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Double-plays push Aggies past SHSU

A&M defense shuts down Bearkats, 9-2

By Doug Foster
The Battalion

Texas A&M head baseball coach Mark Johnson wanted to see some improvement on his team and pick up a victory against Sam Houston State University on Wednesday. He hadn't planned on the bonus of breaking any school records.

The Aggies, ranked No. 24 by Baseball America, turned in a record day defensively, turning five double-plays on their way to a 9-2 victory over the Bearkats at Olsen Field. The win was the Aggies sixth straight and moves A&M to 10-4 on the season, while SHSU falls to 1-5.

The Aggies jumped on Bearkats' starting pitcher Peter Schandua (0-2) for four runs in the first inning and never looked back. The rally started when leftfielder Eric Gonzalez reached on an error, and moved to third on a single to rightfield by designated hitter Billy Harlan. Second baseman Mike Hickey then singled in Gonzalez for the first of his three RBI's on the day, and first baseman Conrad Colby followed with a double to rightfield to score Harlan.

Hickey and Colby, the third and fourth hitters in the A&M lineup, combined for five RBI's. Colby finished with a 3-for-4 performance with two doubles. Shortstop Jason Marshall, who is the teams leading hitter with a .416 batting average, continued the rally by doubling to right-centerfield to bring in Colby. Rightfielder Scott Smith continued his 13-game hitting streak by singling in Marshall.

Johnson said the big opening inning was just what the Aggies needed to get going against the Bearkats.

"We've been scoring late in the game all year, and when you start off with four runs in the first inning it really gets you going," Johnson said. "That seems to break the tension and the pre-game jitters a little bit, and really gets your confidence up starting off that well."

Sophomore pitcher Kelly Wunsch (1-0) picked up the win for the Aggies, but Johnson worked in five more pitchers before completing the game.

Johnson said part of his plan going into the game was to give a number of pitchers time on the mound to prepare for the Aggies' trip to Minnesota this Friday.

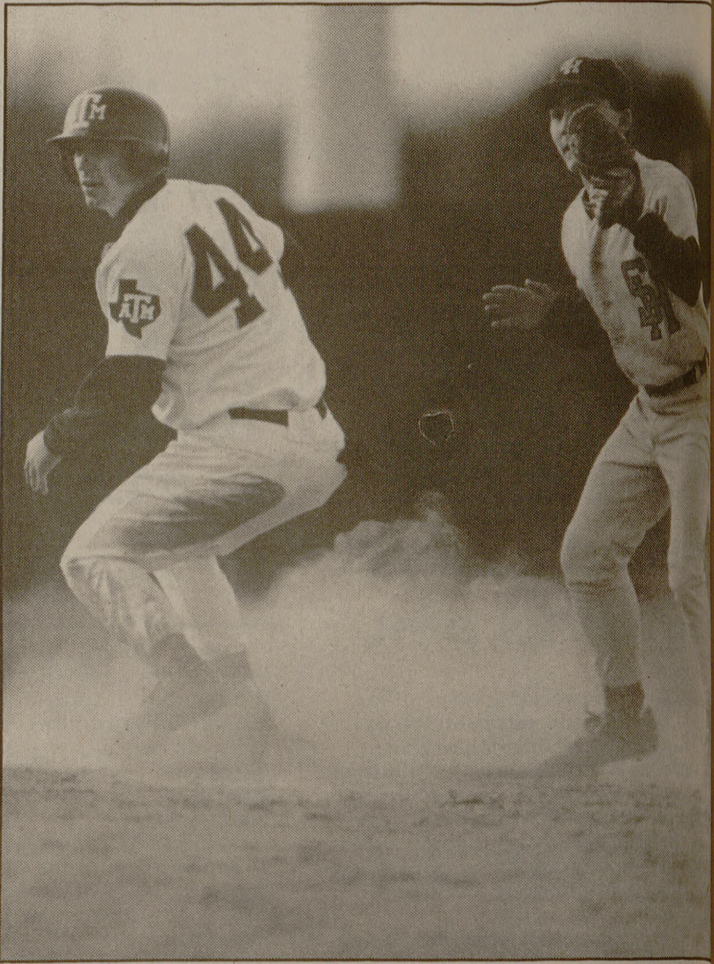
"We got several pitchers some work today, which is what we wanted to do so they would be ready for the weekend, and we got a win against a club that hits the ball very well," Johnson said.

The Bearkats collected nine hits against Aggie pitching, but managed to score only two runs, mostly because of the double-plays made by the Aggie defense.

The A&M offense exploded again in the fourth inning, when centerfielder Brian Thomas led off the inning by striking out, but advanced to second when the catcher dropped the pitch and then overthrew first base. Catcher John Keller doubled into right center to bring in Thomas, and Harlan singled in Keller. Colby then collected his third hit of the day by singling in Harlan.

Hickey finished off the scoring for the Aggies with a towering two-run homerun to right in the sixth inning. After pinch-hitter Rob Trimble singled and stole second, Hickey blasted his second homer of the season to put the final nail in the Bearkats coffin.

Hickey said the big game offensively was exactly what the



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion
A&M's Rob Trimble slides into second base during the sixth inning of the Aggies' 9-2 win over SHSU. Trimble was ruled safe.

Aggies needed to gain momentum before going to Minnesota.

"This game help a lot," Hickey said. "We were just glad we got to play, and after struggling a little bit, we had a big game offensively and the chemistry between the team is beginning to pick up."

Colby, who improved his average from .227 to .271 with Wednesday's performance, said the Aggies needed this matchup with the Bearkats.

"We didn't want to miss this game," Colby said. "The entire team needed this game to get ready for Minnesota, and we did exactly what we needed to by jumping on them early for runs in

the first."

The Aggies will now travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota to participate in the Oscar Mayer Baseball Classic this weekend at the Herbert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

A&M will take on three top teams in the tournament, opening with Mississippi State, who ranked No. 8 by Baseball America and is fourth in the Collegiate Baseball poll.

The Aggies will then meet Florida State, ranked No. 4 by Baseball America and sixth in Collegiate Baseball, on Saturday and will clash with Minnesota, ranked No. 23 by Collegiate Baseball, on Sunday.

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Staley leads Lady Aggie netters to win over UTSA

The Battalion News Services

The Texas A&M women's tennis team defeated the University of Texas-San Antonio 6-3 Wednesday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Lady Aggies improve to 4-2 on the season.

Senior All-American Lynn Staley led the Lady Aggies with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over UTSA's Florentine Schneider. Five of A&M's top six tennis players won Wednesday.

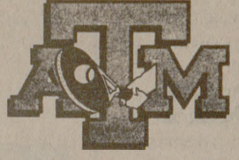
Christine DiNardo, A&M's No. 2 seeded player, lost to UTSA's Denise Garza.

A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke said the Lady Aggies won without using their best effort.

"The entire team played flat, but they did the things necessary to notch the win, Kleinecke said. "We need to start playing with some enthusiasm and take charge out on the court."

"We were able to overpower UTSA, but we won't be able to do that against Rice."

The Lady Aggies open the Southwest Conference season against the Owls in Houston on Feb. 29. The match begins at 1:30 p.m.



Baylor wins

WACO, Texas (AP) — David Wesley and Alex Holcombe each scored 17 points to lead the Baylor Bears to a 76-62 Southwest Conference victory over Southern Methodist Wednesday.

The victory leaves the Bears (12-13) and Mustangs (10-15) knotted at 4-8 in conference play. The teams are tied for sixth place.

Kelvin Chalmers scored 12 and pulled down 12 rebounds for Baylor, while Lindsey scored 13. Lewis and Mike Wilson scored 16 apiece to lead the Mustangs.

Baylor, which snapped a five-game losing streak, sprinted to an early 18-3 lead that was aided by the Mustangs ice-cold shooting. SMU opened the game missing their first 12 shots from the floor, scoring on three free throws.

Gerald Lewis's shot with 11:47 left in the first half was the first SMU field goal.

Foster

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is probably all gone now, so the focus of this game should not be the matchup, but the showcasing of the legends.

The focus should also be on the unselfish reason they are playing. The proceeds from this game are all being given to charity.

Anyone who watched Jabbar and Erving play knows that is exactly how they would want it to go and is the only reason they would play again. Both were very generous within their community during their day, and both gave back what they were given during their career.

Erving and Jabbar are given complete credit with popularizing the game. Jabbar's skyhook

12th Man Notebook

TEXAS A&M LACROSSE: A&M will play Southwest Texas State on Saturday, Feb. 29, at 1 p.m. at Zachary Soccer Field. For more information call 693-9386. A&M will play Trinity University on Sunday, March 1, at 11 a.m., at Zachary Soccer Field.

TEXAS A&M HANDBALL: The Texas A&M Combined Men's and Women's Team defended their national championship for the fourth consecutive year in Chicago on Feb. 20-23. The Women's Team won their fifth consecutive national title, while the Men's Team placed No. 2 in the nation. Sharon Baylor became the Women's Open National Champion.

TEXAS A&M JUDO TEAM: The A&M Judo Team competed in the Texas Senior State Championships in San Antonio. The Aggies finished second out of 15 teams. The judo team will be at the University of Texas to participate in the Texas State Collegiate Championships this Saturday.

The 12th Man Notebook runs every Thursday in The Battalion. Submissions are due by 5 p.m. Wednesday. The Notebook is a service available to sports clubs and non-profit organizations at Texas A&M and in the Bryan-College Station area. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-serve basis and are subject to editing. Questions? Call 845-2665.



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