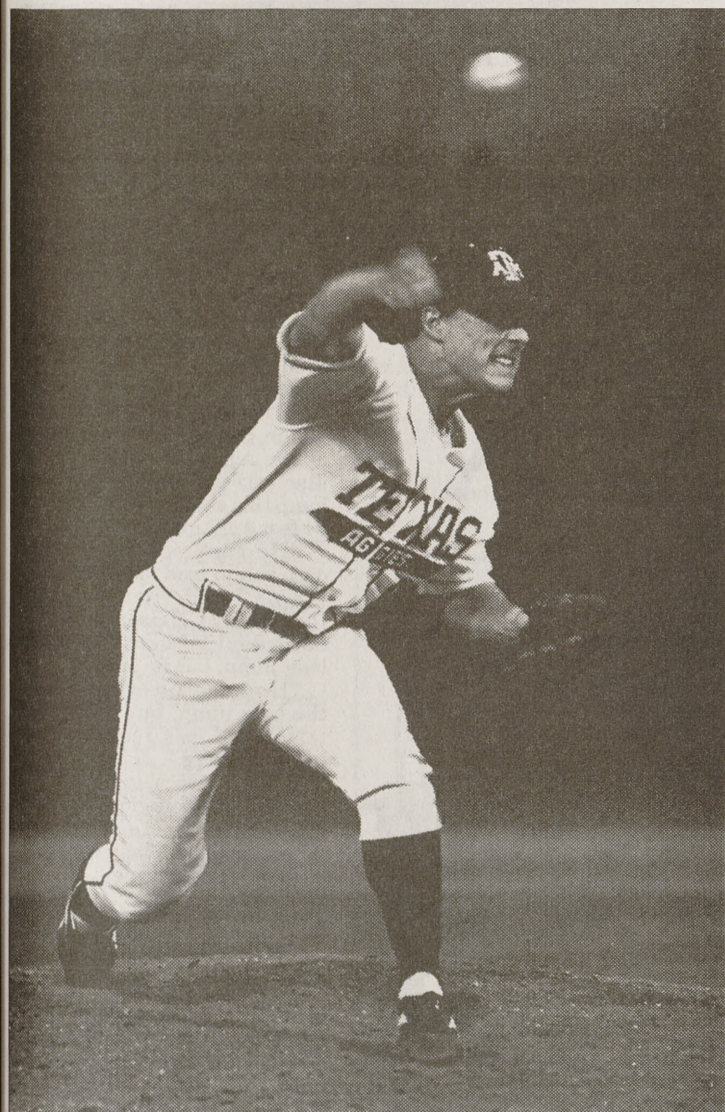


Winning formula equals easy victory for Ags



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior righthander Paul Barber fires another strike toward home plate. Barber picked up his second win of the season Tuesday.

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

Good pitching, solid hitting and steady defense usually win baseball games, and that same formula helped the Texas A&M Baseball Team pound Sam Houston State University 9-2 on Tuesday night in front of 1,106 people at Olsen Field.

With their second win over the Bearkats in as many weeks, the Aggies improved their overall season record to 31-14 and pushed their winning streak to six games after a sweep of Texas Christian.

Pitching has been the weak link in A&M's chain thus far this season, but inconsistency from the mound was no where to be found during this rout. Four Aggie hurlers combined for nine strikeouts and limited the Bearkats to just two runs on only four hits.

Starting pitcher Paul Barber picked up his second win of the season with a strong performance on the hill, striking out four and giving up just one run off two hits. The senior righthander held the Bearkats hitless through 3 2/3 innings before surrendering a solo home run to first baseman Ron Thames.

Senior Chris Conrad held the Bearkats in check in the sixth inning, giving up a lone hit and striking out two in two innings of work.

After Matt Blank shut out Sam Houston in the eighth inning, sophomore Jamie Smith put the Aggie victory to bed by striking out the last two batters in the ninth inning.

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson was pleased with his pitching staff's performance and said he was particularly impressed with Barber's five quality innings of work.

"Barber, I thought really upgraded his throwing and really threw well tonight," Johnson said. "We haven't been able to use him as

much as we've wanted to because he pulled a hamstring two weeks ago, so I was glad to see him go out and have a solid start for us."

Johnson could find no fault with his club's offensive production either.

Senior left fielder Ryan Huffman put the Aggies on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second inning with his eight home run of the season. The solo blast, which landed in the middle of the Student Recreation Center parking lot beyond the leftfield wall, ties him with Johnny Hunter for the team lead.

In the next inning, Jeff Bailey's double down the rightfield line drove in another Aggie run, and Rich Petru's clutch, two-out single increased the A&M lead to 4-0.

After a two-run sixth inning, senior catcher William Shiflett crushed his seventh home run of the season with two outs in the seventh inning. The Aggies added four more runs in the next 2 1/3 innings to cruise to the comfortable victory.

Hot-hitting Jason Stephens, who went 2-for-3 on the night, collected his team-leading 62nd RBI of the season when he legged-out a double in the bottom of the eighth.

Stephens usually fills the designated hitter spot for the Aggies, but Johnson said Stephens' strong hitting will give him continued playing time over regular third baseman J.J. Matzke.

"Jason is the big RBI guy for us," Johnson said. "He missed a chance his first time up, but came back with a couple of real solid hits."

Also of note, freshman phenom Jason Tyner stole his 32nd base of the season to pull within four of Chuck Knoblauch's school record.

The Aggies will travel to Houston this weekend for a three-game series with Rice where they hope to improve their 8-7 SWC record and third place standing.

Ags blow by Bears, 7-0

Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team celebrated the return of its coach, David Kent, Tuesday with a trouncing of the Baylor Bears in Waco.

Head Men's Tennis Coach David Kent returned to his office Tuesday for the first time since suffering a heart attack April 1.



Horan

Assistant Coach Charles Emley has led the Aggies since Kent's illness.

The No. 24 Aggies easily blew by the Bears, winning all singles and doubles matches for the 7-0 win.

A&M got off to an early lead by claiming the doubles point. A&M seniors Eric Horan and Eduardo Martinez clinched the No. 2 doubles title by defeating Baylor's Kip Amstutz and Bill Bailey, 8-6, to finish 5-1 in conference play.

"Eddie and Eric played well all season," Emley said. "They have two of the best returns in tennis and would find themselves feeding off of each other. They lost that first match against Texas Tech and just battled back."

"I am really happy for them." Horan captured his second career SWC title with the victory. Last season, Horan claimed the No. 3 singles crown with a 5-1 record.

He joins Aggie junior Robbie Krause, who captured his first SWC title on Monday versus Rice, as this season's champions. Krause is the SWC's No. 5 singles champion.

Krause completed a perfect run through the SWC with a perfect 6-0 showing by defeating Baylor's Chuck Tille, 6-0, 6-3, at the No. 5 position.

Aggie sophomore Eric Elek ended the conference slate with a victory over Baylor's Amstutz, 6-3, 6-4 at No. 6.

Fellow sophomore Carlos Tori will go down as winning the final regular-season match in SWC history when he defeated James Matthew.

Lady Ags finish season at No. 25

Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team was rewarded Tuesday for its 15-4 regular season mark by gaining the No. 25 spot in the Rolex Collegiate Rankings.

The Lady Aggies, whose 79.0 team winning percentage broke a 10-year old school record, finished with the best record in school history.

"It's a great honor to be ranked among the nation's top 25 teams," Lady Aggie Coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "Getting into the top 25 was one of our goals going into the season, and I'm happy things have fallen into place for the team."

"I think the team has played well all season and that this is a well deserved honor."

The women's team will be competing in the final Southwest Conference Tennis Championship April 19-21 in Fort Worth.

Recruit Brown named Junior USA National

Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M basketball recruit Jerald Brown of Houston is one of 12 high school players selected to the 1996 USA Junior Select National Team that will play an International Select Team in the Nike Hoop Summit Game on Saturday in Charlotte, N.C.

The game, which will benefit the Basketball Hall of Fame, will be televised nationally by CBS at noon.

A 6-foot-7-inch forward, Brown was named 1996 Texas Class 5A Player of the year after averaging 23.9 points and 11.5 rebounds per game as a senior at Aldine High School in Houston.

He played in the prestigious McDonald's High School All-American Game in Pittsburgh last month.

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For more information call K.C. Allen (847-5095) or Courtney Lyons (764-4438). Applications in the Class of '97 Cube in the SPO.

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Tuesday, April 23rd

Party on the Patio 7-10 p.m.
Wings N' More across from Campus

Wednesday, April 24th

Old Army Yell Practice 6:30 p.m.
Rudder Fountain

Thursday, April 25th

Senior Bash 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Texas Hall of Fame

Saturday, April 27th

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