

Aggies plummet to No. 22 after disastrous weekend

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

What a difference a week can make for A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson. Just seven days ago, his Aggies moved up to their highest national ranking since last year, when they spent 11 weeks in the No. 1 spot. In last week's ESPN/Colligate Baseball poll, A&M was No. 8. The Aggies headed into a week-end road trip with a perfect 9-0 record, and sporting confidence despite warnings that their offensive production was more than suspect. A&M's pitching, which had been spectacular up to that point, seemed good enough to make up for the team's lack of offense. But over the weekend, those fears finally caught up to Johnson. A&M went 1-4 against winless teams in Louisiana. That included a near-sweep by lowly Louisiana Tech, and a doubleheader sweep by northeast Louisiana Sunday.

ESPN/Colligate Baseball Poll

Team	Record
1. Wichita St.	5-0
2. Southern California	12-3
3. Florida St.	11-2
4. Miami, Fla.	12-2
5. Oklahoma St.	6-0
6. Stanford	13-5
7. Texas	12-5
8. Georgia Tech	8-1
9. Arkansas	4-2
10. Arizona St.	14-7
11. Louisiana St.	6-3
12. Mississippi St.	3-2
13. Long Beach St.	11-6
14. North Carolina	5-2
15. San Jose St.	10-1
16. Clemson	4-0
17. Illinois	5-4
18. Florida	7-5
19. Southwest Louisiana	11-2
20. UCLA	13-5
21. Fresno St.	7-6
22. Texas A&M	10-4
23. South Florida	7-4
24. Miami	3-3
25. Creighton	2-0

poll. No. 22 A&M hosts No. 11 Louisiana State at Olsen Field this weekend. Play starts Friday at 3 p.m., and a Saturday doubleheader starts at 1 p.m. It will be a rematch of last year's regional final, where the Tigers beat the Aggies at Olsen Field to earn a berth in the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. Defending national champion Wichita State has moved up to first in this week's baseball poll. The panel of 105 coaches, sports writers and sports information directors moved the Shockers into the top spot after previously top-ranked Stanford lost two of three games to Southern California. The Shockers — who have outscored opponents 40-17 in their five games — received 492 points, one better than Southern California (12-3). The Trojans, sixth last week, jumped four rungs to the No. 2 position.

Regular season nearing strike three ... Halted talks put season in danger

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball talks came to an abrupt halt Monday and threw the start of the regular season in danger while three Pittsburgh Pirates wondered whether the fight over salary arbitration was worth it. "The season is in very heavy jeopardy," Commissioner Fay Vincent said. Owners and players did not meet expected Monday and union chief Ronald Fehr left town, saying he wouldn't return to the bargaining table until management makes new proposals. Fehr, scheduled to meet with the union's executive board Tuesday in Phoenix, agreed the stalemate might postpone regular season openers on April 2. "I think it's been in jeopardy for some days now," he said. "I don't know if it's gone, but it's in some jeopardy."

representative Mike LaValliere said he spoke with Heaton and two other players who expressed similar sentiments — Bob Kipper and Jay Bell — and believed they would support the union if it came to a vote. "When you're dealing with 26 teams and 24 players on each team, of course you're going to have varied responses and different opinions," LaValliere told The Associated Press. LaValliere also said he would tell the dozen Pirates at the site of the team's camp in Bradenton, Fla., to go home Friday if there was no settlement. Owners and players each say a minimum of three weeks of spring training is needed plus several days for players to travel to camps. The exhibition season was scheduled to start Thursday — those four openers have been canceled — and plans were to be made Tuesday about future spring-training games. Talks have stalled over salary arbitration eligibility. The union wants players again to be eligible for arbitration after two years, as they were before the 1985 agreement, which increased the requirement to three years. Vincent sympathized with fans,

saying they would view the logjam as "two giant organizations overwhelmed with riches, fighting in circumstances where there's a national obligation or trust at stake." Fehr paid a courtesy call to Vincent on Monday before leaving for Arizona. He said he expects to brief players around the country after Tuesday's meeting; he did not say when he would return. "My expectation is that after the Phoenix meeting the great likelihood is that I will see players in two or three other places before coming back to New York," Fehr said. Management negotiator Chuck O'Connor said he would wait for Fehr to call about another bargaining session. "It really depends on his meeting," O'Connor said. "At the earliest, I probably could hear from him Wednesday. But, yes, it could be a week before we get together again. I hope not, but it could be." Asked what it would take for the union to return to negotiations, Fehr said, "It has to take an indication from the clubs that there's something meaningful to talk about."

Bright says he wanted Landry fired in 1987

DALLAS (AP) — Former Dallas Cowboys owner H.R. "Bum" Bright says he wanted to sack Tom Landry in 1987, but couldn't talk Tex Schramm into doing it, and that's his one regret. Now, a year after selling the Cowboys to Jerry Jones, Bright says his one regret is that he didn't just go ahead and do it himself. He didn't do it because Schramm, who was the team's general manager at the time, told him he didn't have a replacement ready. Jones continues to take criticism for firing Landry and installing his longtime friend and former Arkansas Razorbacks teammate Jimmy Johnson at head coach. "If I had known there would have been this much heat over Tom, I'd have taken it myself," Bright told The Dallas Morning News Sunday. "I know that Jerry doesn't deserve all this stuff. It wouldn't have been as hard for me as it has been for Jerry, because he was the one continuing. I just didn't realize," Bright said. Bright said he "didn't talk to Tom 1 1/2 times the whole period I was owner."

Spring lockout allowing Ryan to work in 'bullpen'

HOUSTON (AP) — The owners' spring training lockout has allowed Nolan Ryan to spend more time in the bullpen. The best cattleman in baseball is tending to his other business these days — raising and selling livestock. Ryan, in town for a livestock sale, was asked by fellow ranchers about the spring training lockout and prospects for a contract settlement. "They've still got to work out what percentages will be taken from the television cut for the pension fund," Ryan told them. "Then they've got to make a decision on what to do about arbitration. I hope it gets worked out soon." But until then, Ryan's getting the most out of raising and selling cattle, as he did Saturday in the Astro Classic Beefmaster sale at the Astrodome Marriott. Chuck Howley, a former Dallas Cowboys linebacker-turned-cattleman, said Ryan attracts people to livestock shows the way his appearances on the mound draw fans to the ballpark. "Nolan always draws a great crowd," Howley told The Dallas Morning News. "But maybe most of them just want his autograph on their hats." Howley, a cattleman for 11 years, says Ryan, who has been raising cattle since 1972, is regarded in live-

stock circles with the same respect he commands in sports. "He stands behind everything he sells," Howley said. "He's good for the business, good for the breed." Ryan, reared in the rural town of Alvin, south of Houston, said he became interested in cattle because of summers spent on his uncle's dairy farm. The man who fanned Oakland's Rickey Henderson last summer to collect his 5,000th career strikeout now has three ranches. He said he enjoys watching his cattle develop into either a championship bull or a heifer. "Plus, I just always liked the people in this business," he said, shrugging. Only a handful of onlookers got into the bidding Saturday. But Wayne Fisher of Houston, who co-sponsored the sale with Ryan, said the buyers were not in it simply to acquire a Nolan Ryan keepsake. "You're dealing with professional cattle people here," Fisher said. "I don't think they're buying for any other reason." Ryan's 15 lots drew \$32,050, less than what he expected. The payoff wasn't exactly a loss, but Ryan almost took it that way. He turned to a fellow cattleman as the auction ended and frowned. "I thought it could have been a lot stronger," he said.

Trevino's putter working magic

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Lee Trevino's putting has been a big boost to his daughter's driving. Trevino capped another lucrative weekend on the Senior PGA Tour by rolling in a 15-foot birdie putt on Sunday on the final hole of the Chrysler Cup to win a new LeBaron convertible. The car went to the player with the lowest final round. Trevino tied Don Bies for the honor with a 3-under-par 69 and won the contest because he birdied the 18th, the tiebreaker hole. Easy come, easy go. The hottest player in golf said he'll give away the car. "I've got all the Toyotas in the world," said Trevino, who does commercials for the Japanese automaker. Trevino got a daughter, Lesley — 23 years old, and she's never asked me for a thing. I think my daughter needs a real bad." At the rate he's making money this year, Trevino can afford to give away a few more cars. His \$50,000 share of the winning United States team in the Chrysler Cup increased Trevino's earnings to \$280,000 in 1990, his first full year on the Senior Tour. "I'm kind of on a roll right now," he said. "I'm hitting

it pretty good. I hope March is just as good." Trevino, who turned 50 on Dec. 1, swept his three Chrysler Cup matches. He leads the Senior Tour in five of its 10 statistical categories, including scoring (68.3 strokes per round), putting and greens in regulation. Trevino has already won more money than in 1970, when he led the PGA Tour in earnings. "My best year on the tour was 1980 — I won \$385,000 that year," Trevino said. "And I'm actually playing better now. My scoring average that year was 69.73, and my scoring average now is lower than that." Trevino isn't surprised to be doing well — he predicted that his first year on the Senior Tour would be a big one. His peers aren't surprised, either. "Lee Trevino has always been in a class of the Hogans and the Sneads and the Nelsons and the Venturis — people that were artists instead of just golfers," said Chi Chi Rodriguez, who teamed with Trevino for two rounds last weekend. "This guy can do drawings with a golf ball. He looks like Pablo Picasso out there. And he's hitting the ball farther than I ever went on vacation."

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