

SPORTS

Thursday, March 11, 1993

The Battalion

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A&M strolls to sweep of Redbirds

Rolling Aggies have momentum as road awaits

By DAVID WINDER

The Battalion

If Illinois State never visits the state of Texas again, no one would blame them.

After being pummeled by the Houston Cougars 27-5 on Monday and losing 12-3 to third-ranked Texas A&M on Tuesday, the 0-9 Redbirds dropped both games of a double-header Wednesday against the Aggies at Olsen Field.

Chris Clemons was the story for 20-2 A&M in the second game, going the distance while striking out ten in the 4-0 victory. It was his career best in both areas.

"I was just throwing really consistent throughout the whole game," Clemons said. "I had a really sharp slider and I kept getting it over."

"It was also the first time I never walked anybody in a game. I never really got tired, and I think my stamina was major key for my success."

A&M coach Mark Johnson was also impressed with Clemons' performance.

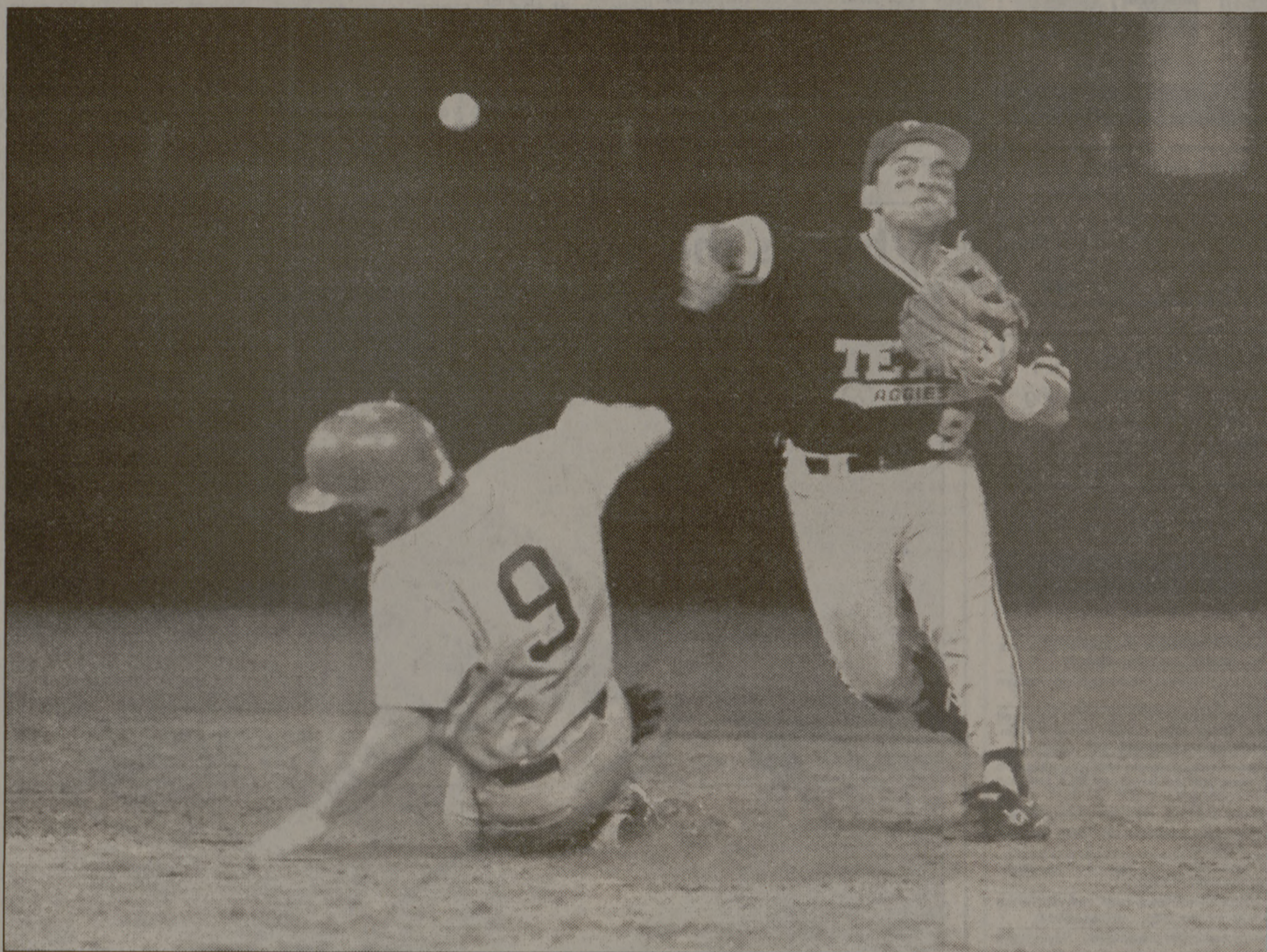
"He had the best pitching outing of the year tonight," Johnson said. "He had an outstanding slider with excellent control."

The Aggies scored the only run Clemons would need as Billy Harlan scored on a Robert Harris single in the third inning. In the seventh, A&M added to its lead as Harlan singled in Eric Gonzalez and Chad Alexander. Brian Thomas scored later in the inning on a Trey Moore double.

"We hit the ball really well tonight," Johnson said. "I think if it hadn't been for the northern wind, we could have had a couple of home runs. I really think Thomas' and Moore's hits really had shots to go out."

A&M took home a 9-4 win in the first game behind the power of Scott Smith. After a Harlan leadoff home run, the Aggies took a 3-1 lead as Harris tripled in Gonzalez and Smith. Harlan would then score on a sacrifice from Thomas.

The Redbirds then clawed their way



CRAIG FOX/The Battalion

A&M's Eric Gonzalez fires the ball to first after completing the front end of a double play by forcing Illinois State outfielder

Andy Schofield at second. Gonzalez and the Aggies had little trouble in sweeping the Redbirds in Wednesday's doubleheader.

back into the game as Mark Dorenz doubled in two to tie the score at 4-4 in the top of the fifth. The Aggies took the lead for good on a Gonzalez double in the bottom of the inning which scored two. Smith then hit his first home run of the year, a three-run shot which finished the scoring for the night.

Starter Jeff Granger picked up the win for the Aggies in the first game, giving up one earned run and striking out five in five innings while raising his record to 4-1. Mark Hahn dropped to 0-2 in taking the loss for the Redbirds, giving up four runs in 1-2/3 innings.

A&M will now leave College Station

over spring break for its longest road trip of the season. The Aggies will face the University of New Orleans, Southeastern Louisiana, Tulane, and Texas Christian, playing eight games in an eight-day stretch before returning home to Olsen Field March 23 to face Sam Houston State in a single game.

Lady Aggies lose to Baylor, end '93 season

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Freshman guard Mary Lowry capped a 35-point performance by hitting a short jumper with 12 seconds remaining to lift Baylor to a 63-61 win over Texas A&M on Wednesday.

The win was only the Lady Bears' second in SWC tournament history.

Before the game-winning shot, Baylor barely got the ball inbounds after a time out with 38 seconds left. With the 30-second shot clock winding down, Lowry drove inside and put up a shot over two A&M defenders.

The ball rattled around the rim and fell through to give the Lady Bears a 63-61 lead with 12 seconds remaining.

After Lowry's shot, the Lady Aggies got the ball to midcourt and called time out with six seconds remaining. Lisa Branch attempted a 10-footer in the final seconds, but the ball clanged off the backboard.

Lowry hit 14 of 22 shots, grabbed eight rebounds and picked up four steals. The rest of the Baylor squad hit nine of 43 shots. Jennifer King was the only other Baylor double-figure scorer with 11 points.

With Yolanda Brown scoring 22 points and grabbing 13 rebounds, the Lady Aggies out rebounded Baylor, 54-39. However, Texas A&M committed 18 turnovers to Baylor's 10.

Karol Decuir added nine points for A&M, with Lisa Branch, Martha McClelland and Andrea Williams scoring eight points apiece. Branch led the Lady Aggies in assists with five.

The game turned out to be the final one in the careers of A&M seniors Brown and Decuir.

The loss to Baylor leaves the Lady Aggies with a final record of 15-12 for the 1992-93 season. Baylor moves on to the semifinals to play Texas Tech, who defeated Texas Christian 107-50.

In other conference tournament action, Southern Methodist beat Houston 96-80, and Texas defeated Rice 87-61. SMU and Texas will hook up in the semifinals today.

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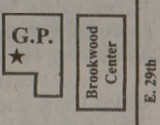
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