

Sports

A&M splits twinbill with La. Tech Aggies' Fry throws no-hitter in 14-0 win

By Ed Bodde
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M's bats came back to life, rapping out 14 hits in the second game of a double-header with Louisiana Tech Monday afternoon, but it was pitcher Darryl Fry who stole the show.

Fry threw his first collegiate no-hitter as the Aggies blasted the Bulldogs 14-0 and gained a split of their double-header. Louisiana Tech won the first game 5-1.

A&M is now 14-2-1 for the year and ranked No. 19 in the ESPN collegiate baseball poll. Louisiana Tech, whose season has been hampered by rainouts, is 2-1.

Fry had been struggling of late, starting the contest with a 6.75 ERA, but Monday's game was different. Fry (2-1) went the full seven innings, walking only one and recording six strikeouts.

"In the (bull) pen before the game, I felt I had good touch on my pitches," Fry said. "My curve ball was working better than it has in a long time."

Fry said he hadn't been able to throw the curve for strikes early in the season.

"My main objective was to get back on track and win a game," Fry said. "But I'm glad it turned out this way."

It was the first Aggie no-hitter in Olsen Field since Mark Thurmond accomplished the feat in 1978.

It was only appropriate that the final out be a ground ball back through the box. Fry handled it and threw to Daron Dacus at first base to end the game.

"I was going to sacrifice my body to knock it down," Fry said.

The Aggies got all the runs they needed in the first inning. Losing pitcher Jordan Stanley (0-1) walked lead-off man Don Wren, who promptly stole second base.

Shortstop Ever Magallanes then lined a single to right field to score Wren, and Scott Livingstone's single then sent Magallanes to third base.

Stanley continued to be hit hard as John Byington lined to third, but Chuck Knoblauch followed with still

another single to right field, this time scoring Magallanes for a 2-0 lead.

Second baseman Terry Taylor grounded out, but Livingstone scored on the play; and when Tim McWilliam doubled into the left-center-field gap scoring Knoblauch, the Aggies had a four-run first inning.

Although Fry would not need any more help offensively, A&M added single runs in the third and fourth innings and eight in a fifth inning highlighted by Livingstone's three-run shot off the scoreboard in left center. It was Livingstone's seventh homer of the year as he finished the game 2-for-3 with four RBI. Taylor added three RBI on 2-of-4 hitting, of-4 hitting.

"We bounced back well," Coach Mark Johnson said. "The day belongs to Darryl Fry."

And also to Richie LeBlanc, who pitched the Bulldogs to a 5-1 victory in the first game. LeBlanc (2-0) seemed to have the Aggie batters off-balance as he scattered seven hits over seven innings.

"LeBlanc is an outstanding pitcher," Johnson said. "He's going to be tough to beat."

However, the Aggies certainly didn't look like a 13-1-1 team going into the first game. A&M's starting pitcher Pat Wernig (2-1) took the loss as he gave up five runs on seven hits.

Only two of the runs were earned as the Aggies committed four errors. But Wernig often got into trouble with his five walks.

Louisiana Tech was able to get three runs in the second inning on two hits, two walks and a throwing error by Magallanes.

The Bulldogs got their fourth run on Charlie Montoyo's third-inning blast, his first of the year.

The final Louisiana Tech run was the result of a walk, another error and a solid base hit.

A&M was able to avert the shutout as Dacus drove in Taylor with a sacrifice fly in the final inning.

A&M will take on Hardin-Simmons in a 1 p.m. double-header today at Olsen Field.

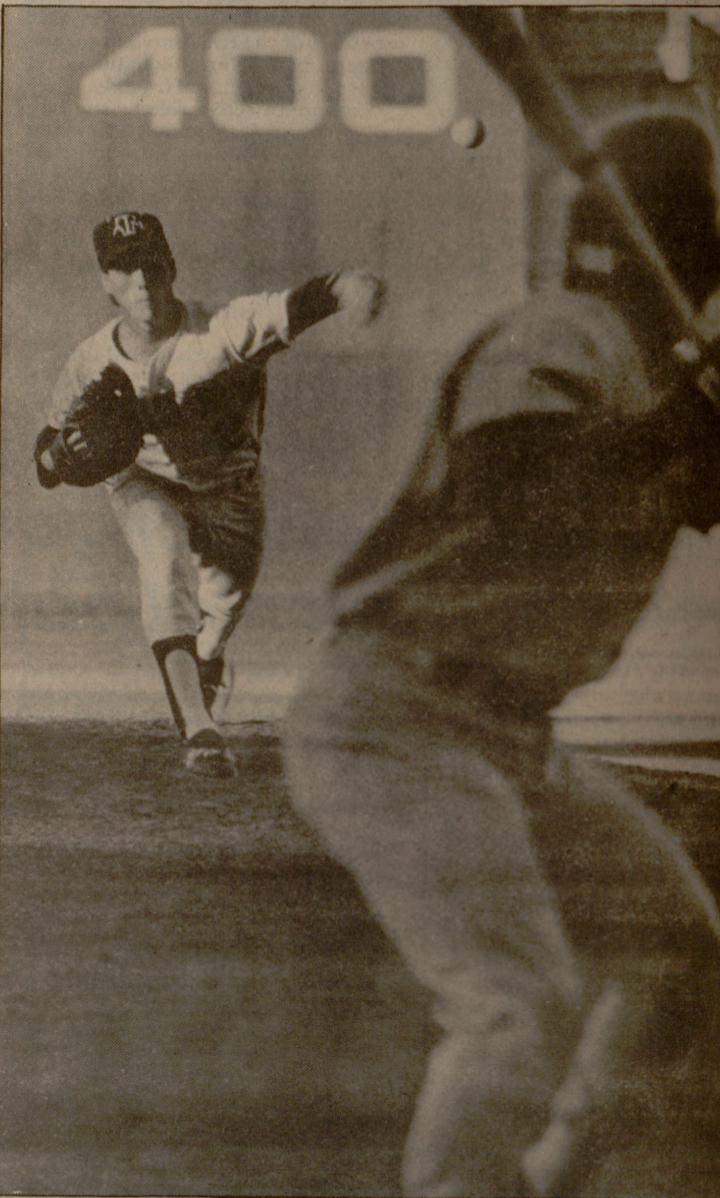


Photo by Tom Owen
Texas A&M pitcher Darryl Fry releases the final pitch of a no-hitter in A&M's 14-0 victory over Louisiana Tech.

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