

Aggies take error-prone Crusaders

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz
The Battalion

It took six errors by Mary Hardin Baylor University Tuesday night, but the Aggies finally broke their four-game losing streak as they downed the Crusaders 9-6 at Olsen Field in front of 1,334 fans.

With the Aggies' "disappointing" pitching, Texas A&M head coach Mark Johnson said A&M (18-12) rallied behind the play of Stephen Claybrook, who scored one run, stole two bases, had three hits and reached base the five times he went up to bat.

"He (Claybrook) has a hot bat for us right now," Johnson said. "Stephen is a guy we have been circling the wagons around here, lately."

In the bottom of the seventh inning, with the score tied 5-5, The Aggies scored four runs without getting a hit.

An error by the Crusaders' third baseman David Suarez allowed A&M's Billy Harlan to reach first base. Harlan, later, stole second base.

Two batters later, MHBHU pitcher Craig Pollard walked Chad Allen, to place men on first and second with one out. Harlan, then, went on to score when MHBHU second baseman

Abe Zarate bobbled a shot by Chad Alexander.

The Crusaders changed pitchers, bringing in Cedric Allen, who had been batting as the designated hitter for MHBHU (13-10).

A&M catcher Billy Carroll welcomed Allen with a sacrifice fly to right fielder Bobby Weimer.

Chad Allen challenged the throw by Weimer and collided with the Crusaders' catcher, Micah Wells for the run. Wells left the game holding his nose and did not return.

Alexander placed the Aggies ahead 8-5 when Claybrook reached base for the last time as Zarate committed his second error of the inning by overthrowing outstretched first baseman Jose Padron.

One batter later, Lee Fedora was walked to load the bases. A&M shortstop Robert Harris was also walked to drive in the final run of the evening for the Aggies.

After dropping a three-game series against the University of Texas, Claybrook said he was glad A&M got back on the winning track and did not care how the Aggies won.

"We are going to take W's (wins) when they come," Claybrook said. "When the other

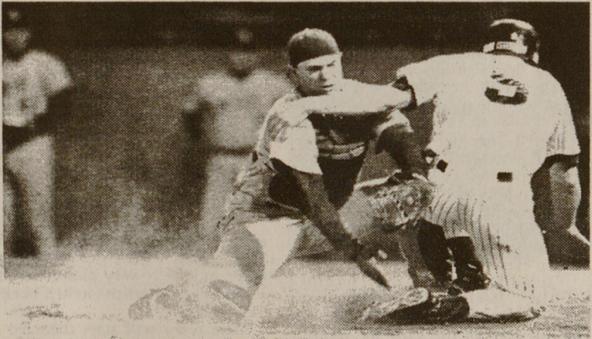
See Baseball/Page 8



Photos by Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

(Above) Stephen Claybrook, 16, swings at a pitch. Claybrook went 3-for-5 at the plate Tuesday night against Mary-Hardin Baylor.

(Left) Chad Allen, 9, collides with the Crusader's catcher, Micah Wells, at home plate during the seventh inning. Wells left the game with a nose injury.



A&M men's mile relay win NCAA championships

By Stewart Doreen
The Battalion

Mike Miller, member of the A&M mile relay team, predicted a national title after the SWC Indoor Championships, and the mile relay team defeated the nation's best to end a season of trials and tribulations as the national champions.

The team of Stacy Zamzow, Miller, Dante Bolden and Danny McCray won the NCAA Indoor Championship with a time of 3:06.51. The Aggies, after a lackluster preliminary round, showed the heart that brought the team to the Championships in Indianapolis. They used a combination of flawless handoffs and strategic running to hold off perennial powers, Baylor and Georgia Tech.

Zamzow, who is considered one of the best lead off men in the country, lead off the relay and got the Aggies off to a fast start. His 46.6 split and ability to

hold back a strong contender from Baylor gave the Aggies the early lead.

"Being out front was the key," Zamzow said. "Every time we run with the lead we've won."

Miller would spread out A&M's lead even further with his time of 46.8. Miller turned it on over the last 100 meters to extend the lead. This kick is something that has been a trademark for Miller in his 600-meter races this year.

Bolden then took the baton and ran a 47.0 quarter-mile. Despite being chased down by the Baylor runner, Dante and anchor McCray used a perfect exchange to give A&M a lead that McCray would not lose. McCray turned on the afterburners with 150 meters to go and finished with a 45.7 split and the title.

"When you win a National Champion in track, it can not be disputed," McCray said. "The

See Relay/Page 8

L.A. radio station says Johnson to coach Lakers

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Retired basketball star Magic Johnson is returning to the Los Angeles Lakers to coach the team, according to broadcast reports. However, a team spokesman denied the reports Tuesday night.

Radio station KMPC said it had three sources for the report, which said Johnson would replace Randy Pfund.

Additionally, a KCAL-TV report said Pfund had been fired and a news conference was planned for Wednesday. The KCAL report cited its own, independent "very reliable" sources.

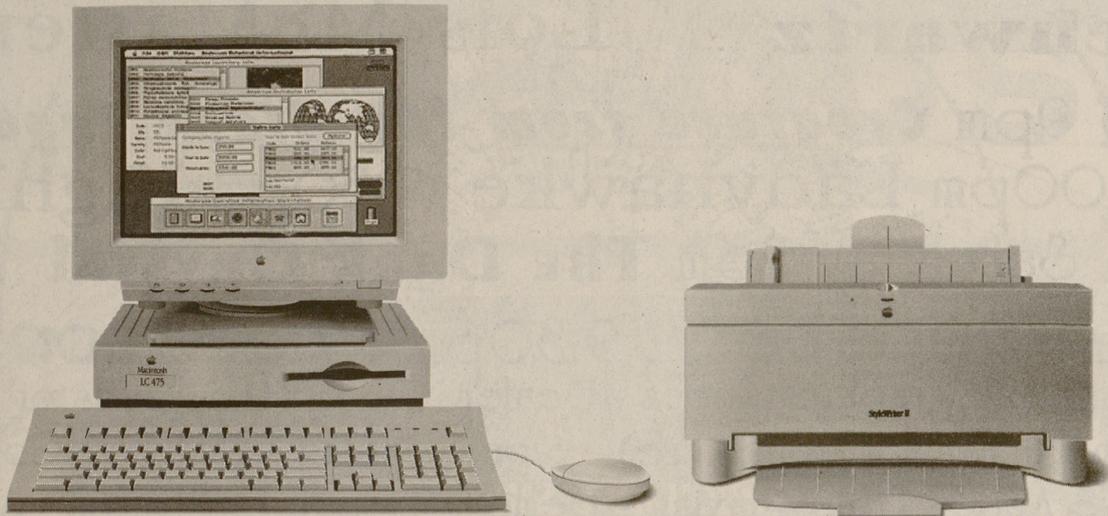
A Lakers spokesman reached at the team offices late Tuesday said no coaching changes were planned. The spokesman identified himself only as "Ray." The team's assistant public relations director is Raymond Ridder.

An associate of Johnson's agent, Lon Rosen, said Tuesday that she knew nothing about an impending deal.

NBA commissioner David Stern, reached at the Knicks-Bulls game in New York, would neither confirm nor deny the reports.

"Anything that would bring Magic back would be good for the league," he said.

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