

Wednesday, April 12, 1989

Aggies move to 40-1 with sweep of Texas Southern

A&M preps for Texas by breezing past Tigers

By Tom Kehoe

SPORTS WRITER

It was the same old play with a different cast.

The top-ranked Texas Aggies, now 40-1, demolished Texas Southern in a non-conference double-header Tuesday night as they cruised to a pair of ten-run wins.

A&M's incredible record is the best in Southwest Conference history. TSU fell to 14-21 on the year.

The Aggies jumped out to big leads in the first inning of both games and never looked back en route to 11-1 and 13-3 victories.

Coach Mark Johnson opted to rest his starters for most of the night as he began to substitute liberally in the fourth inning of the first game and didn't play any regulars in the second game.

"Our Tuesday games are set up to give our pitchers work," Johnson said.

So there was a purpose to this endeavor. But it appeared to be an extended batting practice for the Ag-

gie nine.

In the first game A&M opened up smoking. Kirk Thompson began the Aggie onslaught by walking in his leadoff at bat and tallying the first run of the game. The scoring continued as John Byington, Eric Albright,

Aggie Update

- **Score:** Texas A&M 11-13, Texas Southern 1-3.
- **Record:** 40-1.
- **Ranking:** First.
- **Next game:** Friday against No. 10 Texas at 7 p.m. at Olsen Field.

Mike Easley, Travis Williams and Jim Neumann followed Thompson to establish an immediate 6-0 lead for the Aggies.

The Tigers managed their only score in the third inning as outfielder Kevin Davis scored on a fielder's choice.

The Aggies countered with a volley of scores of their own in the third as freshman Jason Marshall, starting for the injured Chuck Knoblauch, scored the seventh Aggie run and

was followed by Thompson and Terry Taylor to bring A&M's lead to 9-1.

The final Aggie runs came across in the fifth as substitutes Trey Witte and John Wood crossed the plate to bring the sum to 11 runs in the seven-inning game.

Tim Herrman picked up the win for three innings of work as he surrendered three hits and notched three strikeouts. Sean Lawrence and Kerry Freudenberg each worked two innings to close out the game.

The second game began with a different cast as no regulars took the field. However, that brought no ill effects for Johnson's squad.

The Aggies jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead in first inning and never looked back. Freshman Travis Williams led the A&M batsmen as he clubbed a two-run homer and scored another run as his team collected 13 hits and seven walks along the way to a 13-3 win. The game was halted in the eighth inning due to the ten-run rule.

Junior Brent Gilbert earned the win, working three innings as he struck out three and gave up two

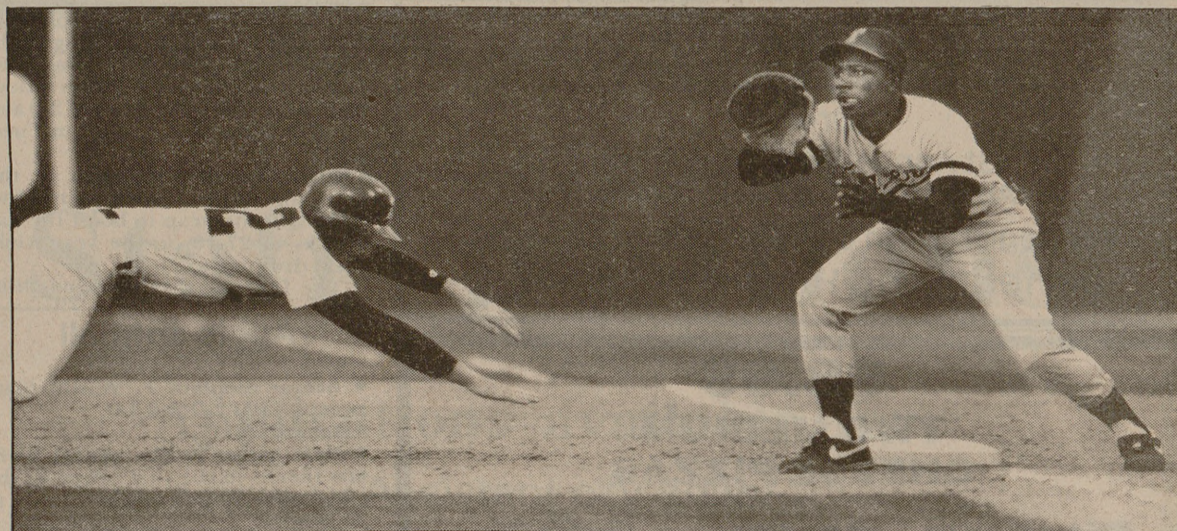


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

A&M's Travis Williams (left) beats a pickoff throw during A&M's 11-1 win in game one Tuesday.

hits. Anthony De La Cruz worked three innings of relief, allowing just one hit and no walks as he struck out three.

Sophomore Steve Hughes allowed the Tigers' only runs as he gave up a

three-run home run to TSU's Anthony Hill.

Johnson said he was pleased with the direction his team is heading this week as they prepare for their homestand showdown with the Uni-

versity of Texas. "Knoblauch could have played if he had to," Johnson said. "He just has a little muscle spasm in his back and I think he'll be ready to go on Friday."

T-shirt not worth the fighting; Intramural sports too serious

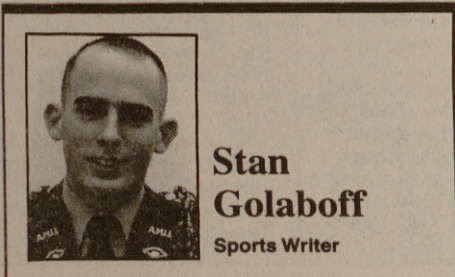
Intramurals: recreational fun — or is it a fiercely competitive exercise designed for ex-high school stars dreaming of athletic prowess?

Intramurals is supposed to give students a chance to participate in athletics and give them a break from the rigors of studying.

However, here at Texas A&M, home of one of the largest intramural programs in the country, the need to win at all costs has warped this purpose.

Last Monday, I played in the last intramural game of my college career. My softball team was eliminated from the playoffs. As I sat there afterwards thinking about not playing intramurals anymore, I realized that intramurals was no less competitive than the varsity sports offered at A&M.

It is not uncommon for an intramural team to hold team tryouts. Many of these



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Sports Writer

tryouts are more intense and demanding than the practices of many professional teams.

The intramural office has long recognized that there would be a difference in the talent on teams, so they organized

various leagues based on a team's experience, talent, and desire to win.

Teams can play in one of three leagues. The 'A' league is for teams with a lot of talent and expertise. The 'B' league is for less intense teams and the 'C' league is for people who just want to play for fun.

Now this is how it is supposed to work. In reality, though, there is really no difference in the leagues, except that A&M athletes and former intramural champions have to play in the 'A' league.

Everyone who has played intramurals has probably run into a player whose concern about winning made the game unpleasant for all.

This player can usually be seen yelling at officials when the officials make a call against his team or yelling at teammates for making a mistake.

Many of us, including myself, have been

guilty of being that person doing the yelling.

Now that I will no longer be playing intramurals I can ask myself, "What the hell was I getting so excited about?"

It's not like we're playing for the national championship or large amounts of money. In fact, all we were really playing for was the right to wear a T-shirt that said we were intramural champions. Is a \$10 shirt worth all this big-time pressure to win?

On March 29, an A&M student was charged with three counts of assault and one count of criminal mischief because of an incident in an intramural basketball game. If found guilty, this student could be paying anywhere from \$80 to \$800 in fines. How can a T-shirt be worth all that? It must be a helluva a T-shirt.

It is true that this incident is an extreme example, but how long before it becomes

the norm? Some intramural games are drawing more fans than some of the athletic programs here at A&M.

There was a time when cheating in college athletics was an exception, but nowadays it seems to be the norm. Intramural games are supposed to be fun and relaxing.

However, with all the pressure to win a stupid shirt it is hard to find a game that is relaxing, even in 'C' league where everyone is supposed to be playing for fun.

Is it any wonder that, with such a win-at-all-costs attitude in intramurals, the pressure to win in big-time college athletics has led to such rampant cheating?

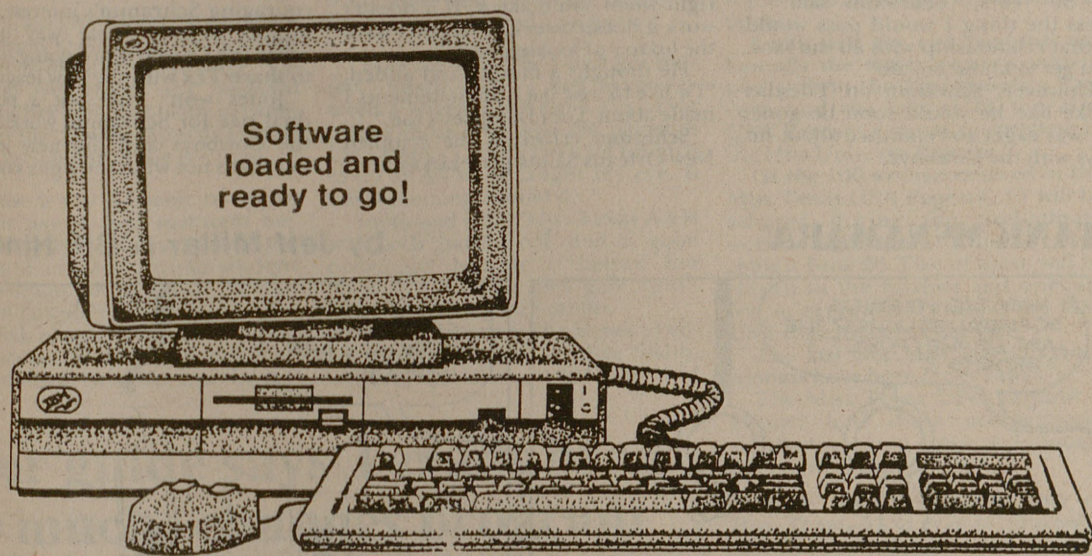
Next time you are playing an intramural game and you feel the urge to "read the riot act" to an official or a teammate, remember what you are playing for... a T-shirt and some fun and relaxation.

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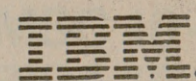
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