

# Sports

## A&M catching baseball fever; OSU game may start epidemic

From Staff and Wire Reports

Olsen Field had never seen anything like it in a decade of collegiate baseball.

Capacity was 5,053, yet there was a standing-room-only crowd of 5,373 fans crammed into the aisles and every nook and cranny to watch sixth-ranked Texas A&M meet top-ranked Oklahoma State, nursing a 15-game winning streak.

The Aggies lost 5-4 in extra innings but the nationally televised game on ESPN drew raves.

"This one was a great show," said Oklahoma State Coach Gary Ward. "We'd like to play them again. On June 10th."

June 10 is the day of the championship game in the College World Series.

It was a game of four home runs and big defensive plays.

So spectacular was the game that a freight train stopped on the tracks behind right field so the engineer could watch the action.

An Oklahoma State homer almost rolled to the train.

"This was just a great game and I'm really proud of our fans," said A&M Coach Mark Johnson.

"They were tuned in from the first pitch and stayed there until the last pitch."

A&M has a 30-7 record and is on track to its best season since 1971 when the Aggies finished 31-9.

A&M beat North Texas State 8-1 Tuesday and 5-4 on Wednesday afternoon to reach the 30-win plateau.

"You read all about OSU and how they are No. 1 but now we know for sure we can compete with them," said A&M third baseman Scott Livingston.

A&M fans painted their faces and 1,000 of them had on batting helmets.

One small band of fans had a large fishing pole with a "crying towel" hooked on the end of the line which they dropped from the upper deck within Ward's reach.

"That's an area called 'George's

## Ags rally to beat NTSU 5-4

By Hal L. Hammons  
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M rallied for three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning for a 5-4 win over North Texas State Wednesday afternoon at Olsen Field.

The win, the second in two days over the Eagles, pushed the Aggies to 30-7 on the year. NTSU fell to 5-26.

Kirk Thompson led off the ninth for the Aggies with a single, and he scored on Terry Taylor's double. Chuck Knoblauch followed with a double that dropped just under the diving NTSU center fielder's glove, scoring Taylor.

John Byington followed with a sacrifice fly to center that moved Knoblauch to third, and Jim Neumann knocked him home with another fly.

The Aggies opened the scoring in the second. Tom Carcione reached first on an error and eventually scored when Andy

Duke's grounder went between the shortstop's legs.

But the Eagles responded in the top of the third. Cecil Vega was hit by starting pitcher Kerry Freudenberg, and Danny Sugés and Steve Taylor singled to load the bases.

Vega scored the Eagles' first run when Freudenberg's pick-off attempt flew into center field. Keith Cullom and Jesse Ramon walked to force in Sugés. Mike Sanders grounded into a fielder's choice that scored Taylor, and NTSU led 3-1.

Steve Hughes, who came in for the Aggies to start the ninth, got his fourth win of the year against no losses. Eagle reliever Don Coen got the loss, his first decision of the year.

A&M Coach Mark Johnson was pleased with the improving play of Terry Taylor. The second baseman struck out four times in Monday's loss to Oklahoma State,

but he went 3-for-4 Wednesday.

"He made some good adjustments from the other night," Johnson said. "I think his confidence level is much, much higher than it was (after Monday)."

He was not pleased, however, with the continuing difficulties his team is having as a whole at the plate.

"I don't think we have been hitting the ball well," he said. "It hasn't been a good offensive week for us."

Johnson said the team is missing outfielders Tim McWilliam and Deron Dacus. McWilliam is recovering from a back injury and is scheduled to begin throwing the ball again today.

Dacus was hit in the eye in Tuesday's game and received 40 stitches. Dacus should be out for ten to twelve days.

A&M plays again Friday afternoon as it starts a three-game series with Texas Tech.

## TCU leads in 1st half of dual match

Foul weather and the 14th-ranked Texas Christian University men's tennis team rolled into town to disrupt the 24th-ranked Texas Aggies Wednesday at Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Singles play was completed but rain postponed the doubles action which has been rescheduled for April 13.

TCU leads the dual match with a 4-2 lead in the singles.

"We had a great effort against a great TCU squad and we're not finished yet, A&M Coach David Kent said.

"We still have the doubles and that's our strongest point. We had too many missed opportunities here today, but they are a good team."

A&M's No. 3 Steve Kennedy and No. 5 Craig Whitteker won their matches.

Kennedy defeated Neil Smith in three sets, 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

Whitteker beat Gary Betts 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

A&M's No. 1 Dean Johnson suffered defeat to Clinton Banducci, 6-2, 6-4 and No. 2 man, Shaun O'Donovan lost to Earl Zinn, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

TCU's Eric Lingg defeated No. 4 Michael Chambers, 5-7, 7-6, 6-2.

No. 6 Wayne Green lost to Gerard Ronan 6-2, 6-0.

## Twins edge Astros 6-5

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Mark Davidson and Al Newman keyed a four-run seventh inning as the Minnesota Twins rallied for a 6-5 exhibition baseball victory over the Houston Astros Wednesday.

It was the Twins' final home game of spring training.

With the Twins trailing 4-1 entering the seventh, Gary Gaetti and Tom Nieto singled and Tom Brunansky walked to load the bases against Astros reliever Joe Sambito.

Houston Manager Hal Lanier brought in Larry Andersen, who struck out Steve Lombardozzi.

Jungle' " said A&M assistant sports information director Alan Cannon.

"The tradition got started several years ago when Baylor came to play and they hooked a teddy bear and dropped it near the Bears' coach (Mickey Sullivan). It's different," he said.

"All I know it was the loudest crowd we've ever had. You couldn't hear the public address announcer," said Cannon, who has seen all of A&M's games.

The Aggies have never had the national baseball success of their Southwest Conference rival Texas Longhorns and Coach Cliff Gustafson.

The Aggies have won three straight SWC football titles but when

you talk baseball, Gustafson is still the king.

The Aggies came within a game of making the College World Series last year in the championship of the Midwest Regional but lost 11-9 to OSU.

Texas and Arkansas from the SWC did make it.

"It was almost a replay of the game we lost Monday night," Cannon said.

"We had runners on the corners with two outs but still lost."

The Aggies last appeared in the College World Series in 1964, losing their first two games.

In 1951, A&M went 1-2 in the NCAA playoffs.

"Everybody has the fever around

here for sure," said Cannon.

"And the Oklahoma State game didn't hurt. It's got everybody fired up."

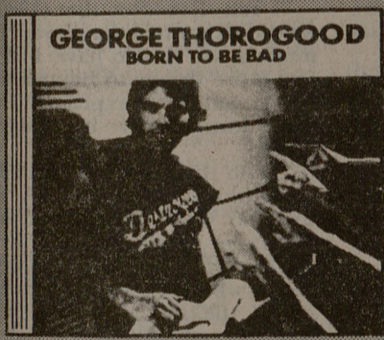
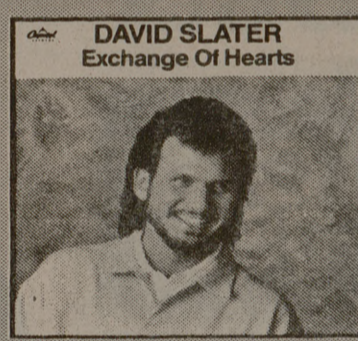
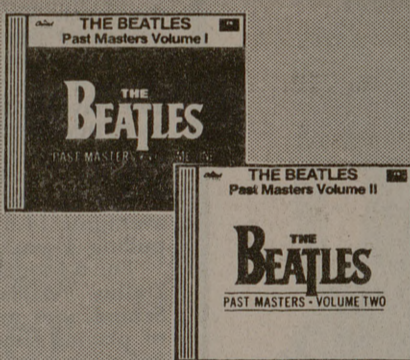
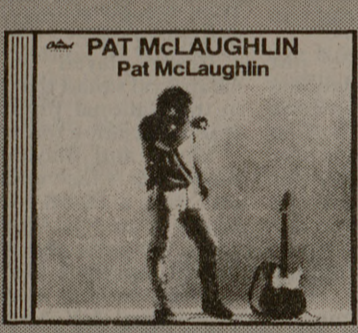
Olsen Field, 10 years old, is named after a prominent millionaire alumnus who attends many of the Aggie games.

Olsen once spent spring training with the New York Yankees as a pitcher and still has a team picture which has him in the photo along with baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Olsen didn't make the big leagues and went into the oil field equipment business.

"That Monday night game was a big thrill," Olsen said.

"Maybe we can get to the World Series this year."

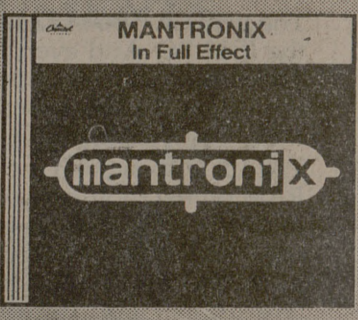


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