

Tuesday, August 8, 1989

Errors hurt Rangers in 2-1 loss to Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — This time, the Toronto Blue Jays are determined to get past the break-even point.

The Blue Jays reached .500 for the eighth time this season Monday when John Cerutti pitched a five-hitter and two sixth-inning errors by Texas shortstop Fred Manrique led to two runs in a 2-1 victory.

The Blue Jays are 56-56 with 50 games remaining in the season, but have failed to break the .500 mark in their previous seven tries. They're 44-32 since Cito Gaston replaced Jimmy Williams as manager.

Cerutti's victory was his ninth in his last 11 decisions. He said being placed in the starting rotation has made him a better pitcher.

"If anything, it's more of a mental thing for me, knowing I'm going to be out there four or five days from now," he said of his recent success.

"I'm definitely in a groove right now. The fastball and the curve were working well for me. I hardly used the change at all today."

Cerutti, 9-5, struck out five and didn't walk a batter in his second consecutive complete game and third of the year.

The Rangers' only run came on Steve Buechele's 12th homer of the season, a one-out solo shot in the fifth inning that just cleared the left-field fence.

Unlike Texas starter Mike Jeffcoat, Cerutti had plenty of help from his defense, especially center fielder Lloyd Moseby.

"We won this one with the little things today," Moseby said. "Just the kind of things a team has to do in a pennant race."

Moseby went 0-for-3 but made two excellent catches, the second coming when he crashed into the fence to grab Julio Franco's drive leading off the ninth inning.

"We won this game on errors and defense," Moseby said. "If you read the papers, I'm one of the worst center fielders in the American League. Thank goodness I don't read the papers."

"That was the best game I've ever seen Moseby play defensively," Rangers manager Bobby Valentine said. "That's five bases he saved today."

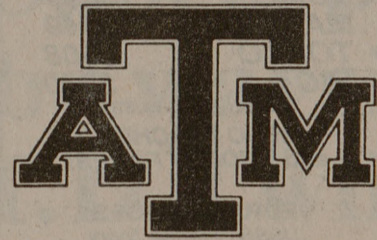
Manrique's errors enabled the Blue Jays to score twice in the sixth off Jeffcoat, who fell to 5-5 despite allowing only four hits in 7 1/3 innings.

Manny Lee led off with an infield single and took second on Manrique's throwing error. Tony Fernandez followed with a high chopper to Manrique, who threw the ball past first again, allowing Lee to score and Fernandez to go to second.

Jeffcoat struck out four and walked two before being relieved by Cecilio Guante with one out in the eighth.

The Rangers, who have lost three straight games, have made 12 errors in their last five games.

Ag Athletic Department unveils computerized telephone network



The Texas A&M Athletic Department has implemented a computerized telephone network that will allow Aggie fans with touch-tone telephones to receive up-to-date information regarding all areas of the A&M athletic program through the use of a direct number.

The number, 409-845-2000, will enable the public to access recorded messages involving upcoming athletic events, specific news about men's and women's sports, ticket information and information regarding athletic support organizations.

Information will be updated on a regular basis on the new Athletic Department Telephone Information Network, and fans

will be able to get daily results on various sports as well as information regarding schedule changes.

Upon dialing the network number, callers will be given instructions on touch-tone access to information on the caller's area of interest.

The access numbers include:

- 1#, upcoming athletic events; 2#, men's athletics; 3#, women's athletics; 4#, summer camps; 5#, sports news; 6#, ticket information; 7#, Lady Aggie Maroon Club; 8#, Twelfth Man Foundation.

A&M freshmen football players reported Monday and will have their first workout at 5 p.m. today.

Workouts for the freshmen will be at 5 p.m. each day with the exception of a 4:30 p.m. Friday practice.

Practices are open to anyone with an A&M student identification card or an Aggie class ring.

Varsity members will report on Friday and the annual A&M photo day is slated to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at Kyle Field.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Freshmen arrival ushers in a new era of football in Aggieland

Football season has finally arrived at Texas A&M with freshman and walk-on players scheduled to take the field for the first time as Aggies in a practice session today at 5 p.m.

This year's recruiting class is small, but by no means insignificant. Only 13 freshmen scholarship athletes from this year's class are on hand, but each one has all the talent and potential to contribute to the team, either this year or in the future.

These players include running back David Drapela of Kerrville Tivy; tight end Steve Sagraves of North Mesquite; linemen Brad Cooper of Arlington, Tyler Harrison of Arlington, Lowell Hutchens of Munday, Lance Teichelman of Austin Westwood, Larry Wallace of Irving Nimitz and Dexter Wesley of Rockdale.

Also, linebackers Jason Atkinson of Houston Westfield, Marcus Buckley of Fort Worth Eastern Hills, Jason Medlock of Dallas Roosevelt and Louis Rose of Sweetwater; and place kicker Terry Venetoulis of Deer Park.

Athlon's Southwest Football magazine names Sagraves, Harrison and Buckley "among the best at their positions in the



Jeff Osborne
Assistant Sports Editor

state" and Venetoulis as "the best kicker in the state."

All of these freshmen players chose A&M despite a potential death penalty threatening the Aggies, which gives head coach R.C. Slocum an added element to the special emotion he has for his first recruiting class. The students at A&M should recognize these 13 players' dedication to A&M as well.

One position A&M failed to recruit this year is quarterback, but the arrival of Paul Johnson from Cameron will solve this problem. Johnson was recruited in 1988, but was ineligible to play last year. This year, he has made the grades and is ready

to show his talent, as a heralded blue chip with a lot of potential, if he is called upon.

This year's freshman class has been highly commended by Slocum for its strength of character, because the recruits stayed with A&M despite all the negative publicity and uncertainty the team faced.

On Friday, the Aggie veterans arrive and bring experience and a hunger for success with them.

The Aggies have one of the best running games in the nation, with starting tailback Darren Lewis positioned to make a spirited run at the Heisman Trophy and a record setting season as a junior for the Aggies.

Starting fullback Robert Wilson is coming off a record breaking 10 touchdowns for his freshman season in 1988, and has been described as being as good at fullback as Lewis is at tailback. The talent of these two is renowned throughout the conference, and will be a major part of the Aggies' success this year.

Backups include Keith McAfee and Randy Simmons. Simmons was rated the nation's best running back out of high school and was highly recruited in 1987. If he regains his prowess, A&M's ground attack will be that much stronger.

Quarterback Lance Pavlas will finally have his chance in the spotlight after two years of limited duty.

The key to an outstanding 1989 season for the Aggies is that Pavlas overcome a shaky start and regain some of the confidence and respect that gained him the nickname "Little Vinny," after quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who won the Heisman and led the Miami Hurricanes to the National Championship in 1987.

Former coach Jackie Sherrill once said that all Pavlas needs is experience, and this still rings true today.

The receivers have become the forgotten men of the Aggies attack in the last two years. This year, they will finally have an opportunity to show their talent and speed.

Both Slocum and offensive coordinator Bob Toledo have promised to feature the passing game more, which is welcome news to the players and should provide even more excitement for fans.

The defense features such standouts as linebacker Aaron Wallace, the only remaining "Blitz Brother," who is one of the nation's best linebackers and guard Terry Price, who has gained respect throughout the conference.

The secondary is loaded with talent. Mickey Washington, Larry Horton and Gary Jones will be starters, and some of the defense's major strengths.

Defensive coordinator Bob Davie said the defense will be the same cutloose and reckless team as always, but the team doesn't have as much depth as in past seasons. A big reason was the small recruiting class this year, which should dramatically increase next year as the Aggies have a fifth straight winning season and go to another bowl game.

Some unproven players on the defense will probably bolster the team and make a big difference in some games down the road. Look for linebacker Trent Lewis and noseguard Pat Cunningham to be at the forefront when team strength is discussed later this season.

This year has the look of a great one for the Ags, and possibly their fourth Cotton Bowl bid in half a decade. The offense will have a multiple pro style attack, contrasted with last year's "run like hell" approach. The defense will carry on the tradition of the Wrecking Crew, and boast the same aggressive hard-hitting style.

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