

Frogs take two of three from Aggies

By Nick Georgandis
The Battalion

Already out of the Southwest Conference tournament, and having dropped two straight to new SWC champion Texas Christian, one would have thought the Aggie baseball team would have packed it in early in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader at Olsen Field.

Wrong. With junior pitcher Chris Clemons turning in one of the finest performances of the year, A&M battled TCU tooth and nail for seven and a half innings, before finally putting the Frogs away

Clemons' strong pitching and four run eighth give Aggies final game

with a four-run eighth, 8-4.

Clemons gave up just five hits, while walking six and striking out 10.

Despite his outstanding individual effort, Clemons gave credit to the whole team for pulling together in the last game of the year at Olsen Field.

"We didn't give up, even though we lost two of the three, but everybody on the team was just fighting, you can't ask for more than that," Clemons said.

"It was the last game of the season, last series of the season and it didn't mean a lot, but we were all just scrapping and fighting."

The game appeared destined for extra innings when TCU first baseman Adam Robson belted a two-run home run in the top of the eighth inning to tie the game at four.

The Aggies fought back in the bottom of the eighth however, putting together four runs on four hits, aided by two walks, an error

and a wild pitch.

Clemons punctuated the win by striking out TCU second baseman Brad Wallace to end the game, and left the Aggies overall record at 31-22 (6-12 in SWC play).

The first two games of the series did not go nearly as well for the Aggies.

Friday night, A&M took a 7-6 lead to the top of the ninth where the roof caved in on the Aggie pitching staff.

The Horned Frogs scored seven runs in the top of ninth, punctuated by Robson's grand slam, one of his homers of the night, as TCU rallied for a 13-7 win.

Lee Fedora provided the fireworks for the Aggies, blasting his third home run of the year, as the Aggies roughed up TCU starter Reid Ryan for seven runs on nine hits.

In the first game on Saturday, a seven inning affair, the Horned Frogs rocked Aggie starter Justin Atchley for 12 hits and six runs in only four and two-thirds innings. A&M scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to close the gap to 4-3, but could never tie or take the lead.

Despite losing two out of three to end the season, head baseball coach Mark Johnson said he was proud of his team's performance during the weekend, and throughout the season.

"I was glad to get a win, and I was proud that the guys played hard," Johnson said.

"A lot of teams shut it down when they're out of the running, but this is the first time we've ever been in that situation."

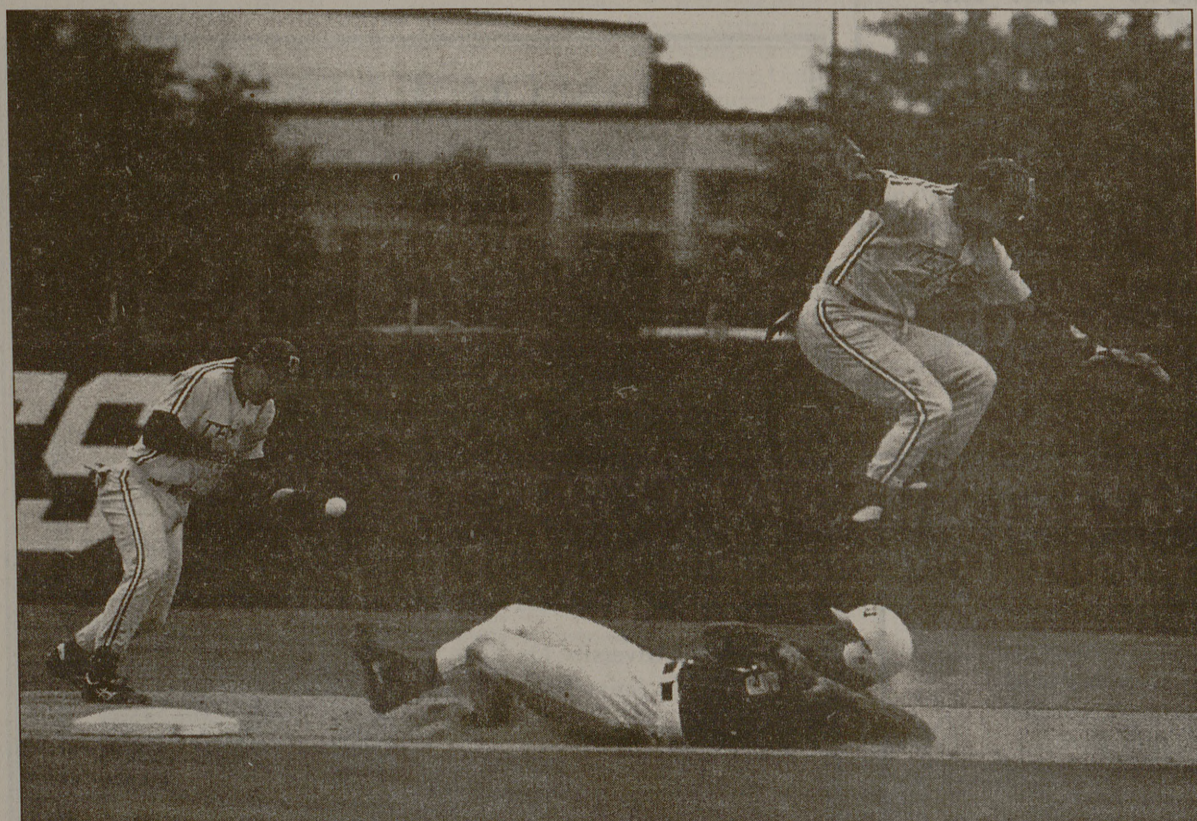
"I thought the guys represented the university well today."

Early speculation says that juniors Clemons and Trey Moore will leave school to enter the Major League draft this summer. The status of A&M's other juniors is still in doubt.



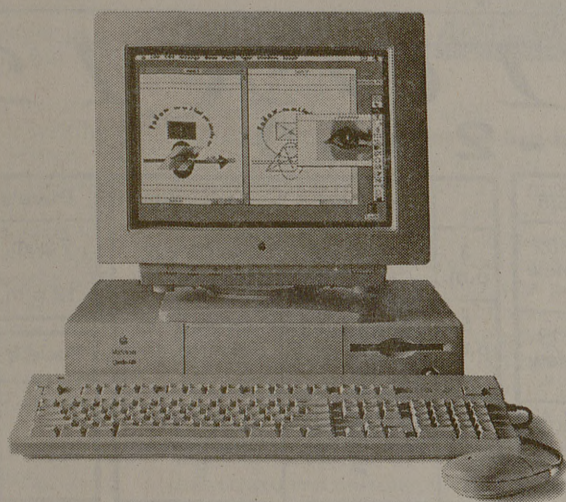
Photos by William Harrison/The Battalion

Above: TCU's left fielder **Beto G.-Gongora** (left) dives into second base as A&M second baseman **Rich Petru** gets ready for Billy Carroll's throw from the plate.

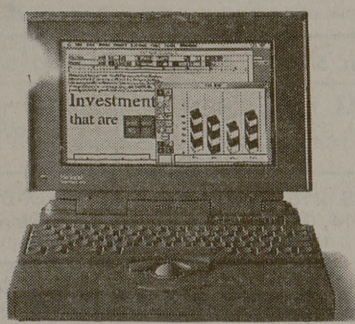


Right: A&M shortstop **Robert Harris** (right) leaps over TCU's shortstop **Shannon Coulter**.

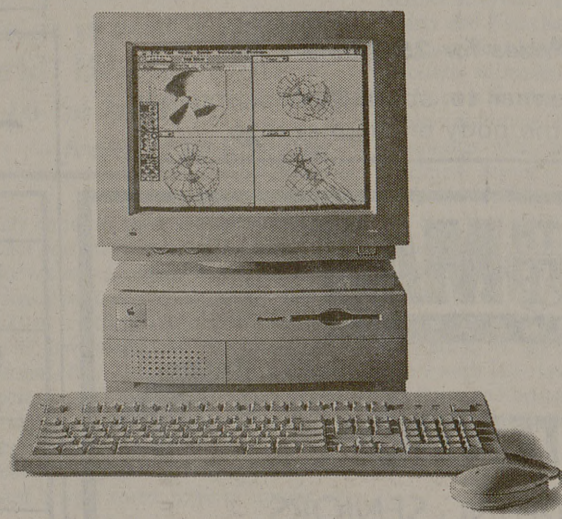
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