

SPORTS

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sports GLANCE

Bulls hit 69 with 98-72 pasting of Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Chicago Bulls reached the threshold of NBA history Sunday, tying the league record of 69 victories in a season as they beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 98-72 behind Michael Jordan's 32 points and 12 rebounds.

The Bulls matched the record set in 1971-72 by the Los Angeles Lakers of Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West. Chicago can surpass it — and become the first NBA team ever to reach 70 wins — Tuesday night at Milwaukee.

The game actually meant more in the standings to Cleveland, which dropped a full game behind New York in a four-way race that includes Atlanta and Detroit for the fourth playoff seed in the East. The fourth seed gets home-court advantage in the first round.

The Bulls settled this one early, taking control late in the first quarter when Jordan capped a 7-0 flurry with a 3-point shot that made it 21-13. The Cavs set the slow pace that they prefer, but they missed 12 of their first 18 shots and never recovered.

Ron Harper scored 15 and Scottie Pippen 13 for Chicago. Terrell Brandon led the Cavs with 21 points, and Chris Mills had 16.

Bucks stun Orlando, await streaking Bulls

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Bring on the Bulls!

The hapless Milwaukee Bucks, who will be the Bulls' opponent Tuesday when Chicago shoots for an NBA record 70th victory, upset the Orlando Magic 114-101 Sunday night.

Vin Baker scored 27 and Johnny Newman, taking advantage of the absence of Magic guard Anfernee Hardaway, added 25 as the Bucks won for just the fourth time in 28 games.

Hardaway, averaging 22.2 points and a team-best 7.1 assists, left 2:45 into the game after aggravating his sprained right ankle.

Shaquille O'Neal led Orlando with 37 points and 16 rebounds and Horace Grant scored 21.

The Bucks jumped out to a 64-52 halftime lead and recovered after O'Neal's two free throws tied it at 82 in the third period.

Milwaukee was ahead just 91-90 with eight minutes left, but Newman hit an 18-footer and a breakaway dunk in a 6-0 spurt that gave the Bucks a 97-90 lead with 7:29 left. The Magic never got closer than four after that.

Sparks pitches one-hitter, loses 3-2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Tricky winds gave Steve Sparks unprecedented success with his dancing knuckleball. They also caused him to lose a one-hitter to the Kansas City Royals.

"The wind kept changing directions, so it was hard for me to know how hard to throw it and how much it was going to dance," said Sparks, who gave up just one hit in eight innings Saturday but lost 3-2 on Michael Tucker's three-run, fifth-inning homer.

A gust caught the routine flyball and blew it five feet past the wall in left.

SCORES ROUNDUP

NL

Cincinnati 5, Houston 3, 1st game
Cincinnati 9, Houston 8, 2nd game
Pittsburgh 5, Montreal 2
St. Louis 6, Philadelphia 5
Chicago 6, San Francisco 2
Los Angeles 6, Florida 1
Atlanta 4, San Diego 0

NBA

Nuggets 98, Timberwolves 91
Bulls 98, Cavaliers 72
Bullets 110, Raptors 97
Hornets 94, 76ers 78
Hawks 99, Nets 90
Lakers 118, Suns 114
Bucks 114, Magic 101
Pistons 105, Celtics 96 OT

NHL

Boston 6, Pittsburgh 5
Philadelphia 3, Tampa Bay 1
Florida 5, N.Y. Rangers 1
St. Louis 2, Chicago 2, tie
Detroit 5, Dallas 1
Los Angeles 5, Colorado 4, OT
Buffalo 4, Hartford 1

AL

Seattle 9, Toronto 4
Detroit 5, California 4
Minnesota 4, Baltimore 1
New York 12, Texas 3
Milwaukee 5, Kansas City 2
Oakland 10, Chicago 5
Cleveland 7, Boston 6, 11 innings

Break out the Brooms

The Aggie Baseball Team swept TCU to take over third place in the SWC



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's third baseman Johnny Hunter watches as Texas Christian's second baseman goes soaring over him during Saturday's game at Olsen Field. Matzke was out on the play, but his slide successfully thwarted the Horned Frogs' attempt at a double play.

By Tom Day
THE BATTALION

ries finale came down to the wire with the Aggies finding a way to win in their last at bat.

The weather has been gorgeous following the rain and thunderstorms that rolled through A&M Friday afternoon, but it continued to shower at Olsen Field over the weekend.

Facing Texas Christian in a must-win three-game series, the Aggie Baseball Team showered the Horned Frogs with 49 hits in two days, completing a badly needed sweep in Southwest Con-

ferences to show ourselves we know how to win ball games." In contrast to their 13-3 and 16-7 shellackings of TCU in games one and two, the Aggies had to play comeback ball in Saturday's nightcap. After watching the Horned Frogs build an early 5-2 lead, A&M clawed back to take the lead on the strength of first baseman Jason Stephens' two-out, bases-loaded triple in the bottom of the fourth. The hit drove in three of the junior's nine runs batted in in the doubleheader.

Stephens said he and his teammates employed a new strategy to end their recent hitting woes.

"We were more aggressive at the plate (this weekend) and were not taking as many good pitches," Stephens said. "We've been struggling, but we kept on punching and played good this weekend and hopefully we can carry it on."

Aggie senior hurler Dean Mitchell took over from there, scattering five hits over five and two-thirds innings while allowing just one run in relief of starter Jamie Smith. However, the lone run was a home run by TCU designated hitter Casey Smith that knotted the game at six.

The Aggies (30-14, 8-7 SWC) carried a 7-6 lead into the top of the ninth courtesy of junior shortstop Rich Petru's RBI single in the eighth. However, with A&M hurler Matt Blank on the mound, the Frogs (25-23, 7-6) would take advantage of a lucky break to strike back.

TCU third baseman Matt Howe's fly ball to right field to lead off the inning was catchable, but after he covered a lot of ground to track it down, Hunter watched the ball pop out of his glove. Howe eventually scored to tie the game again.

"I felt bad about that ball," Hunter said. "I was on a full sprint and it just flat out hit my glove and popped out."

Hunter would waste no time in making up for the error, driving in the game-winning run in the bottom of the inning.

"It was a hard catch, but he can make that play," Johnson said. "He felt bad about that, so I'm glad he got the chance to redeem himself."

The rest of the weekend was not much of a mystery for A&M. The Aggies swept to a 10-run victory in Friday night's opener — led by Petru's five RBIs and

senior catcher William Shiflett's three-run homer.

Sophomore pitcher Shane King did the rest, allowing just three runs while striking out six and walking two in going the distance for A&M.

It was just as easy for the Aggies during Saturday's first contest. Stephens' home run and six RBIs and homers by Hunter and sophomore catcher Matt Garrick paced A&M to a 16-run outburst.

Sophomore John Sneed struggled early, but hung on to pitch six frames in the seven-inning game.

"He gave us a pretty good outing," Johnson said. "We had the long fifth inning, and when he

came out in the sixth, he wasn't quite as effective. In a short ball game, if he can get us to the sixth, then hopefully, we can come out of the bull pen and get some (outs)."

Johnson said the Aggies' sweep was a noble accomplishment.

"It's really tough to sweep in the Southwest Conference," Johnson said. "I don't care where you're at or who you're playing."

"TCU has a good ballclub, and they were shooting for first place depending on how the other teams did this weekend."

"They were ready to play, but our guys were ready, and I was pleased with their performance."



"It's really tough to sweep in the Southwest Conference. I don't care where you're at or who you're playing. They were ready to play, but our guys were ready and I was pleased ..."

— MARK JOHNSON
Texas A&M Head Baseball Coach

ference play.

Outscoring TCU 87-17 in the process, the Aggies powered their way into third place in the conference and extended their winning streak to five games.

Following two A&M blowout victories over the Frogs, the se-

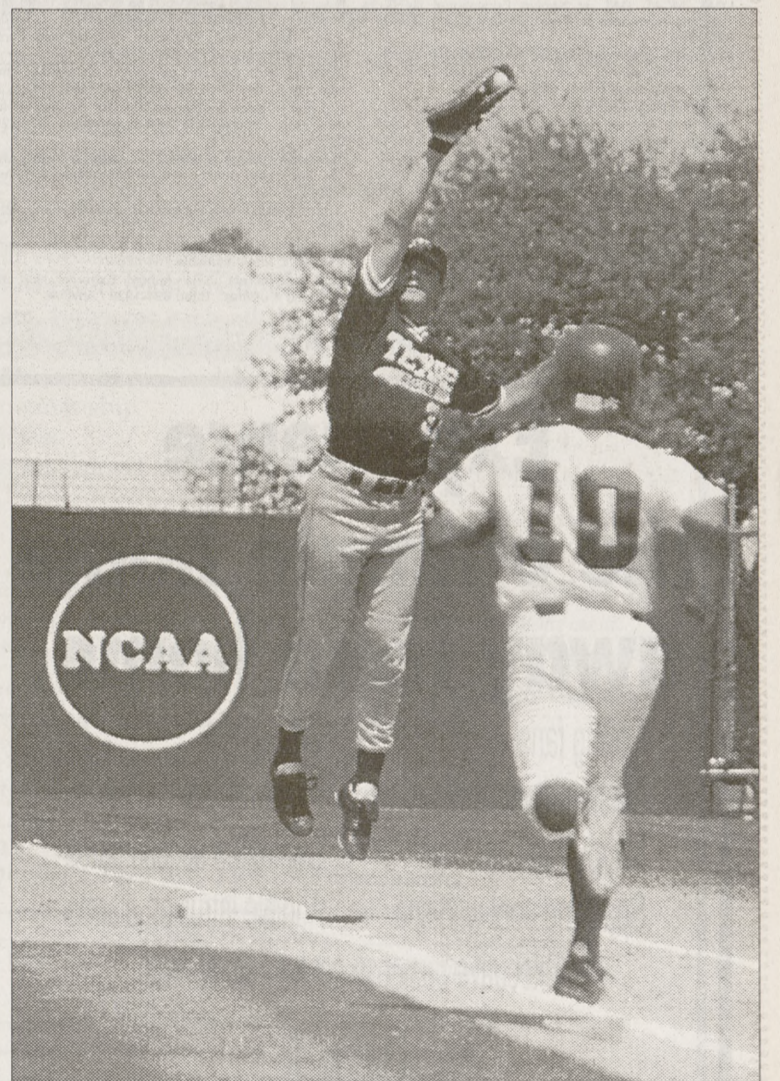
rious two weeks, A&M Head Baseball Coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies proved a lot to themselves against TCU.

"It was a good weekend for us," Johnson said. "We elevated our game and we had some



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M third baseman Johnny Hunter is congratulated after blasting a home run against TCU this weekend at Olsen Field.



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Despite the high throw, the TCU runner is dead in the water as Jeff Bailey proceeded to come down on the bag for the out.