

# Sports

Monday, March 28, 1994

The Battalion

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## Whiff!

### Rice sweeps weekend series, strikes out faltering Aggies

By Nick Georgandis  
The Battalion

HOUSTON — Heading into this weekend's series with Rice University, the Texas A&M baseball team was looking to get back into the Southwest Conference race.

But the Rice Owls had plans of their own, limiting the Aggies to just three runs on 10 hits in three games as Rice swept A&M in the three-game series at Cameron Field in Houston.

The sweep drops the Aggies to 0-6 in conference play (18-15 overall), the team's worst start in conference history.

Despite the sweep, A&M head coach Mark Johnson continued to remain optimistic Saturday on his team's chances this season.

"We came back, and played well today," Johnson said. "We just didn't hit well enough to win."

"I think the (SWC) tournament teams will have eight or nine losses. Obviously, we have put ourselves in a big hole."

A&M's best chance came in the second game on Saturday when they rallied to tie the game at three in the eighth inning on sophomore David Minor's pinch-hit single, a hit batsman and two Rice errors.

A&M looked to have the game won in the top of the ninth when they loaded the bases, but junior Robert Harris' drive to left was hauled in by Rice's left fielder Chris Boni at the wall to end the inning.

In the bottom of the inning, Rice's Donald Aslaksen won the game with a RBI single into left-center field.

The opening game on Saturday, a seven-inning affair, was a classic pitching duel between A&M ju-

nior right-hander Chris Clemons and Rice's Tim Byrdak.

Clemons gave up only two hits in six innings, but allowed three unearned runs with the help of six walks, two hit batsmen and a wild pitch.

Byrdak, meanwhile, breezed through the game allowing only two hits and one walk, while striking out six Aggies. At one point, Byrdak, a junior transfer from Illinois, retired 17 straight A&M batters.

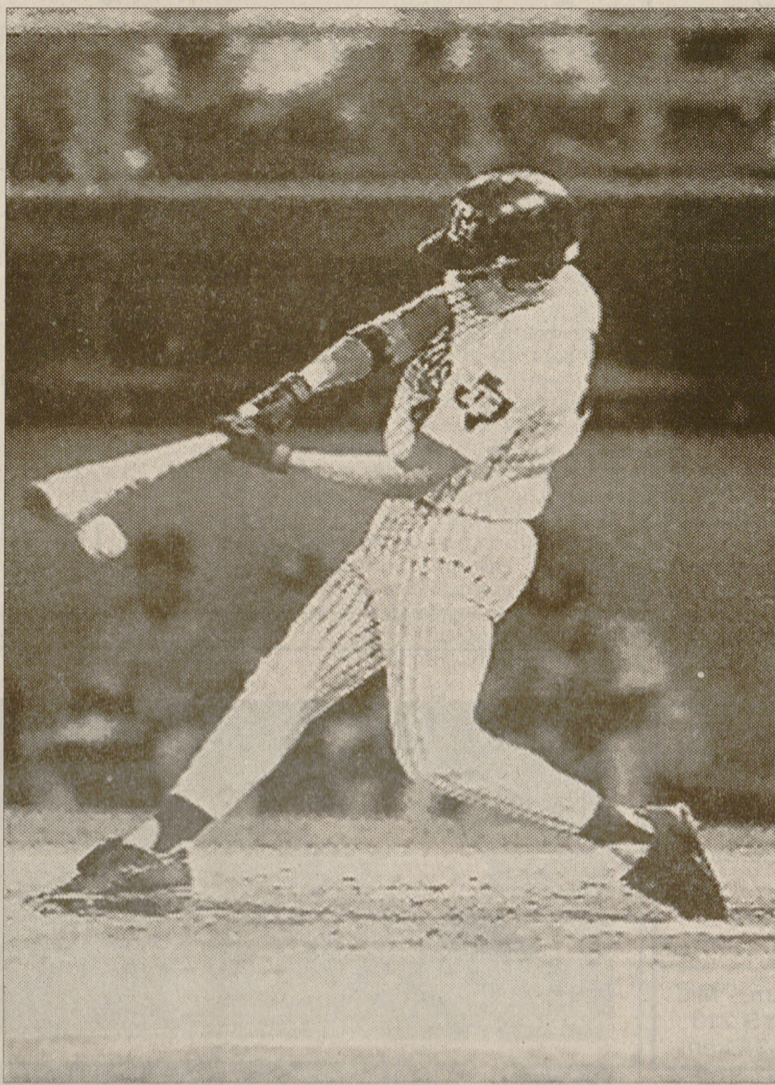
Rice's head coach Wayne Graham was very high on Byrdak's performance, and on his pitching staff in general at the end of the sweep.

"We've hit our stride with pitching," Graham said. "Byrdak was just a marvelous college pitcher in the first game."

Despite Rice's first sweep of A&M in 33 years, Graham was quick to point out that the Aggies cannot be counted out of the conference race yet.

"They've lost six in a row in the conference, but they're capable of winning 10 in a row," Graham said. "Even at 0-6, I think they will make the tournament."

The Aggies will attempt to break their current slump tomorrow night in a 7 p.m. game against St.



Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

Lee Fedora strikes out during Tuesday's game against Mary Hardin Baylor University. The Aggies were swept for the second time in conference play after losing the series against Rice. The 0-6 record is A&M's worst start in Southwest Conference play.

Olaf College at Olsen Field.

A&M will return to conference play on Friday when they host the University of Houston in a three-game series.

## Texas tennis team hands A&M first loss

From staff and wire reports

AUSTIN — No. 6 Texas defeated the Texas A&M men's tennis team, 6-1, Saturday, handing the No. 24 Aggies the first loss of the season.

The Aggies fell to 15-1 on the season, and 1-1 in the Southwest Conference.

The Aggies grabbed a 1-0 lead at Penick-Allison Tennis Center, after the doubles teams of Bernardo Martinez and Mark Weaver, and Ricardo Rodarte and Chad Raymond won their respective matches.

But the Longhorns swept A&M in singles. "We started off right in doubles, but they were too strong," A&M assistant coach Charles Emley said. "We played much better today than we did on Friday against Rice."

"We had a lot of crowd support. It was almost like a home match for us, and that helped our cause."

The Aggies return to action this week with home matches against No. 22 Florida State on April 1 and No. 28 Arkansas on April 2.

## Lady Aggies scrap, scrape in 'tough' FSU tennis match

By Kristine Ramirez  
The Battalion

The No. 27 Texas A&M women's tennis team could not pull out another upset as No. 25 Florida State defeated the Lady Aggies, 5-4, on Saturday.

The Lady Aggies fall to 10-6 overall and are coming off an upset of No. 14 Clemson Thursday.

After playing to a 3-3 tie after the singles matches, the Lady Aggies lost two of the three doubles matches.

In singles, Junior Christine DiNardo defeated FSU's Jen Hyde, 7-6, 6-3 and Sophomore Anna Strakosova won by default due to injuries on the Florida State squad.



Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

Anna Strakosova (bottom) reacts after her 2-6, 1-6 loss against FSU.

Freshman Nancy Dingwall had a stellar performance defeating See Seminoles/ Page 8

## Resurrection Week 1994 Presents DAN KOREM

World-class illusionist and investigative journalist

The author of several landmark texts on magic and illusion, Korem is currently working on a new book and a two-hour investigative documentary. His most recent book, *Streetwise Parents -- Foolproof Kids*, is the first book that teaches parents how to explain to their children how deception works in our minds.

Dan's miraculous presentation will leave you spellbound and amazed. This truly unique performance will include some audience participation.

Performance at 7:00 p.m. TONIGHT  
Monday, March 28, 1994  
Rudder Auditorium

Tickets \$3 available at the MSC Box Office 845-1234 and at the door.

## Resurrection Week Calendar

Tuesday, March 29

6:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study  
with former Los Angeles Laker  
Jay Carty  
201 MSC

6:45 a.m.

Women's Bible Study  
with Laura Kates  
601 Rudder

7:00 p.m.

Concert  
featuring Steve Camp  
Rudder Auditorium, \$3

Wednesday, March 30

7:00 p.m.

Coach Tom Landry  
and Jon Randles  
Rudder Auditorium

Thursday, March 31

12:00 Noon

Crucifixion Scene  
and Speaker Frank Cox  
Rudder Fountain

