

Sports

McDonald leads Aggies past Rice

HOUSTON (AP) — Guard Darryl McDonald's second-half shooting led Texas A&M to a 67-55 Southwest Conference victory Saturday night over Rice.

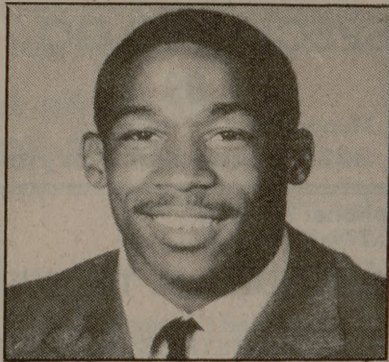
McDonald led the Aggies with 20 points and got 14 of them in the second half, including a pair of 3-pointers. Forward Keron Graves also hit a pair of key 3-point field goals in the second half for A&M, which had only a 26-22 halftime advantage.

Rice freshman forward David Willie led all scorers with 22 points, including five 3-pointers.

The Aggies improved to 14-12 overall and 6-6 in the SWC, while the Owls fell to 6-18 and 3-10. Forward Donald Thompson had 9 of the points by intermission.

The Aggies led at the half despite shooting only 44 percent from the field. The Owls were an even colder 28 percent from the field in the first 20 minutes, with Willie and guard Ronald Robertson scoring 11 and 9 points respectively.

The Owls scored 10 unanswered points and took an 18-8 lead with 7:19 left in the first half, only to see the Aggies go on an



Darryl McDonald

18-4 run for their 4-point half-time lead.

In the second half, the Aggies raced to a 37-26 lead but the Owls fought back and took a short lived 48-46 lead with 5:50 to play on two consecutive three-point goals by Willie.

The Aggies countered with nine points down the stretch by backup center Doug Dennis and six points by McDonald to coast to victory.

Aggies clean up at Olsen Field

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

If someone had looked into a Texas A&M baseball player's locker this weekend, he probably would have found the following: a baseball glove, batting gloves, baseballs, cleats, a bat and a broom. *A broom?*

Actually, the Aggies didn't bring brooms to the ballpark this weekend. But, the way they swept the seventh-ranked University of New Orleans Privateers in three games at Olsen Field, it wouldn't have been surprising if they had.

Fifth-ranked A&M won 11-5, 4-2 and 6-2 to up its record to 8-0. New Orleans dropped to 2-3.

After the series, the players and coaches talked about how much the team's confidence is growing as the win total increases.

"Last year we went over there and they swept us," John Byington said. "But we have a different attitude this year. Instead of saying, 'Let's take two out of three,' we say, 'Let's sweep them.'"

Pitcher Sean Snedeker said, "It was a big series for us. It was important to us because we know we can play with anyone. We knew they had a good club. For us to feel good about our rankings we had to play well. It's a big confidence builder."

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson agreed that sweeping the series helped the Aggies mentally.

"They're (New Orleans) going to be a hard team to sweep for anyone," Johnson said. "It instills confidence when you can beat those folks."

A&M exploded for 11 runs, seven against UNO's Olympian and All-American ace Joe Slusarski, against the Privateers Friday afternoon. Catcher Tom Carcione, designated hitter Byington and left fielder Tim McWilliam led the offensive attack. Carcione got the Aggies first hit off of Slusarski, a three-run home run in the second inning.

"It's about time I started hitting the ball," Carcione said. "I hit a slider away and hit it good. I didn't think it was going out of the yard. It helped the team get some momentum going."

Carcione picked up another RBI in the fourth on a fielder's choice.

McWilliam hit a bases loaded triple in the seventh, chasing home three runs. Byington had two RBIs on his first home run in the eighth inning.

"Knowing their ace was an All-American, when we came in and ripped him, it gave us lots of confidence," Byington said.

Left-hander Nick Felix picked up

his second win of the year. Felix gave up five runs in his 7 $\frac{2}{3}$ inning stint and struck out seven.

Anthony DeLaCruz pitched the final 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ innings for the save.

Saturday's double-header was more of a pitcher's duel than a slugfest. In the first game, A&M and UNO were tied 1-1 going into the sixth inning until A&M scored three runs in its half of the inning.

Kirk Thompson led off the inning with a single and moved to second on Terry Taylor's sacrifice bunt. UNO third baseman Keith Schmitt dropped a pop fly by Scott Livingstone. Byington followed with a double off the base of the right field wall driving in Thompson and Livingstone. Byington later scored on Jim Neumann's fielder's choice.

Sean Snedeker improved his record to 2-0 by working his way out of jams in the second, third and fifth innings.

"Once they get on, I try to battle with them," Snedeker said. "I try to bear down. I had to stay tough and not let them score."

The Privateers scored only one earned run in seven innings on Snedeker. The senior righthander went to the well several times to pull up a changeup.

"I've been working a lot on straight change," he said. "It's continued to improve so you'll see me use it more as an out pitch."

A&M also got strong pitching performances in the second game from Randy Pryor and Scott Centala. Pryor pitched seven strong innings allowing two runs, one of which was unearned. The win boosted Pryor's record to 2-0.

Centala, who has emerged as the team's stopper in the bullpen, struck out three in his two innings of relief.

"I really felt like our pitchers were much better this weekend than last weekend," Johnson said. "That's a sign of good competitors — coming in to improve."

The Aggies took advantage of several UNO miscues, scoring three earned runs. Of A&M's three earned runs, two of them came in the seventh inning on solo home runs by Carcione and Taylor. The dingers were Carcione's third and Taylor's second.

A&M will travel to Huntsville today to play Sam Houston State, 2, at 2 p.m. Jeff Jones will take the record to the mound for the Aggies against SHSU's Jim Crawford, who also 1-0. The Aggies will return home on Tuesday to face Lamar's doubleheader at 1 p.m.

Lady Ags victory over Rice strengthens shot at tourney

HOUSTON — The Texas A&M women's basketball team solidified its chances for a berth in the Southwest Conference post-season tournament with a 70-67 win over Rice Saturday in Houston.

Under the current tourney format, the top six teams in the league will advance to Dallas, the site of the tournament.

A&M, with a 12-10 overall record and a 6-6 SWC slate, is currently holding on to fourth place.

The Lady Owls had a 10-point lead with five minutes left in the game, but they couldn't hold off an A&M rally.

A&M took the lead for good with 23 seconds left when center Lisa Jordan sank two free throws to put the Lady Aggies on top 68-67.

Traci Thomas was the Lady Aggies' leading scorer with 17, including seven straight points to give A&M its first lead of the second half at 66-64.

A&M men netters stroke past UALR, Sooners

By Cray Pixley
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's tennis team won two dual matches against Arkansas-Little Rock and Oklahoma with the help of strong doubles play this weekend at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Friday afternoon the team took on Arkansas-Little Rock and split the singles matches 3-3.

A&M's No. 1 and No. 2 seeds, Dean Johnson and Shaun O'Donovan were defeated in the singles 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 and 6-4, 6-4.

Steve Kennedy, Michael Chambers and Craig Whitteker won their matches for A&M.

A&M then came on strong in the doubles to win two of three matches.

No. 2 seed Whitteker and Johnson defeated Cary Rosenbaum and Rigo Rosales 6-4, 6-3.

No. 3 seed Wayne Green and Michael Chambers defeated Lars Malmgren and Mikael Gavelin 6-3, 6-0.

No. 1 doubles seed Kennedy and O'Donovan were defeated 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

"Kennedy and Chambers played extremely well in singles, and the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles showed a lot of enthusiasm on the court," A&M Coach David Kent said.

"I'm proud of Wayne Green because of the great doubles match he

played after a disappointing singles loss," he said.

Green recently replaced Jeff Livshitz as the No. 6 seed.

The doubles wins against Arkansas-Little Rock pumped up the A&M team.

"We had lost confidence in doubles after the Indiana dual match," Assistant Coach Tim Drain said. "Now I think we have regained it. Confidence is the key."

A&M beat UALR by a score of 5-4.

Saturday afternoon A&M took on Oklahoma and came out of the singles matches with 3-3 split reminiscent of the match the day before.

Dean Johnson met two-time Big

Eight champ and All-American over Lorin in the singles.

Johnson played Lorin strong and managed to take the second set before succumbing to defeat, 4-6, 3-6, 2.

"Dean played an excellent match against Lorin, their All-American," Kent said.

Drain agreed that Johnson played Lorin well.

"That was a tough match for Dean," he said. "Lorin basically has no weaknesses."

A&M's O'Donovan, Kennedy and Whitteker defeated their opponents in singles play.

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