

Lady Aggies finish regular season with win

A&M's Andaya, Trussell shine in 2-0 win over Sam Houston

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer



Judy Trussell

Texas A&M's Shawn Andaya pitched a one-hit shutout and Judy Trussell hit two singles and scored a run in the last regular-season home game for the two seniors as the Lady Aggie softball team defeated Sam Houston State 2-0 Tuesday.

The game, played at Bee Creek Park, was called in the bottom half of the fifth inning due to rain.

The Lady Aggies, now 49-7, play next at the NCAA regionals May 15-16 at an undetermined site.

A&M scored both its runs in the third inning. Trussell led off with a single, and Andaya followed with a fielder's choice. Sam Houston pitcher Elaine Devlin's attempt to force Trussell at second on the play was too late. Devlin then walked shortstop Liz Mizera to load the bases with no outs.

Trussell scored when Erika Eriksson hit a grounder to the

second baseman, who threw too high to home plate to force Trussell. Andaya was tagged out by the catcher when she rounded the bag too far and was caught in a rundown.

Mizera scored one out later on an error by Lady Bearkat first baseman Kim Nevil.

SHSU's only hit came in the fifth inning when Andaya

knocked down Cindy Musser's line drive but was unable to throw her out. Musser stole second base but was stranded there when Andaya retired the next three batters. Andaya, now 29-5 on the year, finished the game with three strikeouts and no walks.

Both Andaya and Trussell, who are co-captains, said they were saddened with the thought of playing in their last home game. During their careers, the Lady Aggies have compiled a 186-50 record.

Andaya has twice earned second team All-America and College World Series All-Tournament honors. Along with her 107 victories, she has racked up 1,175 strikeouts and is among the team leaders in several offensive categories.

Trussell was named the second baseman on the All-America team as a sophomore and the College World Series All-Tournament team as a junior, but moved to third base this year. She has driven in 29 runs this year and

has played in all but four innings this season. Both are looking forward to NCAA Regionals.

"I wanted to get a full game in," Andaya said. "I wish the circumstances, with the lightning and everything, could have been a little bit better."

"I was up for the game since it's my last home game, but not my last game," she added. "From now on out, our next game could be our last game."

Trussell said she was "glad but sad" about playing in her last regular season home game.

"Shawn and I worked really hard for four years and I'm looking forward to the future, getting out of school and things like that, but I'm going to miss it really, really bad," Trussell said.

"It's going to be hard," Trussell said about not playing next year. "I've played sports all my life and next year's going to be the first time that I'm not playing. I might stay in coaching one way or another. Coach (Bob Brock) might let Shawn and me help next year a little bit."

Sonics sweep Rockets in Houston

as Ellis continues scoring spree

HOUSTON (AP) — Dale Ellis, his jump shot silent for much of the second half, heated up again just in time to shoot down the Houston Rockets with 30 points Tuesday night, giving Seattle a 99-97 victory and a surprising 2-0 lead in their NBA second-round playoff series.

"I didn't get off to a good start but I finished up strong," said Ellis, who scored six of his 10 second-half points in the final 3:14.

Ellis' second straight jumper with 1:33 left in the game put the Sonics ahead for good, 98-97.

"They were really concentrating on me," Ellis said. "Robert Reid did a good job on me, but I don't care who's guarding me."

Ellis and teammate Kevin Williams were arrested early Sunday following an altercation at a night club and Ellis said he expected more jeering from Houston fans.

"I was disappointed," Ellis said. "I expected more. There are some real comedians here."

The SuperSonics, seeded seventh in the Western Conference with a 39-43 record, maintained the momentum they started by upsetting second-seeded Dallas 3-1 in the first round.

Sonics forward Tom Chambers said, "If I were a betting man, I wouldn't say we would come in here and win two straight. Both games

were close and could have gone either way."

Their second loss at home put the Rockets in a shaky position for repeating as Western Conference champions. Only one other team has rallied from two series-opening losses at home to win a best-of-seven series.

The next two games will be in Seattle on Thursday and Saturday. The Sonics won the series opener 111-106 in overtime.

"We have a lot of guys that nobody wanted and they've been winning as a group," Seattle Coach Bernie Bickerstaff said. "Dale is playing great, we all know that. But the other guys are setting screens for him to get him open."

The Rockets used a third-quarter surge to get back in the game and held the lead until Ellis' shot. The Rockets went the final 2:05 of the game without scoring.

"If we can't get a 100-point game, we can't beat them," Houston Coach Bill Fitch said. "We are making them shoot 20-footers but we are missing 16-footers. We were too spastic outside."

"We are putting dirt in our own faces. We're either through or just starting."

Rockets forward Ralph Sampson said, "We were getting the ball down

the court and getting the easy basket, then it just stopped."

Only four teams in NBA playoff history have come back from a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-seven series. The only team to lose the first two games at home and win a series was the Los Angeles Lakers against San Francisco in the 1969 Western Division semifinals.

The Rockets had charged back from a four-point halftime deficit and took a 79-70 lead into the fourth quarter, outscoring the Sonics 31-18 in the third period.

But the Sonics caught up in the closing minutes on five straight points by Eddie Johnson and then took the lead for good on Ellis' two baskets.

Ellis had 20 points at halftime and finished with 30, giving him 160 points in the Sonics' five playoff victories.

The Rockets broke from a 52-48 halftime deficit to take the lead with a 10-2 spurt to start the third quarter. They held the lead until Ellis' jumper with 1:33 to play gave Seattle a 98-97 lead.

The Rockets went scoreless in the final 2:05 of the game after a layup by Allen Leavell gave them a 97-94 lead.

Xavier McDaniel added 22 points for the Sonics.

Darwin hits, pitches Astros past Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Houston pitcher Danny Darwin has never been known as a hitting threat.

Coming into Tuesday night's game, the Houston right-hander was 2-for-26 lifetime and had struck out 20 times, including his last seven at-bats.

But Darwin went 3-for-3, with a single, double and a two-run triple in the seventh inning that snapped a 1-1 tie as the Astros defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 5-1.

On the mound, Darwin, 2-1, allowed one run and five hits in seven innings.

"I really don't know what happened," Darwin said. "Coach) Denis Menke told me to put my hands lower because I was uppercutting. Other than that, I have no idea how I got three hits."

Manager Hal Lanier said Darwin had good location, particularly with his slider. Asked about Darwin's hitting, Lanier replied, "I would love to have a bet on him getting three hits."

It was the second straight game in which the opposing pitcher went 3-for-3 against the Phillies. Cincinnati's Bill Gullickson had two singles and a home run on Sunday.

"We're having a lot of trouble with the other team's pitchers hitting the ball," Manager John Felske said. "We hit some balls hard, but we're not getting the hits when we need them. The only bright spot was Shane Rawley. He pitched very well."

Rawley, 1-2, allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

With the score tied 1-1, Alan Ashby and Bert Pena singled with two out in the Houston seventh. Darwin then lined his triple over the head of center-fielder Milt Thompson.

The Astros added two runs off Kent Tekulve in the ninth when Kevin Bass and Jose Cruz led off with singles and Alan Ashby doubled them home.

The Phillies took a 1-0 lead in the fifth inning on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly by Juan Samuel after Lance Parrish and Rawley singled and Thompson walked.

The Astros tied it an inning later on Billy Hatcher's sacrifice fly after Darwin led off with an infield hit and went to third on Bill Doran's single.

Larry Andersen and Dave Smith each pitched one scoreless inning for Houston.

Detroit surprises Edmonton, takes 1-0 lead in NHL semis

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Greg Stefan, making his first appearance in six games after a run-in with Detroit Coach Jacques Demers, turned in a strong performance in goal as the Red Wings stunned the Edmonton Oilers 3-1 Tuesday night in the opener of their NHL semifinal playoff series.

The second game of the best-of-seven series will be played here Thursday night.

Stefan, who yielded to red-hot Glen Hanlon the last five contests and who didn't even dress for four of them, held the high-powered Oilers scoreless for the final two periods as the Red Wings defeated Edmonton after 13 straight losses dating back to Jan. 9, 1983.

Stefan made 31 saves in virtually blanketing the team with the best winning and scoring record in the NHL this year. It was Stefan's first victory over the Oilers after six losses.

Twenty-four seconds after Steve Yzerman gave Detroit a 1-0 lead, Stefan was beaten for the first and

only time by Kent Nilsson's rebound shot on a power play 10:36 into the game.

Detroit took the lead for good with 7:28 left in the first period when Joe Kocur took Shawn Burr's pass in front of the net, waited for Oilers goalie Grant Fuhr to go down, and lifted a backhand into the top of the net.

The rest of the game belonged to Stefan and the Detroit defense, which killed four of five power plays and was content to push and grab Edmonton's offensive stars all game long.

In the third period, Edmonton was bottled up in center ice for the most part as many of the Oilers' hometown crowd of 16,874 at the Northlands Coliseum heartily booed their team.

Gerard Gallant gave the Red Wings an insurance goal with 6:03 to play when he scored from the slot on a wrist shot after taking a pass from Yzerman.

The Oilers had won eight consecutive playoff games before Tuesday night's contest.

Boston tops Milwaukee

BOSTON (AP) — Larry Bird scored 40 points as the Boston Celtics, playing without Kevin McHale, never trailed and beat the Milwaukee Bucks 111-98 Tuesday night in the opener of their NBA Eastern Conference semifinal series.

It was a season-high eighth straight victory for Boston and its 32nd in a row at home, as the Celtics remained unbeaten in the playoffs.

Game Two of the best-of-seven series is scheduled for Boston Garden tonight.

McHale, the NBA's sixth leading regular-season scorer, suited up but did not play due to an injured right ankle.

The defending champion Celtics showed no rustiness from a six-day layoff following their first-round sweep of the Chicago Bulls.

Milwaukee, which was swept by Boston in last year's Eastern Conference final, was led by Terry Cummings with 28 points.

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