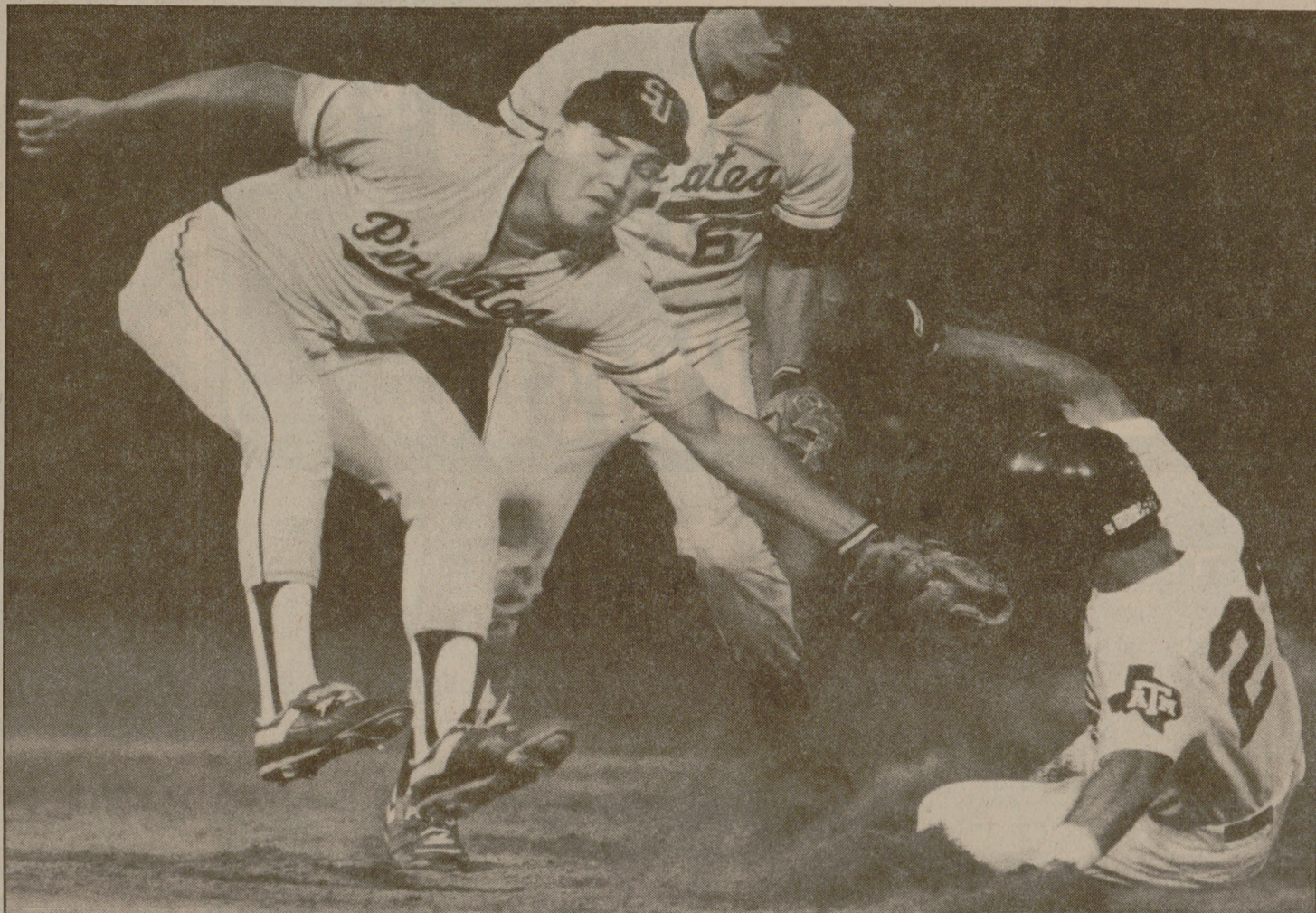


Aarrgh: Aags scuttle Pirates' ship

By ALAN LEHMANN
Of The Battalion Staff



A&M's Blake Pyle steals second in Tuesday's Southwestern doubleheader.

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

No. 17 Texas A&M extended its winning streak to seven games as the Aggies beat Southwestern 5-1 and 8-5 Tuesday night in front of 1,715 at Olsen Field.

The Aggies pounded 21 hits in the doubleheader and needed most of them to put away the pesky Pirates.

Southwestern, now 28-11, stayed within striking distance of A&M until the closing stages of each game.

The Aggies scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to put away the first contest. Despite outhitting the Pirates 13-4 in the second game, the Aggies needed a run in the seventh to open their three-run lead.

A&M got big performances from center fielder Tim Holt and freshman Brian Thomas. Holt was three-for-four in the nightcap, while Thomas had two hits in three trips in each game. In the second game, each slapped a triple and had two runs batted in.

Thomas has been on a tear lately, hitting .500 in his last 20 at-bats.

"I've been real confident at the plate," Thomas said. "I know what pitch I want, and I've been going with them real well."

Thomas' hot streak has helped ease the power loss since Dan Robinson suffered a broken upper jaw Saturday. Robinson will be out indefinitely.

Thomas has started every game since the middle of the Aggie-Continental tournament last week, and he played sparingly before. The playing time has been a pleasant surprise to Thomas, who expected to be redshirted this season.

"Even as late as Christmas, I was expecting to be redshirted (this season)," Thomas said. "Out of the blue, Coach (Mark) Johnson came to me and asked me if I wanted to start hitting. I took advantage of it, and it's turned out really well."

All the Aggie hitters slammed the ball in the nightcap, as eight of the nine starters collected hits. Left fielder Chad Broussard was 2-for-3, Trey Witte was 2-for-4 and senior catcher John Wood slapped an RBI single in two trips to the plate.

A&M grabbed an early lead in the nightcap as it scored two in the first and one in the third.

Holt started the Aggie rally with a single and scored on Thomas' triple. One out later, Thomas scored on David Rollen's

double. Starting pitcher Sean Lawrence held the Pirates hitless in three innings of work. The Aggies third inning run came when Holt singled, moved to second on a wild pitch and scored on Thomas' single.

In the fourth, Jason Bullard relieved Lawrence and didn't fare as well. The right-hander allowed only three walks, but all of them scored as the Pirates scored two in the fourth and three in the sixth.

The Aggies just managed to stay ahead with a four-run fifth inning. Shortstop Jason Marshall led off with a single and advanced when Wood's bunt was misplayed by the first baseman. Both scored on Holt's triple.

Thomas walked and Travis Williams followed with a single that scored Holt. Rollen walked and, one out later, Broussard's single scored Thomas.

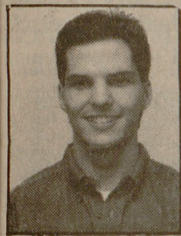
Bo Siberz came in to pitch the seventh inning for the Aggies and shut the Pirates

out. He went the final three frames, giving up one hit and striking out two. Siberz picked up his second save of the season while Lawrence got the win and improved to 2-0.

Johnson used two pitchers in the first game also — starter Brent Gilbert and reliever Steve Hughes. Johnson said he had planned to use a lot of pitchers.

"That was a set thing," Johnson said. "We

See Aggies/Page 12



Vince Snyder
Sports writer

Cinderella clubs in NCAA playing larger than life

It's not how you're ranked, it's how hard you play the game.

That should be the 1990 NCAA Tournament's motto.

It stands to reason, due to the fact that all the high-ranked teams are being knocked off by cinderella clubs. I mean, who expected Duke, UCLA, Clemson, Minnesota, Xavier, Ball State and the run-and-gun offense of Loyola Marymount to make it to the Sweet 16? I didn't.

And the thing that gets me is the teams they defeated in order to reach their current status in the tournament.

- Duke 76, St. John's 72
- UCLA 71, Kansas 70
- Clemson 79, La Salle 75
- Xavier 74, Georgetown 71
- Ball State 62, Louisville 60
- Loyola Marymount 149, Michigan 115

We're talking some major upsets, and these are only a few of the teams that have shown real hustle on the court during this year's tournament.

So for all of you ladies who may be wondering why your boyfriends have been glued to the tube all through Spring Break and more than likely for the rest of this month ... I have an answer for you.

It's because the top seeds are dropping like flies.

For example: Three of the No. 1 seeds (UNLV, Connecticut and Michigan St.) are still alive. But only one of the No. 2 seeds (Syracuse) is still afloat, and they won their last game by only two points in See Snyder/Page 12



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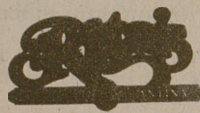
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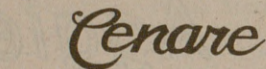


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