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Sports Editor

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Ags put in a little overtime for Missouri sweep

By ALAN LEHMANN
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Extra effort pays off.

The No. 17 Texas A&M baseball team proved that as it beat Missouri 9-6 and 3-2 in two extra-inning games Saturday afternoon in front of 2,618 fans at Olsen Field.

Coupled with the Aggies' 9-1 win Friday, A&M swept Missouri and improved to 23-7 on the season. The Tigers fell to 7-6.

Earlier in the week, the Aggies had won the Aggie-Continental Classic Tournament at Olsen Field. A&M ended the tournament with a 5-1 record in the round-robin affair. St. John's finished with a 3-3 record while Washington State and Iowa State were each 2-4.

Collegiate doubleheaders are scheduled as a seven-inning opening game and a nine-inning nightcap. However, if the first game goes into extra innings, the second is scheduled for seven innings.

Both of Saturday's games went into extra innings and A&M received late inning boosts from some unlikely heroes.

In Saturday's opener, junior co-captain Blake Pyle hit a three-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning to snap a 6-6 tie. It was Pyle's first homer of the season, and he said that it came at a good time.

"I couldn't have picked a better time for it," Pyle said.

In the nightcap, first baseman Jeff Bernet slapped the winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning. Bernet has played sparingly at first base this season and has hit only .152, but said he was happy to contribute.

"I was in the spot that everybody dreams about being in," Bernet said. "Luckily, I came through."

The pitching star in both victories was reliever Kerry Freudenberg. He earned both wins, pitching two shut-out innings in the first game and hurling two more in the final game.

Freudenberg struck out four batters and allowed only one hit in the four combined innings.

The dramatic win in the nightcap couldn't have happened without a little extra effort from the umpiring crew.

Aggie second baseman led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a grounder to shortstop Bill Mondrella. His throw was wide and pulled the first baseman off the bag. However, first base umpire Randy Christal called Witte out.

Coach Mark Johnson asked Christal for an appeal and home plate umpire Harry Crenshaw ruled Witte safe.

Jason Marshall laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Witte to second,



Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Coaches and trainers attend to injured right fielder Dan Robinson, who suffered a broken jaw

and concussion after a collision with Trey Witte during the weekend sweep against Missouri.

where Bernet's single gave A&M the win.

Friday's game wasn't as exciting. The Aggies abused two Tiger pitch-

ers for nine runs and ten hits — four of them for extra bases. Sophomore

ace Ronnie Allen went the distance on the mound for the Aggies, scattering six hits and allowing only one unearned run.

The game was scoreless until the Aggie third. Centerfielder Tim Holt led off with a double off the left field wall. Two outs later, he scored when Travis Williams reached on an error.

In the fourth, A&M added four more runs. With one out, Witte reached on an error and moved to second on Marshall's single. John Wood followed with a single that scored Witte and moved Marshall to third.

Holt followed with an infield hit that drove Marshall home and moved Wood to third. Wood scored on a single by right fielder Dan Robinson, and Holt scored on a sacrifice fly by freshman Brian Thomas.

After the Tigers scored an unearned run in the fifth, the Aggies scored three in the seventh and one in the eighth.

Robinson led off the seventh with a home run. That shot — a line drive down the left field line — was his sixth home run of the season, giving him the team lead in that department.

Thomas followed with a double into the right-center field gap and Travis Williams walked. Tiger coach Gene McArtor removed starter Mike Munro and brought in reliever Bunky Moeller.

Moeller was greeted by designated hitter David Rollen's double off of the center field wall. The shot drove home Thomas and Williams, but Rollen was thrown out trying to stretch it into a triple.

The scoring was capped in the eighth when back-up shortstop Sean Drinkwater walked and scored on Cornelius Patterson's groundout.

Allen, who improved to 4-1 with the win, was never in deep trouble. He struck out six, walked only one and was aided by three double plays turned behind him.

"I had most of my pitches working, although my change up wasn't there very often," Allen said. "The defense got me out of a lot of jams."

The Aggies were in more than their share of jams Saturday.

In the opener, A&M starter Rich Robertson got into trouble early. The lefthander had been flawless in his previous starts, going 5-0 with a 0.90 earned run average. But Robertson gave up two runs on three Tiger hits in the first inning.

After walking the leadoff man, Robertson gave up three consecutive hits. Catcher John Wood helped him though by picking off a would-be base stealer. Robertson then ended the threat with a strikeout and a

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Robinson hurt, out indefinitely

By ALAN LEHMANN
Of The Battalion Staff

Saturday was a brutal day for Aggie right fielder Dan Robinson.

In the fifth inning of Saturday's opener, he dove for a bloop hit and collided with second baseman Trey Witte.

Robinson's upper jaw was broken and he suffered a concussion on the play. He was removed from the field on in a wheelchair and taken to the hospital by ambulance where his mouth was wired shut.

Witte, who suffered a slight

"We were down, because he was hurt badly. He'll need a lot of prayers."

— Blake Pyle,
A&M co-captain

hyper-extension to his left knee in the collision, said that neither of them called for the ball.

"Nobody called for it," Witte said. "It was one those balls that was right in between, and everybody was going all out for it."

"I thought I had hit him in the shoulder, but I didn't realize that I had hit him in the face until I got up and saw the blood everywhere."

Alan Cannon, A&M sports information director, said that Robinson would be out indefinitely.

A&M co-captain Blake Pyle said that Robinson's injury both disturbed and united the Aggies.

"We were pretty worried about him, but we had to go out and finish the game," Pyle said. "We were down, because he was hurt pretty badly. He'll need a lot of prayers."

Coach Mark Johnson said that the collision shook the Aggies.

"It's a downer when that kind of thing happens," Johnson said. "It's a little hard to play after an accident like this."

Robinson is the Aggies' team leader in home runs, RBI, stolen bases and walks and is second in batting average.

Spring lockout comes to an end after agreement

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball players and owners agreed to a four-year contract late Sunday night, ending the 32-day lockout and paving the way for the start of the season on April 9, a source involved in the negotiations said.

The settlement brought an end to a bitter dispute that kept players locked out of spring training since Feb. 15, the second-longest work stoppage in baseball history.

According to a source familiar with the agreement, 17 percent of players between two and three years of major-league service will become eligible for arbitration.

Using this year's service class, 14 of 83 two-to-three year players would have been eligible.

Both the union and owners refused to confirm the settlement. Rich Levin, a spokesman for the commissioner, said a news conference would be held between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. EST Monday.

"We'll have an announcement in a little while," Commissioner Fay Vincent said.

The season had been scheduled to start on April 2 with six games. With the new starting date of April 9, players will have exactly three weeks to train before opening day.

Baseball fans from kids to President Bush had urged the two sides to get together and make a settlement, and after many hours on Sunday they did.

The key issue emerged as salary arbitration eligibility and it dominated the negotiations the last few weeks.

Word of a settlement came about 11:30 p.m. EST after the players and owners had spent the entire day working on a formula to solve arbitration eligibility.

The agreement came in the 34th negotiating session since talks began on Nov. 28, and it came after 362 of 410 exhibition games had been canceled.

The cancellations have been devastating to local economies in Florida and Arizona.

The seventh work stoppage in baseball history began on Feb. 15, when owners locked the gates to training camps, the third lockout in baseball history. The union staged midseason strikes in 1981 and 1985, and owners were fearful that players would walk off the field late in the year, jeopardizing the World Series and as much as 80 percent of the national television money.

Owners began negotiations by proposing

Arkansas, fans take SWC Tourney by storm

Three SWC teams receive NCAA bids

By CLAY RASMUSSEN
Of The Battalion Staff

DALLAS — Arkansas fans took over Reunion Arena for the Southwest Conference Post-season Classic last week. They might as well have renamed it Barnhill Arena South.

The Razorbacks' men's basketball team felt right at home, rolling through the tournament, en route to their second straight SWC title and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

It wasn't exactly the "40 minutes of Hell" that Arkansas promised Saturday to deal out to SWC runner-up Houston, but it dishied out enough destruction to maintain the passionate romance between the team and its 12,000 howling followers on hand to witness the slaughter.

After Arkansas rolled through No. 8 seed Southern Methodist 84-63, and waxed No. 4 seed Baylor 115-75, the Razorbacks awaited their next victim.

Unfortunately for the Cougars, Houston stood between Arkansas and a second SWC title.

The Cougars entered the finals after struggling throughout the first and second rounds of the tournament. In its first game against No. 7 seed Rice, Houston trailed on and off in the first half before finally gaining the upper hand late in the second half. The Cougars won, 90-81.

That win set up a showdown with Texas Saturday. The Longhorns advanced to the second round after beating Texas A&M 92-84.

Texas was determined to avenge an earlier loss to Houston.

The Cougars seemed to be in control during much of the game, and at one point led by 21 points. After Longhorns' coach Tom Penders was assessed his third technical foul and was ejected, Texas battled back to within two points. But that was as close as Texas would get, and the Cougars held on to win, 89-86.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Arkansas guard Lee Mayberry (1) celebrates with another Razorback player and coach after the 96-84 victory over Houston to win the SWC Tournament. The Razorbacks, Cougars and Longhorns all received NCAA Tournament bids.

The final game was set. Houston, with shades of Phi Slamma Jamma surfacing at times, were looking to shut down the Razorbacks' potent offense.

But instead, the Cougars were outmanned, outclassed and outnumbered. Arkansas downed Houston, 96-84 to win the Tournament.

"Clearly, they are the better basketball team," Houston coach Pat Foster said after the loss to Arkansas. "They were much sharper, much quicker than we were, and they deserve to go to the playoffs as the No. 1 representative of the

SWC. "We gave it a tremendous effort, but there was nothing we could do."

Meanwhile, Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson was beaming like a proud father.

"It's just a great pleasure to look back on the season and realize that the nucleus of this team is just babies," Richardson said, referring to sophomores Lee Mayberry, Oliver Miller and Todd Day's All-Tournament Honors.

The rest of the league now ponders the future of Arkansas basketball, as the

Razorbacks return to Dallas to play North Carolina this week in the NCAA Tournament. The Razorbacks advanced to the Sweet 16 with their win over Dayton Saturday.

The Cougars also gained a bid to the Tournament, but bowed out quickly after a first-round loss to the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Texas gained a bid to the national tournament and beat Georgia in its first round game and squeaked by Purdue to join Arkansas in the final 16 teams in the Tournament.