

Monday, April 24, 1989

Aggies win two of three over TCU

Knox curtails A&M hitters to give Frogs victory in first game

By Jerry Bolz

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Texas Christian pitcher Kerry Knox held high-powered Texas A&M to seven hits in a 4-2 victory Friday, but the Aggies exploded for 24 runs to win the final two games of the three-game series 14-3 and 10-5 Saturday.

Knox, a senior lefthander, bound the Aggies with good placement of his fastball and curve. A&M found themselves in a position they have been in a lot recently — they were behind going into their last at-bat.

This time the opposition was stronger than the Aggie hitters.

"We've been putting ourselves in that position a lot," said John Byington, A&M's leading hitter. "We need to get out in front early — it didn't happen today."

Aggie Coach Mark Johnson

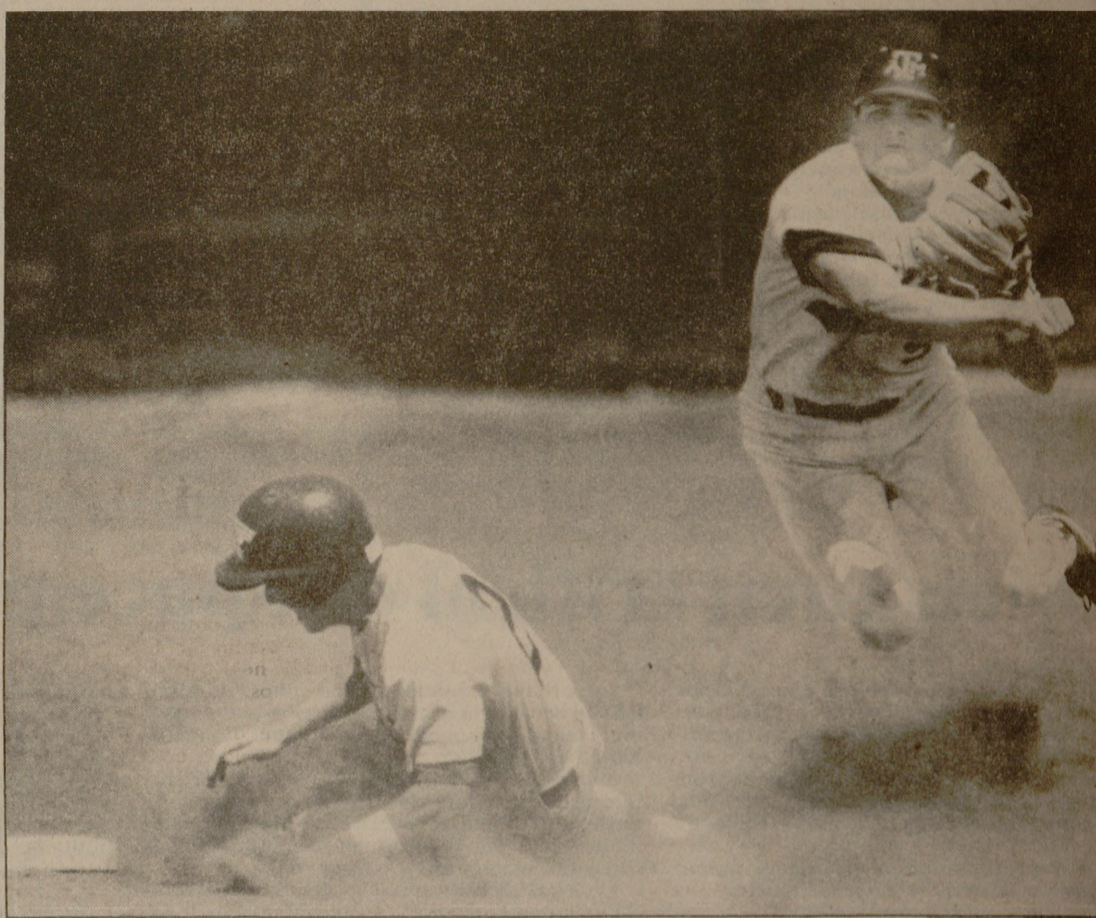


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

A&M shortstop Chuck Knoblauch makes the first out of a double play against TCU's

Chad Shipes in the first game of a double-header Saturday. The Aggies won 14-3.

Aggie Update

- **Score:** A&M wins two of three from Texas Christian by scores of 2-4, 14-3 and 10-5.
- **Record:** 46-3.
- **Ranking:** First.
- **Next games:** A three-game SWC series against Houston beginning at 2 p.m. Friday at Cougar Field in Houston.

wasn't discouraged and said a comeback win isn't going to happen every time, but they needed to win the final two games of the series.

"I don't think our guys will be down," he said. "We need to hook up, win the ball games and get on the road."

A&M (46-3, 13-2 in Southwest Conference), played more like their No. 1 ranking the rest of the series. Eric Albright, who had two home runs for the Aggies in the third game, said the team was not motivated in Friday's game.

"Yesterday we came out pretty flat," he said. "Today we showed what we can do. We really came out and played with a mission."

In the series opener, the Horned Frogs started strong by getting their first two men on base. Darren Thorpe and Chad Shipes both singled off A&M starter Pat Sweet (7-3, 3-2 in SWC with the loss).

Thorpe was running on Shipes hit and made it to third safely. Shipes then successfully stole second and

Thorpe snuck home on the play to give TCU a 1-0 lead.

The two caused more trouble for Sweet in the third inning. Thorpe walked and stole second. He moved to third on a sacrifice grounder by Shipes and scored on a sacrifice by Paul Gonzalez to make it 2-0 TCU.

The Aggies worked Knox for a run in the fourth as Mike Easley walked, stole second base and scored on a bloop single by Travis Williams.

A&M tied the score briefly at 2-2 in the fifth inning. This time it was Kirk Thompson who walked, stole second and scored on a single by Chuck Knoblauch.

The Horned Frogs went ahead

for good in the bottom of the fifth as Shipes scored from third base on a double by Tom Hardgrove to put TCU up 3-2.

TCU picked up their final run in the eighth when Gonzalez walked and scored on Hardgrove's deep fly to center field. Thompson, A&M's center fielder, lost the ball in the sun.

The Aggies busted loose early in the second game of the series, taking TCU starting pitcher Scott Thoma for three runs in the first inning.

Thompson and Terry Taylor got things started with walks and Knoblauch loaded the bases with a single. Byington hit a sharp line drive to

right field to score Thompson and Andy Duke doubled to left to score Taylor and Knoblauch, giving the Aggies a 3-0 lead.

The first inning was just a primer for the second, however, as A&M knocked TCU for seven runs on six hits.

Jim Neumann walked and went to third on a bunt single by Blake Pyle and an overthrow to first by Thoma. Neumann and Pyle scored and Thompson went to second on his field tap and another throwing error by TCU.

Thompson scored to make it 6-0

See Baseball/ Page 11

Total sports network — who needs it?

Sports. It's the one topic that affects the lives of most Americans in one way or another. Whether you are a die-hard sports fan or related to one, the activities often shape your lifestyle. Within the past decade, one television network has come to the forefront in sports coverage.

I'm talking about ESPN. Before the emergence of this wonderful 24-hour, all-sports TV channel, life for the sports-hater was easy. When I was younger and my father made all the decisions about what we watched, I had to accept the fact that I could either watch whatever sport was on television or not watch it at all.

I've grown to enjoy watching football and baseball games and even catch myself reading the sports pages occasionally to catch the latest scores. But sports is hardly my favorite pastime. Now, thanks to ESPN, I can watch all the sports all the time. And it's not just the main events, such as football, basketball, baseball and golf. ESPN also covers the less publicized sports — wrestling, fishing, snow-skiing, tractor pulls, CBA basketball, beach volleyball, hockey, college athletics, skateboarding and various miscellaneous shows, just to name a few.

Is a 24-hour sports channel really necessary? Who, besides the participants and their families really cares about watching skateboarding or beach volleyball tournaments? Sure, they are fun to watch for a few seconds, but you would have to be extremely bored to spend more time than that. However, I must admit that the scenery during the volleyball games adds interest to the matches.



Leslie Guy

Managing Editor

"Part of the network's appeal is probably due to the wide variety of events they cover. Some people are probably crazy enough to spend hours watching tractor pulls, but I'd rather go shopping for tractors. At least I'd be interacting with people.

Their sports coverage also includes wrestling, a sport previously limited to late-night weekend time slots. I'm so thrilled to have even more opportunities to watch grown men in outrageous costumes throw each other around the ring.

What would the world do without adequate coverage of the fishing tournaments? It's bad enough to actually go fishing, but to watch it on TV? You don't even get to play with the worms.

If you are unfortunate enough to miss all these exciting sports, ESPN comes to the rescue by having three 30-minute sports update shows, highlighting the day's events.

ESPN does a good job covering every sport imaginable, but their behavior and the behavior they evoke from fans is less than desirable.

For example, when ESPN covered the Texas A&M-University of Texas baseball series two weeks ago, they came to College Station and turned Olsen Field upside down. Platforms had to be set up for their cameras, the regulars were forced out of the press box, and the fans turned into suckers, willing to do anything to get on television.

In the final game, one fan moved from his seat two sections away, approached the ESPN cameraman with a homemade sign combining the letters E-S-P-N and an Aggie slogan, and asked if he could be shown on television for the people at home.

The moron then moved about 15 seats away and nonchalantly positioned himself with the sign facing the camera. Do you really think he was watching the game? I doubt it — he just wanted his friends to tell him they saw him on TV. I guess his day was made when the cameraman finally focused on him.

But the foolish behavior doesn't stop there. A group of former students and their families, who were sitting close to the cameraman behind home plate, became ecstatic when he focused on them. The thumbs were all in the "gig 'em" position and their smiles extended the widths of their faces. If they only knew the red lights, signifying the camera was in use, were not lighted, the smiles probably would have disappeared.

Our baseball team deserves national recognition, but we could do without the uproar caused by ESPN. The fans can be themselves and resume their pre-celebrity behavior and we can all enjoy the games.

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FROM STAFF & WIRE

RUSTON, La. — Held 12th-ranked Louisiana Tech 2-1 in the header Sunday in the Lady Techster 8-4 victory. While the Lady Techster

- Score with 12 scores c
- Record
- Next header 4:30 p.m.

The Lady Aggie freshman Stephan moved to third on field and scored wh center field to giv

A&M to struggle SWC to

FROM STAFF & WIRE

The Texas A&M women's tennis team different results a Conference Chaffort Worth this week Arkansas end men's season with

Aggie Coach D the Hogs outplaye Arkansas went t fore falling to Tex a 5-4 count.

The women po suits, reaching th being ousted by T

The Lady Aggie 26-1 victory over an Williams, Ro Cindy Churchwe and Traci Nix w matches. Mawdsle ter teamed for th winning the only c Their next vie Methodist, fell 5-2

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