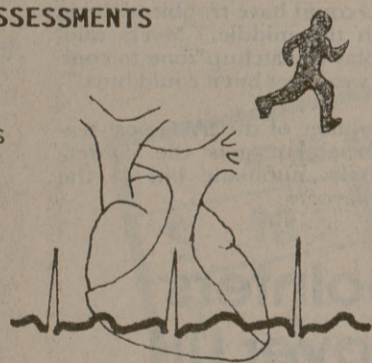
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