

Junior center fielder **Ryan Huffman** pops out against the University of Texas at Olsen Field last Friday night.

# Aggies win finale against UT in grand fashion, 25-6

□ **Pitchers for both teams struggle in the weekend series as hitters have their way.**

By **Jim Anderson**  
THE BATTALION

With the number of runs that the Texas A&M baseball team put on the board against Texas on Sunday, you would have thought Leeland McElroy was in the starting lineup.

McElroy was not there, but neither were any effective Longhorn pitchers as the Aggies battered the 'Horns 25-6 at Disch-Falk Field to salvage one game of the three-game weekend series.

The Aggies, now 35-17-1 overall and 13-8 in the Southwest Conference torched six Texas pitchers for 23 hits in front of a crowd of 6,752 in Austin to even their season series with Texas at two games a piece.

Leading the way for the Aggies was junior rightfielder Chad Alexander, whose five hits included two three-run home runs and two doubles and produced

six runs batted in. "We came out to play today and kept our intensity level high," Alexander said. "We felt the need to redeem ourselves after losing the last two games."

Head coach Mark Johnson said he was pleased with the overall team effort that the Aggies showed.

Texas' pitching for three home runs Saturday night in UT's 16-11 victory over the Aggies.

This strategy proved to be futile however, as sophomore third baseman Jason Stephens collected three hits, including his first career grand slam. The slam was the exclamation point in the Aggies' nine-run fourth inning that broke open what had been a close game.

**"We got deep into their bullpen and proved that we can hit the ball well."**

— **Mark Johnson**  
head baseball coach

"We got deep into their bullpen and proved that we can hit the ball well," Johnson said. "We also got a good pitching performance from Ryan Rupe to hold down Texas, who proved in the first two games that they are also a very good hitting team."

The Longhorns' strategy was to pitch around senior first baseman John Curl, who tagged

ing the Southwest Conference in hitting, said that the Aggies renewed efforts at the plate on Sunday were due to a "never say die" attitude.

"This team never gives up," Curl said. "We have a lot of heart and felt that we had something to prove against Texas."

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Softball team drops two close games

The Texas A&M softball team completed a tough weekend in Louisiana Sunday by losing both ends of a doubleheader to Louisiana Tech 3-0 and 3-1.

As was the case in most of the Lady Aggies' six-game road swing, the team had difficulty scoring runs. They collected a total of 12 hits in the two games but plated only one runner.

A&M led briefly in the first game scoring a run courtesy of Machelle Weldon in the top of the fourth inning. Tech responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning to take the lead they would never relinquish.

Despite the loss, pitcher Erin Field enjoyed a solid game, going the distance, giving up just one walk while striking out two batters.

In the second game, Tech pitcher Candice Carnahan simply overpowered the Lady Aggies, pitching a complete game-seven hitter, walking none and striking out two.

The Lady Aggies conclude their regular season home schedule Tuesday night when they face Southwest Texas State University in a doubleheader beginning at 5 p.m. at the Lady Aggie Softball Complex.

### Hoch hands Stewart Shell Open victory

THE WOODLANDS (AP) — Payne Stewart made a three-foot par putt on the first playoff hole Sunday to win the Houston Open over Scott Hoch, who blew a six-shot lead with seven holes to go.

Stewart birdied the 18th hole to give him a 4-under-par 68. He took the tournament lead at 12-under 274 while in the clubhouse when Hoch double-bogeyed 17. Hoch then made a 35-foot birdie putt on 18 to salvage a 3-over 75 and force the playoff at the Tournament Players Course at The Woodlands.

The victory was Stewart's ninth but the first since the 1991 U.S. Open.

Hoch had a six-shot lead at the turn and collapsed on the back nine with three bogeys and the double bogey that came started with a tee shot in the water.

Four rookie Charlie Rymer, who shot 71 Sunday, finished third at 11 under 277, his best-ever finish.

In the playoff, at the par-4 18th Stewart's drive was in great shape or the fairway but Hoch pulled his tee shot to the left among some trees and he had no clear shot to the green.

## Nuggets thumped by Spurs, 122-96

□ **Styling a new hairdo, Dennis Rodman helps the Spurs to a 2-0 lead in their playoff series.**

The best-of-5 series continues Tuesday in Denver, where the Nuggets must win to avoid playoff elimination. Last year, Denver was down 0-2 to Seattle and rallied to win the series.

Rodman, who sported blond hair inscribed with the red symbol of an AIDS awareness ribbon, was anything but benevolent on the court.

The aggressive forward led all players at halftime with 15 points and late in the first period had a run-in with the

Nuggets' Dikembe Mutombo, appearing to elbow Mutombo in the stomach as he fell to the floor.

Rodman was called for a loose ball foul and a technical, and Denver coach Bernie Bickerstaff also got a technical during the exchange.

San Antonio outscored Denver 34-16 in the second quarter to take a 60-39 advantage at halftime. The Spurs hit seven of their first eight shots in the third period and led 91-67 on 57 percent shooting.

## Third time's a charm for Astros

□ **Houston now 1-2 at home after putting up as many runs as their previous three games.**

like this we'll be OK because sooner or later we're going to start hitting."

It didn't look good for the Astros until the seventh. They were on the verge of losing their fourth straight game, struggling

Colorado manager Don Baylor said. "He was getting guys off the plate and getting them to move their feet. You can't dig in against him and I like that."

But Curtis Leskanic replaced Acevedo to start the sixth and he walked Dave Magadan and Milt Thompson with one out before Tony Eusebio hit an RBI single. After Orlando Miller popped out, Gonzalez singled home Thompson and James Mouton had an RBI double.

Doug Brocail (1-0) worked the seventh for the victory after Greg Swindell was impressive in his first start of the season. John Hudek got four outs for his first save.

**"We didn't really tear the cover off the ball, but we got enough that counted."**

— **Terry Collins**  
Astros head coach

with pitcher Juan Acevedo, who hurled three perfect innings in his major league debut.

"You couldn't tell it was his first game in the major leagues,"

HOUSTON (AP) — Five hits for the game isn't really breaking out of a hitting slump. For now, it's good enough for Houston manager Terry Collins.

Pinch-hitter Luis Gonzalez singled in the go-ahead run in a three-run seventh inning that rallied the Astros to a 3-1 victory Sunday over Colorado, handing the Rockies their first loss in five games.

"We didn't really tear the cover off the ball, but we got enough that counted," Collins said. "Before the game, we said if we can just continue pitching



## Spurs poised to be best in NBA

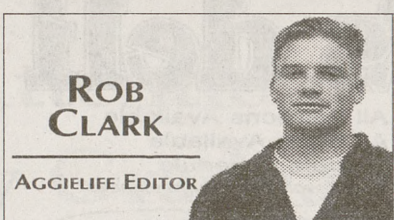
Texas once again has the best basketball team in the NBA. But this time, the Houston Rockets must step aside.

The San Antonio Spurs finally have a realistic shot at winning it all. For David Robinson, an NBA championship would be a fitting ending of another brilliant season.

Winning 62 games was no fluke. Some NBA critics have predicted a breakdown in the playoffs for San Antonio similar to that of the Seattle SuperSonics last year against Denver.

Ummmm ... no.

The Spurs simply have the total package this year. Along with the best front court in the league with Robinson, rebel/rebounder Dennis



**ROB CLARK**  
AGGIELIFE EDITOR

Rodman and the electrifying Sean Elliott, the Spurs finally have a reliable back court. Sparkplug Avery Johnson and sharpshooter Vinny Del Negro are both having career years.

But the spark in the playoffs just might come from the bench. What was considered a cast of throwaways at the beginning of the season has jelled into the best bench in the league. J.R. Reid, Doc Rivers, Chuck Person and Terry Cummings would be starters on most teams.

And, of course, there is the 'X factor.' The Spurs' success could hinge on the shaky shoulders of the volatile Rodman. His suspension during last year's first round playoff loss to Utah

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