

Wednesday, April 26, 1989

Softball team wins one over SHSU Buechele's hits key Heightley's clutch hitting sparks A&M victory in twinbill split Texas past Indians

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

On a day of missed opportunities, the Lady Aggie softball team used a little bit of luck to split a double header, 1-2 and 4-2, with 16th-ranked Sam Houston State Tuesday in Huntsville.

"I feel kind of fortunate to come away with a win," Head Coach Bob Brock said. "We finally got a break and we needed it because we were a bit lethargic in our hitting today." In the first game, the Aggies (29-23) missed two golden opportunities to score.

In the top of the fifth and down by one, Erika Eriksson led off the inning with a double. Dana Mitchell then moved her to third on a sacrifice bunt and was safe at first on a fielder's choice.

With runners on the corners and no outs, Michelle Mayfield popped out to second. Sharon Herd, who was running for Eriksson, was then called out at home after she broke too soon for the plate following a sacrifice attempt by Barbara Kajs. "Sharon's mistake was just inex-

perience and she needs to learn that if she had for home, not to hesitate like she did," Brock said.

Stephanie Schulte, playing for Rene Blaha, then popped out to end the threat. Blaha has been sick for the last two days and did not make the trip.

A&M softball

- **Score:** A&M splits two with Sam Houston St. by scores of 1-2 and 4-2.
- **Record:** 29-23.
- **Next games:** Friday doubleheader against Creighton University at 4 p.m. at Omaha, Neb.

After Amy Kownacki hit a home run to give Sam Houston State a 2-0 lead, Erin Newkirk hit a two-out double in the top of the sixth. However, A&M was unable to get another hit.

A&M's lone run came in the bottom of the seventh when Mayfield, a .204 batter, hit a two-out home run. It was Mayfield's first career home run and the third the Lady Aggies have hit in one week, after hitting just three all season.

In the second game, Carrie

Heightley provided some clutch hitting when she singled in the third to drive in Kajs and give the Aggies a 1-0 lead. A&M held the lead until the fifth when controversy arose.

The umpire ruled that Mitchell had hit lead-off batter Kownacki, despite Kownacki not trying to dodge the ball that skipped two feet in front of home before hitting her.

"The umpire said the ball was thrown too hard for her to move out of the way and despite the rules saying you have to attempt to dodge the ball, he gave her first base," Brock said.

"I believe that call directly lead to one of Sam's runs and it almost cost us the game," Brock said.

The Ladykats took advantage of the call to quickly put two runners on with one out, when Christy Roschal doubled to score both Tami Hoover, who was running for Kownacki, and Shonta Garr.

"It was obvious that Dana was affected by the call, but she settled down and got out of the inning without too much damage," Brock said.

Sam Houston led 2-1 going into the seventh when A&M, which committed six errors in the game, benefited from two Ladykat errors.

Kajs led off with a single and Parks reached on an error by Kownacki, who dropped an infield fly ball.

Heightley then bunted to third baseman Lori Nesmith, who overthrew first and allowed Kajs to score. Both Parks and Heightley scored when right fielder Kasey Guentert fell and injured her knee trying to get the overthrow.

Freshman Dana Mitchell (28-22) pitched both games and showed remarkable control. Mitchell struck out eight and walked three.

"Dana has pitched 50 games and she tired towards the end, but she pitched two great games and probably should have won the first one," Brock said.

A&M will end its season this week-end with six games on the road.

A&M will play a doubleheader against Creighton Friday in Omaha, Neb. Creighton is ranked first in the NCAA Central Region while A&M is fifth.

The Lady Aggies will then play two against Kansas and one against Nebraska on Saturday. They will also play one against Nebraska on Sunday.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Steve Buechele drove in four runs with a single, double and triple and Pete Incaviglia had four hits Tuesday night in the Texas Rangers' 19-hit attack as they beat the Cleveland Indians 11-7.

Buechele and Incaviglia each knocked in two runs during the Rangers' five-run fifth inning, which snapped a 5-5 tie.

Cleveland lost for the ninth time in the last 11 games. Texas improved its best start ever to 14-4.

Bobby Witt, 3-0, allowed seven runs on seven hits in five innings. Brad Arnsberg pitched four

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scoreless innings for his first career save.

Scott Bailes, 1-1, took the loss, giving up five runs on four hits in three innings of relief after Rich Yett surrendered four runs on seven hits in 1 1-3 innings.

The Rangers and Indians were meeting for the first time since their four-player trade last December, and all four players had hits in their first at bats.

Julio Franco singled for Texas in the first, and Oddibe McDowell, Jerry Browne and Pete O'Brien scored for Cleveland in the bottom of the inning.

The Rangers scored in the first on an RBI single by Ruben Sierra, and they chased Yett with three more runs in the second. Incaviglia tripled and scored on a double by Rick Leach, who came in on Buechele's triple. Buechele scored on Cecil Espy's groundout.

The Indians had scored three in the first on an RBI double by O'Brien and a two-run single by Cory Snyder. They took a 5-4 lead in the second on Joe Carter's two-run single, but Texas tied it on a double by Incaviglia and a single by Buechele in the fourth.

A single and two walks loaded the bases in the fifth for Incaviglia, who chased Bailes with a two-run single. Mike Stanley singled off Brad Havens to reload the bases before Buechele doubled in two runs. Espy followed with a sacrifice fly.

Sierra singled for his second RBI in the eighth inning and Incaviglia got another single in the ninth for the first four-hit game of his career.

It's time for the 1988-89 sports awards — both good and bad

The year is coming to a close and seeing how I will be unemployed next week, I've decided to end the year with an awards column. (sports teams have awards banquets, so I can have an awards column.) The following awards are for the 1988-89 school year and have been carefully compiled after long hours of research by yours truly. They reflect the opinions of no one other than me and that's the way it should be since this is my column.

Best Recruiting Job by a Coach or Staff

Head Baseball Coach Mark Johnson for recruiting the best baseball team in the country (I don't care what the polls say.) Johnson was a cinch for this honor when he went out and got Jon Peters, who has won 50 straight high school games, to come play at A&M next year.

Honorable mention

Lady Aggie Head Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey for next year's freshman class and



Stan Golaboff
Sports Writer

to Lady Aggie Tennis Coach Bob Kleinecke for getting Tami Agassi, who is ranked 14th in the nation, to play at A&M.

Worst Recruiting Job by a Coach or Staff

Shelby Metcalf and the men's basketball staff. Shelby again failed to recruit any top high school prospects and will rely on junior college transfers again next year.

Look for A&M to start slow again next year and catch fire too late for the NCAAs or the Southwest Conference title.

Best Coaching Job

Lynn Hickey, Lady Aggie Head basketball coach, for guiding her team to 17 wins, the most by an Aggie team under Hickey and most by an A&M team since 1980. The Lady Aggies also come within two minutes and eight points of beating Texas for the first time in 11 years.

Worst Coaching Job

Jackie Sherrill. Sherrill had the best paid talent outside of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, yet he failed to win the SWC or beat any non-conference team other than Louisiana Tech.

Best Game of the Year

It had to be the third game of the A&M-Texas baseball series. A&M squared up against Texas and simply outplayed them. If Scott Centala hadn't choked in the ninth, A&M wouldn't have even had to rely on

Byington's heroics.

Worst Game of the Year

Without a doubt, the second game of the Texas series. How can you blow a seven-run lead and go into the ninth inning down by five runs? Only the Aggies could find a way.

Which brings us to...

Best Performance by an Athlete

Who else could it be but Big John — Big, Bad John Byington. His three home runs in the Texas series almost single-handedly beat the Longhorns.

Darren Lewis was a close second in this category, but Byington gets the award because he helped us finally beat the dreaded Horns.

The winner of the worst performance by an athlete is Scott Centala. He gave up seven runs on two home runs during the Texas series. What a stopper he proved to be that weekend.

Best Quote Concerning Sports at A&M

The first one is real and the second one is

made-up.

The best quote actually heard: Erin Newkirk, centerfielder for the Lady Aggie softball team, for the way she described the pitch she hit for a home run against Sam Houston State last week.

"It was a pitch I like to hit," Newkirk said. "If the quote was any more candid I might not have been able to print it."

The best quote not heard (but I wish it had been said):

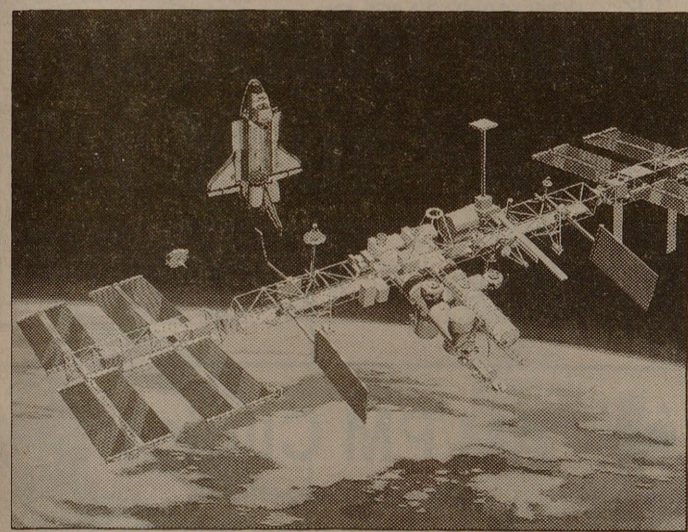
"Hit the road, Jack," President William Mobley to Jackie Sherrill after Sherrill resigned amid controversy concerning George Smith, every Aggie's favorite football player.

So there you have it, the first (and probably last) Battalion Sports Awards.

If you will excuse me, I have to try and find 13 tickets for my graduation ceremony being blessed by President George Bush. So this is it from the obnoxious, privileged CT, who writes for the communist-pinko Battalion.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 3:00 P.M.
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