

Sports

Monday, April 13, 1992

The Battalion

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Aggies avoid UT sweep, salvage win

By Doug Foster
The Battalion

A&M bats come to life Sunday for 11-5 victory

Entering this weekend's series with the University of Texas, Aggie baseball coach Mark Johnson knew he needed a series victory for his team to have a serious chance at catching the Southwest Conference leading Longhorns.

Instead of making up ground, the Aggies fell further behind Texas. The Longhorns took two out of three games to widen the gap in the SWC to 6 1/2 games. Texas improves to 33-9, 20-5 in conference play. The Aggies fall to 26-15 and 13-11 in the SWC.

A&M was able to salvage some respect Sunday. The Aggies made up for two earlier losses by jumping on Texas pitching for 16 hits on their way to an 11-5 victory. Kelly Wunsch, now 4-2 on the

season, picked up the Aggies only win of the weekend by outdueling Brooks Kieschnick, who picked up his first loss of the season to fall to 4-1.

Texas coach Cliff Gustafson said although the Aggies broke loose on Sun-

Kelly Wunsch finds pitchPage 6

day, he felt the weekend trip to College Station was a success.

"Starting this week we had Baylor for one game and three down here," Gustafson said. "I felt if we won two out of four we'd be in pretty good shape, and we wound up winning three out of four."

"I was very pleased with this weekend although we were a little bit flat to

day." Johnson said he was proud of his team's performance on Sunday after losing the first two games of the series.

"Today was something to grow on," Johnson said. "I thought we hit the ball pretty well the entire weekend even though we lost the series, especially compared to last weekend and the weekend before that."

"It means a lot to me too that the guys came back last night and today and played as hard as they did after getting kind of embarrassed Friday. I think our kids showed a lot of character."

Johnson said his squad was not completely out of the race, but that now they needed to work hard to make sure to get a

bid into the NCAA regional playoffs.

"We'll just keep punching out until they tell us we can't win this thing," he said. "They did win the series, but they didn't sweep us, so we picked up one which will help when we start looking at regionals."

"Every win we can get now is very important for us."

Seven Aggie starters picked up hits in the series finale. First baseman Jay Estes led the way with a 3-for-4 performance. Robert Harris, Mike Hickey and Rob Trimble all collected two RBIs, and five other A&M batters knocked in runs.

After taking a 4-1 lead in the third inning with four consecutive hits and a sacrifice fly, the Aggies broke the final game

SWC STANDINGS

	SWC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Texas	20	5	33	9
A&M	13	11	25	15
Rice	13	14	26	19
Baylor	12	13	24	19
Tech	12	15	23	19
TCU	10	14	20	20
UH	8	16	20	21

open with a six-run fifth inning. A&M sent 12 batters to the plate during the outburst which began when Hickey singled to left. Two batters later, Estes singled to right and shortstop Jason Marshall

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TCU spoils Aggies SWC title chances

No. 2 Frogs down No. 16 A&M

By Chris Whitley
The Battalion

After the Aggies' narrow victory over Rice on Friday, they were in position Saturday for a match at home against second-ranked Texas Christian to decide the Southwest Conference tennis title.

But A&M, ranked No. 16, was not going to stop the Frogs on this day.

TCU's entire lineup was next to flawless in its 8-1 victory over the Aggies, which clinched the Frogs' second straight SWC team championship.

The Aggies retained second place, but their record dropped to 15-4 overall and 4-1 in the SWC. The Frogs jumped to 16-3 and 6-0 in conference.

A&M head coach David Kent said his team gave a lot of effort, but the Frogs were too strong.

"My hats off to them," Kent said. "You don't get ranked No. 2 in the nation for nothing, and they just really let us have it."

In a battle of No. 1 seeds, Aggie sophomore Mark Weaver was edged out by Tony Bujan, 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, to clinch the match for the Frogs.

After winning the first set and taking a 2-0 lead in the second, Weaver started waning.

Bujan, the fourth-ranked singles player in the country, found the opening and closed it on Weaver.

"I just needed a little extra to put him away, and I just couldn't do it," Weaver said. "That's probably all I needed, or it wouldn't have gone three sets. But he's been there too many times."

With Bujan up 4-1 in the third set, Weaver came back to win the next two before Bujan put the match away. Kent said Bujan improved his game after Weaver broke back.

"The guy upped his play considerably, and Mark stayed the same," Kent said. "There comes a time in a match when you've got to play better, and that guy just kept playing better and better and better."

A&M's only victory came from third-seeded Scott Phillips over TCU's Laurant Becouran, 6-3, 1-6, 6-1.

The day before, the Aggies picked up an important win over 20th-ranked Rice, 5-4, also at the Omar Smith Tennis Center. Despite the fears that A&M would be tired coming into the TCU match, Kent said their team was ready.

"After yesterday, I thought we might be down a little," Kent said. "But we didn't. We came out and battled them. They just outplayed us."

Kent said that despite the loss, A&M's stature in a tough conference should be enough to warrant a bid to the NCAA tournament.

The men's tennis team will travel to Austin on Wednesday to face the Texas Longhorns in a key SWC match.



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Jay Estes crosses home plate Saturday and receives a high-five from Rob Trimble after Jason Marshall singled in the sixth inning to score both players. The two runs tied the game at four but Texas scored a run in the eighth inning for a 5-4 victory.

Freshman Harrison skies high

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

Freshman Twylana Harrison made her collegiate track debut at the Texas A&M Relays held Saturday at the Anderson Track and Field Complex. And if her first college meet was a sign of things to come — watch out.

Harrison finished first in the triple jump and second in the long jump.

Harrison had a NCAA provisional qualifying jump of 42 ft., 1 1/2 in., in the triple, finishing ahead of Sheryl Pavelka of A&M and Charise Traylor, who was running independent of a team. In her six qualifying jumps, Harrison had the six longest jumps of the year in the Southwest Conference.

"She was not a surprise," A&M track coach Ted Nelson said. "We already knew she had the capabilities to do a great job. She was a pleasure to watch."

In the long jump, Harrison leaped 20 ft., 1/2 in., finishing behind two-time All-American Yolanda Taylor.

As a high school senior last year, Harrison became the No. 2 high school triple

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Harrison

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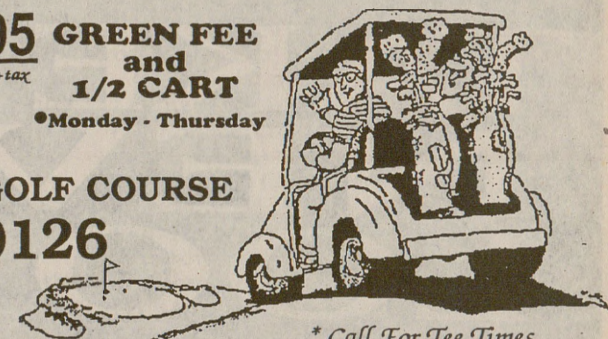
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TENSION HEADACHE?

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