### Monday, April 2, 1990

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**The Battalion** 

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# **Ags drop SWC series to Baylor**

### By ALAN LEHMANN Of The Battalion Staff

WACO — The Texas A&M base-ball team ventured into new territory when it faced Baylor in Waco.

Sills' first po two feet but y as six playe l under par nine holes b Morgan, si apped the lea

tory when it faced Baylor in Waco. The Aggies hadn't lost a South-west Conference series since 1988, and neither team had split a SWC se-ries this season — A&M had swept Texas Tech, and Baylor had been swept by Rice and Texas. That all changed Sunday. The Bears, who had beaten the Aggies 7-6 Saturday, beat them again in Sunday's nightcap 7-0. A&M won Sunday's opener 2-0. The Bears hadn't beaten the Aggies in a season series since 1984 and had lost 19 in a row to the Aggies in the same 19 in a row to the Aggies in the same

span. With the losses, A&M dropped to 42 in SWC play and 31-9 overall. Baylor improved to 2-7 and 24-13. Baylor starter Lee Price — whose manual states before the game —

jersey was stolen before the game robbed the Aggies of any offense in the nightcap. The junior right-hander held the Aggies to three hits, and faced only two men over the minimum

The Bears' defense was ferocious, turning three double plays and making several great plays. A&M coach Mark Johnson said

Baylor did a good job, and that the Aggies just didn't hit.

"Some of their hits were bleeders, but that's no excuse," Johnson said. "We're not going to beat anybody when we get only three hits and give up three errors. "I think that conference is going

"I think that conference is going to be a dogfight this year." Trey Witte supplied most of the Aggies' ofense. The sophomore doubled twice and Travis Williams picked up the other single. A&M starter Pat Sweet took the

loss — giving up eight hits in 5.6 in-nings — to drop to 4-3.

Baylor scored two runs in the third on three hits. The Bears added five more in the sixth on five hits and two errors.

It was the Aggies who shined in Sunday's opener.

Rich Robertson fired a four-hit shutout in the seven-inning game, and the Aggies won 2-0.

The Aggies managed only six hits, but that was plenty. Baylor starter Genn Nevill didn't allow a hit until the fifth inning.

Chad Broussard lined a solid sin-gle into left field. One out later, John Wood jumped on a curve ball and drove it down the left field line for a double to score Broussard. It was Wood's ninth RBI of the season,

and his first game-winner. "I played summer ball with Glenn Nevil, and was waiting on a curve ball," Wood said. "I just jumped on it and was lucky it fell in." Stop Jaser. Institution lowed with a single to left, but Rob-ertson ended the game as he got a fly and was lucky it fell in." The Aggies got 2-for-5 perfor-

sixth. Consecutive singles by Wil-liams, David Rollen and Blake Pyle set the stage for a sacrifice fly by win, and lost 7-6. Trey Witte

Despite Robertson's dominance, the Bears made it interesting in the bottom of the seventh. After retiring the first two on fly outs, Robertson The Bears outhit the Aggies and struck out Mike Robison.

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scored three runs in the bottom of

Pinch runner Cornelius Patterson

Baylor's Ray Hammond slides into A&M short-

Saturday's 7-6 loss. A&M lost the three-game se-

stop Jason Marshall to break up a double play in ries after splitting a Sunday doubleheader.

The Aggies got 2-for-5 perfor-mances from Rollen and Pyle. Short-stop Jason Marshall had a two-run single in the sixth inning when A&M scored five runs.

Until that point, Baylor led 4-1. Bears' starting pitcher Scott Ruf-fcorn had allowed only two hits through the first five innings.

around on consecutive singles by Rollen, Pyle and Witte. Broussard was hit by a pitch to bring Rollen home, and Marshall's single knocked in two more.

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Ruffcorn was removed in favor of lefty Frank Foltyon, who stopped the Aggies, allowing only Marshall to score on a error.

Ronnie Allen pitched the first six innings for A&M, giving up eight hits and five runs. Bo Siberz ab-But Wood couldn't hold the ball, the seventh inning to take the 7-6 and Robison reached first base on lead. the passed ball. Steve Kliafas fol-Shortstop Steve Kliafas was 3-for-However, he didn't retire any-body in the fifth. Travis Wiliams drew a leadoff walk, and moved

# Islanders 'still believe' in team, make entry into NHL playoffs

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) —In each of the New York Islanders' locker room stalls hangs a sign that says, "I Believe

This year's Patrick Division race certainly tested that faith.

"A week ago, we felt we proba-bly wouldn't be here," captain Brent Sutter said, talking about the NHL playoffs.

But "here" they are, as the result of some longshot circumstances in a wild, improbable sce-nario the last week of the season.

This was the story: The Islanders had to win their last two games and the Pittsburgh Penguins had to lose their last two for the Islanders to make the playoffs.

"We were down," Islander forward Randy Wood said. "Things didn't look good, but we felt as long as we were alive, we still had a chance

The Islanders started their way back with a 6-3 victory at Toronto that featured a big third period. "That period helped us," Wood said. "It gave us confi-

dence.

They asserted that confidence in Saturday night's 6-2 victory over Philadelphia.

Then, they had to wait for the results of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo game to see how things would come out.

"I wasn't even sure what the score (of the Fittsburgh game) was," Wood said. "There were conflicting reports. Someone said they were winning 3-1, and then someone said the score was 2-2.

The reason for all this confusion was that Islanders coach Al Arbour would not allow Nassau Coliseum officials to flash the score of that game while the play-ers were on the ice. He wanted his team totally focused, he said.

But the Islander fans knew. They got to sneak a look at the score in between periods while the Islanders and Flyers were in the dressing rooms

After the Islanders had won, most of the fans stayed in their seats to watch the Pittsburgh-Buffalo game which was shown on the overhanging scoreboard at mid-ice.

Meanwhile, the Islanders were watching in their dressing room.

When Buffalo pulled it out 3-2 in overtime, both the Islanders and the Islander fans erupted. "I'll bet there was a little beer

spilled out there," said Sutter, who had two goals and two assists in the Islanders' biggest game of the year. "The fans deserved to celebrate. We haven't done any-

thing easy all year." Indeed. The Islanders, actu-ally, had three seasons — a bad beginning, a great middle and an horrendous end before pulling up their bootstraps in the last two games.

The Islanders were one of the NHL's worst teams the first two months of the season. At 5-18-3, they were in the Patrick Division cellar.

After a so-so December, they suddenly became the league's hottest team in January, winning nine straight and fashioning a re-cord of 26-6-3 to move into first place

That didn't last long, however. During the final third of the sea-son, they won just three of their last 22 games (3-14-5). Fortuna-tely for them, the Penguins were losing or tiging their last eight losing or tieing their last eight games

The finish sends the Islanders into a first-round playoff meeting with the New York Rangers, beginning Thursday.

## Umps return, prepare for first day of season

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. (AP) -For the first time since the World Series, major league umpires and players were on the field together Sun-

Big league umpires ended their six-day boycott and returned to work in exhibition games in Florida and Arizona, leaving them just one week to prepare for the season openers on April 9.

The umpires took over from Class AAA umps who replaced them during the boycott, which covered almost half the two-week exhibition schedule.

"The Triple-A guys did a decent job and now the big league umps have a week to get ready for the real action," Boston Red Sox manager Joe Morgan said.

"We're ready to go back to work," said Rich Garcia, an American League crew chief. "I've been run-ning and playing golf. Now I have six games down here and that will be enough

"It's time to go back, in fact, it's past time," AL umpire Larry Young said before a Toronto's game against Boston.

A long layoff can throw you off a little," Young added. "But I have three games behind the plate this week and that's enough to get you going, to get your timing back

Young also saluted the Class AAA umpires, who worked with the approval of the major leaguers while the latter negotiated new concessions.

"From what I've heard, and from a couple of games I saw on tele-vision, they did a good job," Young said. "I've always felt, though, that any Triple-A umpire can call balls and strikes.'

"It's great to be back to work," AL umpire Jim Evans said before Mil-waukee played California at Chandler, Ariz. "We're happy we're just here

### by: **GERHARDUS PRETORIUS**

South Africa's Consul General in Houston

### Tuesday, April 3, 1990 7:00 p.m. 102 Zachary

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