

## Tisch's trying tales: baseball traumas for an Ag first-timer

Susan M. Tisch  
Reader's Opinion

Don't take me anywhere near the ballpark. During the spring you can't get most men away from baseball. Men love this exciting time of the year.

Boy, I sure do wish I could get that enthusiastic about baseball.

I attempted to watch a baseball game at A&M recently. And as I sat up in the stands, basking under the sun, I started to ponder...

First off, what does one wear to a game?

I'd hate to show up at a game and violate baseball fashion.

Once, while watching the Astros play, I observed a woman wearing a straight skirt.

How does anyone walk up steps when their legs are practically bound together?

So I wore a t-shirt and shorts to Olsen Field. My ticket was for a seat under the netting behind home-plate, facing the student section.

It was here that I learned what the game of baseball is really all about.

D.D. Grubbs announces the fighting Texas Aggie baseball players as they run to their positions on the field.

The game begins with an opposing team member up to bat.

"One Shamu, two Shamu, three Shamu, Oof!"

Finally, our team is up to bat. Over the P.A. system plays theme songs that introduce the A&M player. These include "Rawhide" (David Rollen), "Theme from Gomer Pyle" (Blake Pyle), and "They Call Me Bruce" (Chad Broussard).

The score is a challenging 7-6. A&M is still at bat.

Suddenly, faint screams are heard throughout Olsen Field.

The theme from Jaws is being played, and spectators are "fishing" off the sides of the upper balcony.

The opposing coach yanks the pitcher out of the game. The crowd responds.

"Na-Na-Na-Na-Hey-Hey-Hey-Go-od-Bye!"

Next, in walks the new pitcher. Here's the wind up and swing.

UP, UP the ball flies... foul ball!

Everyone is pointing in different directions, frantically trying to help the Diamond Darling find the ball.

The girl recovers the baseball in an exchange for a chance at a free trip.

Once again, the wind up and the swing. Travis Williams hits the ball. At the same time, the spectators position their bodies in the shape of an "E".

There seems to be some confusion out in left field. Four more runs come in.

The Aggies finish the inning. It is now the seventh inning stretch. At this time the entire stadium stands and tests their singing ability — "Take Me Out to the Ballgame".

And I begin to realize that I'm having a good time.

"It's lucky number time!", D.D. announces. The stadium has a majestic white glow to it as spectators wave their programs in the air.

The winner receives a free dinner for two at Duddy's Draw.

The opposing team has their last at bat. The score is 11-8. The bases are loaded. The team's powerhouse is up to bat. Full count.

Rich Robertson winds up and See Tisch/Page 9

## A&M sets pitching record in sweep

By ALAN LEHMANN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M pitchers have fired more blanks this season than you'll see in a whole week of bad westerns.

The Aggies fired two more shutouts Tuesday night and swept the Texas Southern Tigers 6-0 and 9-0.

A&M improved to 40-11 on the season. TSU dropped to 14-30.

With the shutouts, A&M pitching has now blanked their opponents 12 times this season — the most in school history.

That beats the 11 shutouts turned in by the 1979 team. That staff featured eventual major-league pitchers Mark Thurmond and Mark Ross.

Coach Mark Johnson said he expected his pitching to be good this year, but has been pleasantly surprised by how good they've been.

"I knew going into the season that pitching would be the key to our balclub, but I didn't expect us to throw 12 shutouts," Johnson said.

"I think our record is a testimony to the strength of our staff. It's an impressive record when you look at the calibre of pitchers that have come through this program over the years."

The Aggies have been impressive on the mound even when they haven't been throwing goose eggs at their opponents. A&M has a sparkling 2.47 staff earned run average this season, and has held opposing hitters to an anemic .207 batting average.

While the Aggie bats weren't exactly on fire Tuesday, they at least smoked. A&M out-hit TSU 18-6 in the twinbill. Both teams showed lackluster defense, however, and A&M's winning run in both games scored on balks.

A&M didn't put either game away until the late innings. In the night-cap, left fielder Chad Broussard scored the first Aggie run without the benefit of a hit.

In the second inning, Broussard walked, moved to third on two ground-outs and scored when the Tiger pitcher balked him home.

The Aggies made it 2-0 in the third when Trey Witte slammed a triple and scored on Brian Thomas' ground out.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

A&M third baseman Scott Daniels tags out a Texas Southern player who tried to stretch a double into a triple in Tuesday's first game. The Aggies swept the doubleheader with the Tigers.

A&M starter Bo Siberz pitched three innings, allowing two hits and two walks. Reliever Steve Hughes held the Tigers to one hit through the fifth, and the Aggies started to pull away in the sixth.

A&M got two runs that inning on a Travis Williams RBI single and a David Rollen sacrifice fly.

The Aggies upped the score to 7-0 with three runs in the seventh on RBI singles by Rollen and substitutes Sean Drinkwater and Ron Johnson.

Senior Kerry Freudenburg pitched the final three innings to record his second save of the season. Hughes (1-0) had the victory.

In the first game, A&M got a combined two-hitter from Brent Gilbert and Jason Bullard. Bullard pitched the final four innings of the seven-inning game, striking out seven to improve to 4-0 on the season.

Center fielder Tim Holt provided most of the offense with two doubles and three RBI in three trips. Senior Blake Pyle was also two-for-three in the eight-hit Aggie attack.

The Aggies didn't score until the fourth inning, when Rollen came home on a balk by TSU starter Cedric Robinson.

A&M added two more in the fifth. Holt, batting in the ninth spot in-

stead of his usual leadoff role, slammed a lead-off double. He scored one out later on Thomas' single.

Thomas stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Williams' groundout.

The Aggies scored three more and knocked out Robinson in the sixth.

"We needed this sweep to get 40 wins," said first baseman Jeff Ber-

net, who had a triple in the second game. "We need 40 wins to get into the (NCAA) Tournament, and it gives us momentum going into the weekend against TCU."

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