

Ags hope to regroup against TSU

No. 12 A&M closes weekday season Tuesday

By ALAN LEHMANN
Of The Battalion Staff

The No. 12 Texas A&M baseball team faces Texas Southern University in a Tuesday night doubleheader at Olsen Field.

The 5:30 p.m. twinbill will be the last weekday action of the year for the Aggies, who host Texas Christian this weekend. After the TCU series, A&M hosts Houston April 27-28 and travels to Arkansas May 4-5 to close out the 1990 schedule.

A&M, despite losing two of three games to Texas over the weekend, is still in line for the Southwest Conference Tournament May 17-19.

The Aggies are 8-4 in SWC play, good enough for third place behind Texas (10-1) and Arkansas (11-2). Houston (8-7) is battling Rice (7-7) for fourth place in the four-team SWC tournament. Baylor (4-11), Texas Tech (4-12) and TCU (3-9) have outside shots at the fourth spot.

Although the Aggies lost two in Austin, they didn't go down quietly.

Ronnie Allen battled Longhorn ace Kirk Dressendorfer Friday, but the A&M defense wasn't very cooperative. A mixup in coverage of a Texas bunt led to a four-run Horn fourth inning and Texas won 5-1.

In Saturday's opener, Rich Robertson held Texas in check and the Aggies won 5-3. The win snapped a 10-game A&M losing streak at Disch-Falk Field.

Pat Sweet pitched well in the nightcap, but received little hitting support as the Longhorns won 2-1. A ninth inning David Lowery single off Sweet snapped a 1-1 tie.

Coach Mark Johnson said he was pleased with the Aggie effort.

"Our players went over there and put their game across the line," Johnson said. "I'm proud of this group. They showed a lot of deter-



Photo by Eric H. Roalson

Tim Holt slides into second base Saturday as Texas' Kyle Moody mishandles the throw from the catcher. A&M lost the three-game series to Texas, but hopes to bounce back Tuesday.

mination and although they are a young group, they were not intimidated.

The losses dropped A&M's season mark to 38-11 while No. 6 Texas climbed to 39-11.

TSU enters Tuesday's twinbill with a 13-27 record. However, one

of those wins was an 8-7 decision over the Rice Owls.

Johnson will send Brent Gilbert and Bo Siberz to the mound Tuesday, but he expects to use several pitchers.

Gilbert is 4-3 this season with a 5.63 earned run average. His last de-

cision was a 9-1 decision over Stephen F. Austin last Tuesday. Gilbert worked three shutout innings in the win.

Bo Siberz, a junior transfer from Westark (Ark.) Community College, has been used primarily as a relief pitcher this year. In fact, only one of his 13 appearances was a start. Siberz is 2-1 with a 2.60 ERA in 27 innings of work.

A&M beat TSU last year 11-1 and 13-3, and leads the series 4-0. The series started in 1987 and the closest game was in 1988 when A&M won 8-4.

Attendance is strong at Olsen Field this season. Through 24 home dates, 59,065 fans have been to the park for an average of 2,461. But the Aggies have drawn an average of 3,915 for the four SWC dates.

Looking forward to the TCU series, Robertson likely will pitch the second game of the series. When he goes to the mound, he'll have a chance to break the A&M school record for most strikeouts in a season.

Robertson, who has 91 strikeouts in 72 innings this season, is currently fourth on A&M's career strikeout list. Clint Thomas, who's now the Longhorn pitching coach, holds the record with 109 in 1976.

Robertson is 9-0 on the season with a 1.50 ERA.

Ryan still strong as he nears big 3-0-0

NEW YORK (AP) — If the chance comes up this season, make sure to catch Nolan Ryan's victory tour.

Ryan is on the road to 300 career wins and he stopped at Yankee Stadium over the weekend to pick up No. 291.

After a homestand in Arlington, his next stops are Kansas City, Chicago and Cleveland.

Watching Nolan Ryan pitch a baseball game is like going to a museum to see a Van Gogh, or to the concert hall to hear a Mozart symphony.

First, Ryan catches your senses and then your breath.

When Ryan is on the mound, history is right there with him.

He has pitched in four decades, and each of his 42 major-league records seem to have a story to tell.

The 43-year-old Ryan has pitched a record five no-hitters, yet none may have been his best game.

"I still think one of the best games I ever pitched was against Boston," Ryan said. "I retired the last 26 hitters in a row."

His last appearance at Yankee Stadium prior to Saturday was July 25, 1979, and that had a story, too.

"I hurt myself in the first inning," Ryan recalled. "I struck out two and hurt my elbow on a pitch to Reggie Jackson and that was my last pitch."

Ryan's marquee numbers are easy. He is the all-time strikeout leader with 5,084 and nine wins short of the magic 300 mark.

Next on the strikeout list is Steve Carlton with 4,136.

To put it in perspective, for a pitcher starting out to reach Ryan's totals he would have to average 20 wins and 339 strikeouts for 15 seasons.

Like Van Gogh and Mozart, Ryan had flaws in his youth, too.

The word of Ryan's 99-mph heat hit in 1966 when he struck out 272 batters in 183 innings while going 17-2 for Greenville, a New York Mets farm club.

But he couldn't find his control with the Mets, walking 344 in 510 innings over parts of five seasons, and kept putting his blistered fingers in

"Of all the clubs I've been with, this club has the offensive potential to be the best team I've ever played on."

—Nolan Ryan, Rangers pitcher

pickle brine.

But Ryan did save a game in the 1969 World Series against Baltimore, his only championship ring.

The Mets traded him to California in 1971 along with three minor leaguers for infielder Jim Fregosi, and Ryan started his journey to Cooperstown while Fregosi prepared for his retirement.

Despite his many records, Ryan's critics, only until recently, said he was just a .500 pitcher (291-263).

"I think it's the nature of the teams I've played on," Ryan said. "Of all the clubs I've been with this club has the offensive potential to be the best team I've ever played on."

After eight seasons and four no-hitters in California, Ryan spent nine years in Houston before signing as a free agent with the Texas Rangers last year.

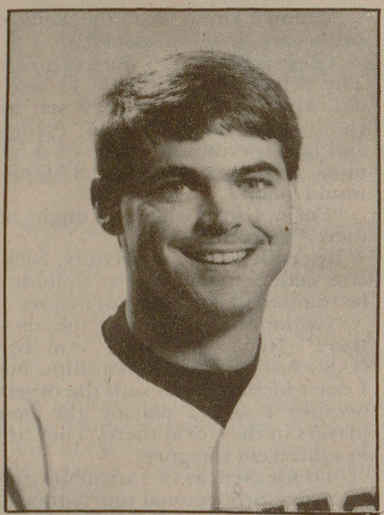
At 42, Ryan was 16-10 with a major-league high 301 strikeouts in 1989.

Five times he carried a no-hitter into the eighth inning. Five times it didn't seem possible, either.

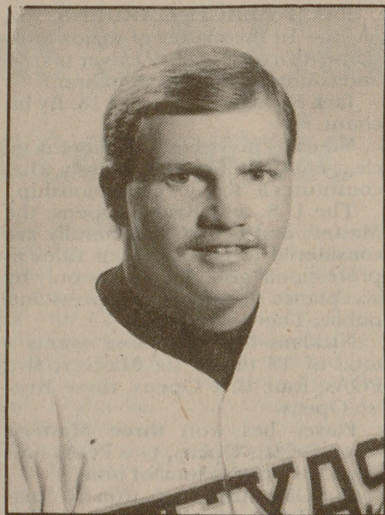
On opening day in Texas last week, Ryan pitched five no-hit innings against Toronto and right-hander Todd Stottlemyre.

When Ryan broke into the majors in 1966, Todd's dad, Mel Stottlemyre, was pitching for the New York Yankees.


It's just another story on Ryan's road to 300.



Brent Gilbert



Bo Siberz



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Dana Fullendorf
San Francisco State University



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As soon as Dana was old enough to drive, a succession of Volkswagens followed. A 1969 Beetle convertible. A 1973 Super Beetle. And Dana's first new car—a 1984 Rabbit Diesel—a car she was reluctant to part with, until her sister purchased a new Jetta GLI.


"I really didn't need a new car. My Rabbit was in great shape and gave me no problems whatsoever. But I said to myself, if my sister can get a new Jetta then so can I."

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