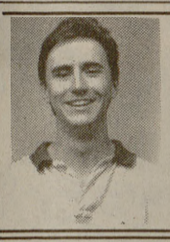
Sports



DOUG FOSTER
Sportswriter

Unique crowd an advantage at Olsen Field

Everyone in Aggieland knows about the amazing powers of Kyle Field — the noise, the yells, the cannon and the Aggies home record of 43-5-1 since 1984.

But, there is another athletic facility on campus where victories by visiting teams are just as scarce.

C.E. "Pat" Olsen Field, is working on adding a new meaning to the phrase "home-field advantage."

The Aggie crowd at Olsen is, without a doubt, the most distinctive group of baseball fans ever. They affect games like no other crowd in college baseball, or in any baseball league for that matter. And don't think the A&M baseball team doesn't enjoy playing in front of this group.

The Aggies have a 106-22 record at Olsen in the past three years. That's a better than 80 percent winning percentage over that period of time.The Aggies have won at least 78 percent of their games since the field was opened in the spring of 1978. The Aggies have never had a losing record at Olsen Field.

That kind of record doesn't come because it's a short, relaxing trip from Cain Hall for the players. Of course, A&M has had great baseball teams, but the Aggie faithful have become an unquestionable intangible.

When playing at Olsen as a visitor, nothing is sacred. If the Aggie fans don't find a reason to make fun of your name, they'll find something to ride you about.

Just ask Southwest Texas State's Gary "Pee-wee" Herrmann. Or ask the Longhorns' Calvin Murray, brother of former A&M quarterback Kevin

See Foster/Page 4

Aggies pour it on SWTSU

Rain lets up; A&M wins 2 from Bobcats

By Doug Foster
The Battalion

The Texas A&M baseball team was finally given the thumbs up by the weatherman to open their home schedule Wednesday, and the Aggies made the most of it by sweeping Southwest Texas State in a doubleheader, 6-2 and 9-1.

Sophomore Jeff Granger, 1-1, picked up the victory in game one, while freshman Chris Clemons, also 1-1, got the win in the second game.

Juniors Eric Gonzalez and Mike Hickey provided the offensive punch in the first game, as Gonzalez went 1-for-3 with two RBI's. He picked up those RBI's in the Aggies five-run fourth inning.

With the bases loaded, the 5'4" Gonzalez lined one off the right field wall, scoring Trey Moore and third baseman Travis Williams to open the lead to 4-1.

Two batters later, Hickey singled in Gonzales and centerfielder Brian Thomas to pick up his two RBI's and expand the lead to 6-1.

Williams was 2-for-2 in the first game and also picked up an RBI.

In game two, the Aggies used another big inning to break open a close game. This time, the offensive spurt came in the form of a five-run fifth inning which put A&M out in front 8-0.

Senior Jason Marshall held the hot bat in the nightcap, going 3-for 4 and knocking in three runs.

A&M head coach Mark Johnson said Marshall has improved at the offensive end of his game, and his performance against the Bobcats proved it.

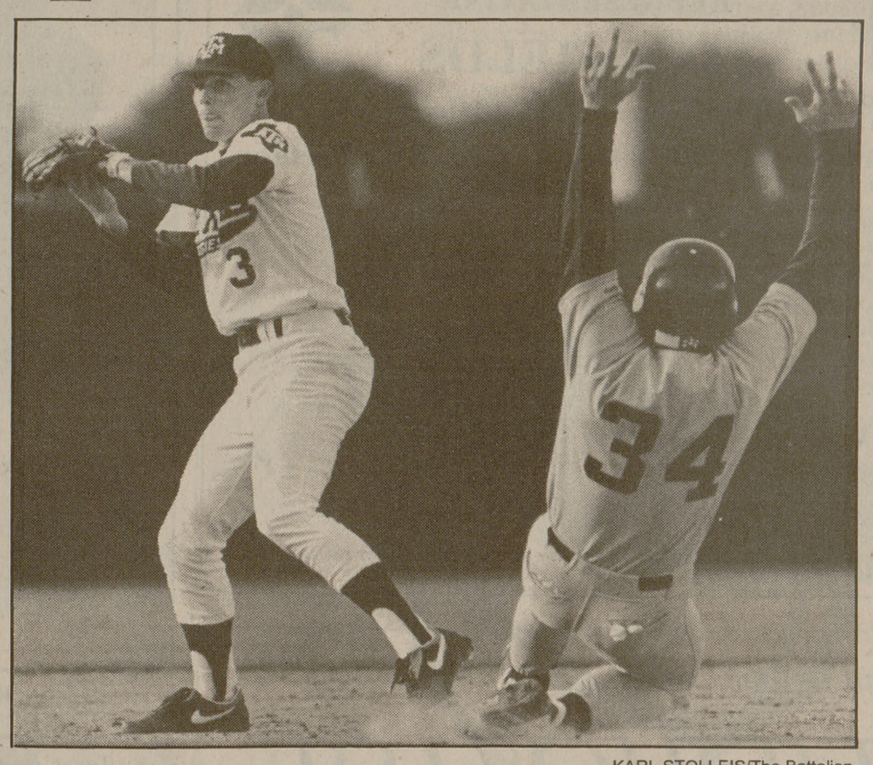
"Jason hit the ball real well," he said. "None of his hits were cheap ones either, he hit the ball and drove it each time. He's improved on his stroke and he showed that tonight."

Hickey also picked up an RBI for A&M in game two.

The Bobcats only run in the second game came on a homerun to open the seventh inning by pinch-hitter Gary Hermann.

The Aggies used three pitchers in the first game, and worked in four hurlers in game two, something Johnson had said he wanted to do before this weekend's trip to Arizona.

See A&M/Page 5



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

A&M shortstop Jason Marshall gets the out at second base in the first game of the Aggies doubleheader Wednesday at Olsen Field. A&M beat SWT 6-2 and 9-1.

Lady Aggies fall to Mustangs; A&M's SWC woes continue

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies continued their plunge toward the bottom of the Southwest Conference basketball standings Wednesday night.

The Aggies lost to Southern Methodist University, 62-49, in front of 480 fans at G. Rollie White Coliseum. With the loss, the Lady Aggies fall to 5-4 in conference play and 13-9 overall. The Lady Mustangs improve to 5-4 and 13-7.

It was the Aggies' fourth loss in their last five games after starting the season 4-0 for the first time ever.

"What's important now is that we don't let down," A&M head coach Lynn Hickey said. "We've done some really special things this year, and we've got several games to go and we can finish really good.

"I don't think we're in a major tailspin. This is a team with losses to Texas Tech and Houston, and we barely lost to them."

A&M began the evening in a three-way tie for second place with Houston and Texas. Now A&M finds itself tied for fourth place with SMU after the Longhorns defeated league-leading Texas Tech, 83-80, Wednesday in Austin.

A&M forward Dena Russo said the problems with the team are problems that can be corrected.

Slumping Lady Aggies

A&M has lost four of its last five SWC games after starting 4-0.

A&M 69, TCU 50
A&M 69, SMU 66
A&M 73, Baylor 64
A&M 74, Texas 73
A&M 83, Rice 85 OT
A&M 78, Houston 79 OT
A&M 69, Texas Tech 75
A&M 69, TCU 54
A&M 49, SMU 62

"We have to take these teams like SMU and TCU and Rice seriously," Russo said. "We have to take it one game at a time."

Hickey said the A&M team needs to avoid complacency.

"We can't go in every night and think it's going to be given to us," Hickey said. "I think in the old days you could play a team like SMU and expect to win the game, but that's not going to happen, and we've got to be hyped and pumped to go every night.

"That didn't happen tonight."

See Lady Aggies/Page 5

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