

Aggies take two out of three from Arizona

By JEREMY FURTICK
THE BATTALION

To say the Texas A&M Baseball Team (7-1) had a hard-fought weekend series against the University of Arizona (8-7) would be an understatement.

Freshman southpaw Casey Fossum pitched eight brilliant innings Friday, giving up one run on five hits while striking out 12. But Arizona battled back in the bottom of the ninth, scoring three runs off freshman reliever Steve Scarborough and A&M's third-run loss of the series, 3-2.

On Saturday, junior Ryan Codrington took the mound Sunday in the rubber game of the series.

He struggled through 2-1/3 innings before junior Matt Blank relieved him. Blank pitched both of Codrington's runners to the plate in the third but went on to throw 6-2/3 innings and strike out six en route to an Aggies 5-4 win.

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson said his team could not rely on its powerful offense to win this weekend.

"We didn't hit the ball well in this series," Johnson said. "We've got some guys that [are] not right now, so we had to pitch and play defense to win."

There was not a lot of offense, but the Aggies did improve on their early-inning scoring problems. In the three games, A&M

scored at least two runs by the third inning and never trailed Arizona for more than half an inning.

Friday, the Aggies jumped on top in the second inning when junior second baseman Brian Benefield singled catcher Scott Sandusky and designated hitter John Scheschuk home.

Arizona answered in the fourth with an RBI double off Fossum, before taking the game in the ninth.

Sandusky, sophomore Jason Tyner and senior Jason Stephens lead the Aggies nine-hit attack with two hits each. But A&M could not get the big hit when they needed it going 2-11 with runners in scoring position.

The Aggies answered any questions about their character in the first three innings of Saturday's contest by scoring five unanswered runs.

Sandusky had another two-hit game ripping a double and a triple while right fielder Johnny Hunter collected three hits. Senior shortstop Rich Petru highlighted the day with his three RBIs and first home run of the season.

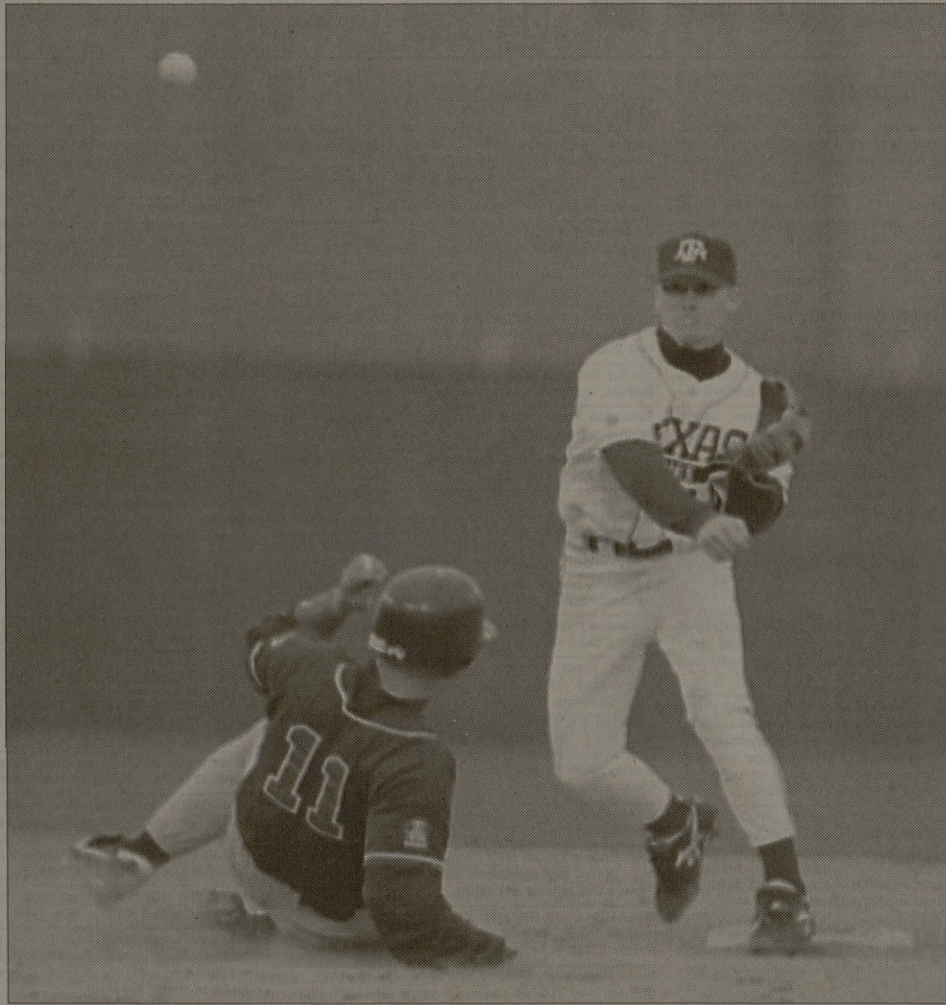
The Wildcats scored their only run of the ballgame in the eighth off reliever Robert Keens, before he closed out the 5-1 victory for Rupe.

Pitching shined again Sunday, but from the bullpen instead of from the starters. After falling behind by two runs in the third, the Aggies evened things up in the bottom of the inning.

Scheschuk walked and scored on a Tyner ground ball. Tyner then stole second and scored on a Benefield single. A&M took the lead in the fifth when fresh-

"We've got some guys that [are] not hot right now, so we had to pitch and play defense well."

Mark Johnson
A&M head coach



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Junior second baseman **Brian Benefield** makes the double play that ended the sixth inning of the Aggie's game against the University of Arizona Friday at Olsen Field.

man Willie Gray scored on Sandusky's bases-loaded walk.

Sandusky added another run in the seventh, driving in Benefield who had doubled to lead off the inning. Arizona scored single runs in the eighth and ninth, but Gray's eighth inning RBI double proved to be the game-winner.

"You can challenge hitters more in the late innings when you have a two-run lead," Blank said. "That way a solo home run can't beat you."

Gray, in the first start of his young NCAA career Sunday, scattered four hits from the nine-hole, scored a run and drove in the game-winner.

"I just took advantage of a good opportunity," Gray said.

He rounded out a list of players that got into the starting lineup more than usual.

"I wanted to go into this series and get a

better idea about some of our guys," Johnson said.

Gray, freshman third baseman Sean Heaney and Sandusky all had an extra look this weekend.

Heaney struggled in his third start of the season Friday going 0-3, and Gray had a huge game yesterday. But the highlight was Sandusky. He caught Friday's and Sunday's games and was the designated hitter Saturday.

Continuing his hot hitting, the junior transfer went six for nine to raise his average to .560, drove in three runs and scored two. Sandusky also played solid behind the plate picking-off a runner at second who led off the third inning with a double.

"Scott made some good plays for us (Sunday)," Johnson said. "That pick-off at second kept them from (having) a big inning."

Nevada-Reno up next for Aggie baseball

By JEREMY FURTICK
THE BATTALION

The 14th-ranked Texas A&M Baseball Team will stay in the friendly confines of Olsen Field today as they take on the 30th-ranked University of Nevada-Reno in a doubleheader.

The Aggies will be playing the ninth and tenth games of their current 13-game home stand and will complete a four-day, five-game stretch.

After taking two of three games from Arizona this weekend, A&M is 6-2 at home and 7-3 overall.

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson said Nevada should give A&M a good fight.

"They've been in regionals the past few years," Johnson said. "They have a good team and I'm sure they'll play us good."

Johnson said Nevada did not pitch their ace this weekend while competing in a tournament in Houston, so the ace pitcher could start against the Aggies.

"You'd think they would go ahead and use him like normal, but I guess they want him to go against us," he said.

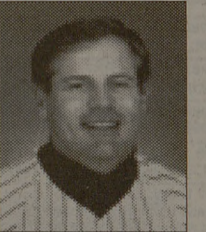
In the first game A&M will start freshman righthander Chris Fulbright, who earned a no-decision while giving up one run in 4-2/3 innings in his first start. Junior righthander John Sneed (1-0) will start the second game.

Junior catcher Scott Sandusky took over the team batting average lead this weekend raising his mark 60 points to .560.

Senior shortstop Rich Petru chalked up three RBIs on Saturday to give him 11 for the season and the team lead.

Freshman left-handed pitcher Casey Fossum's performance on Friday gave him the team lead in innings pitched (18) and strike outs (20) while lowering his ERA to 1.00.

Today's doubleheader will begin at 1 p.m. with gates opening 90 minutes before game time.



Johnson



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Junior catcher **Scott Sandusky** is tagged out by Arizona's second basemen **Erik Mattern** at the end of the third inning Friday.

A&M hockey takes first at tournament



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Aggie player **Chadd Crantford**, a junior journalism major, celebrates scoring the goal against the Sherman Fury Saturday at the Presidents Day Tournament.

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

The Texas A&M Hockey Club celebrated Presidents Day with a victory at the Presidents Day Tournament held at Slapshot Arena in Dallas this weekend.

A&M competed with Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech University and the Sherman Fury Club Team.

A&M defeated all three teams. In their first game, the Aggies were

down 4-2 to Texas Tech when they scored the winning goal with eight seconds left to play.

In the finals, the Aggies faced the Sherman Fury again. A&M had defeated the Fury 5-3 in their second game of the tournament. The Aggies defeated the Fury by the same two goal margin, 7-5.

A&M's Mike Post, a freshman microbiology major, led the team in scoring with four goals over the weekend.

Phillips arrested again

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — St. Louis Rams running back Lawrence Phillips, placed on probation last week for drunken driving, was arrested for disorderly conduct Sunday morning after a disturbance at a hotel.

Police were called to the Redon hotel at about 2:15 a.m.,

where they found the 21-year-old Phillips with five other men and several women having a party, Sgt. William Muldoon said.

"He started getting belligerent with the officers, cursing and yelling, and it got to the point where we had to arrest him," Muldoon said.

A&M comes up short, 62-60

By CHRIS FERRELL
THE BATTALION

Somebody had to win — it was inevitable. The Oklahoma State University Cowboys (13-11, 5-7), losers of all nine road games this season, picked up their first win outside of Still-

water at G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday afternoon by defeating the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team (8-14, 2-10), 62-60, who were losers of 13 of their last 15 games.

Trailing by one with 1:07 left to play, OSU sophomore guard Adrian Peterson hit a three-pointer to give the Cowboys the lead for good.

"It was just one of those games where both teams battled and fought and Peterson hit a big time shot," Head Coach Tony Barone said. "[The] big time shot to win it."

The three-pointer ended a 14-2 run the Aggies used to get back into the game. A put back

by sophomore forward Shanne Jones after a missed layup by senior guard Tracey Anderson gave A&M its first lead since the 12-minute mark.

"We just kind of quit playing," OSU Head Coach Eddie Sutton said. "It's almost like we've got a big lead, I think we can just coast and play the game out, and we'll be all right, but it didn't work out that way."

"We finally had to call a timeout there at the end, when they got ahead of us. And we called a special scoring play for Peterson, and he stepped up and hit that big trey at the top of the key."

A&M junior center Dario Quesada missed a three-pointer on the Aggies' next possession, after the Cowboys grabbed the rebound and attempted to run the clock down. The Aggies still had a chance to win after OSU senior forward Chianti Roberts missed a layup with 15 seconds to play. A&M held Roberts, the Big 12 leader in field goal percentage, to one for 10 shooting and six points.

With eight seconds left, the Aggies called a timeout to set up a play for freshman Jerald Brown.

"Tracey was supposed to come off a screen of me," Brown said. "I was supposed to fade off a screen of Dario to get an open three and knock it in and hopefully win."

Brown was unable to get free as Quesada cut the wrong way after the screen. Anderson had to pass the ball to Quesada, who missed a three-pointer at the buzzer.

"We were trying to get a back pick for Jerald and hit the three," Barone said. "We were in foul trouble and we really didn't want to go to overtime."

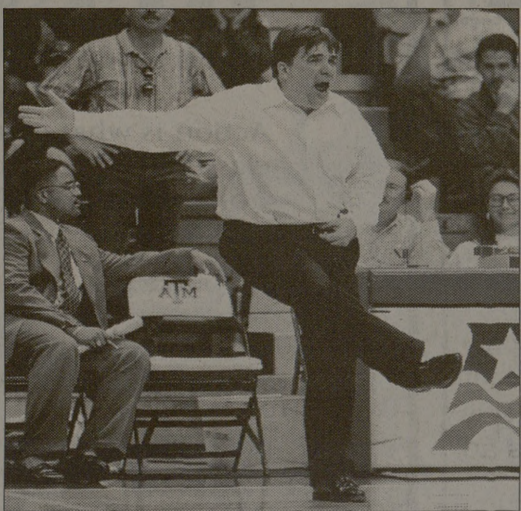
Coming into the game short-handed, both teams felt the effects of the tightly called contest.

"It wasn't a game of beauty by any means," Sutton said. "But you can't fault the effort by either team. They may have called it closer because the supervisor of officials was here."

Free-throw shooting became increasingly important as the Aggies and Cowboys both picked up their seventh team fouls early in each half. OSU was able to capitalize by hitting

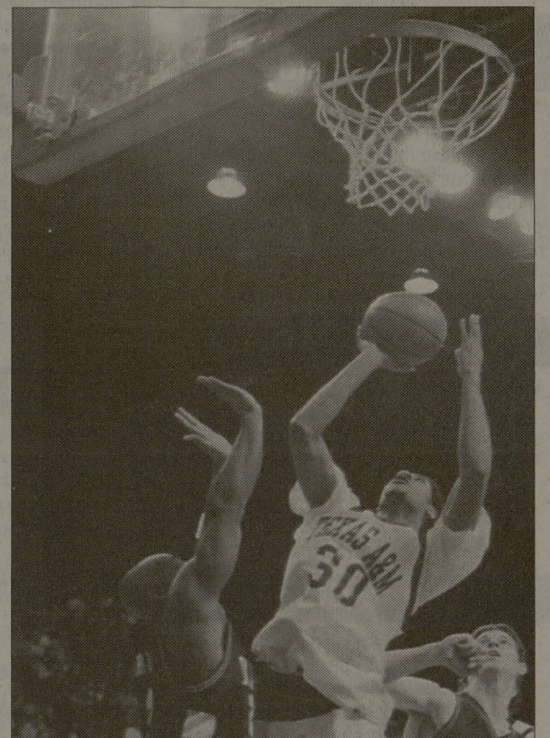
"It wasn't a game of beauty by any means. But you can't fault the effort by either team."

Eddie Sutton
OSU head coach



Rogge Hefflin, THE BATTALION

A&M Head Coach **Tony Barone** responds to one of several questionable calls by the officials.



Rogge Hefflin, THE BATTALION

Junior forward **Calvin Davis** takes an early shot in the second half against Oklahoma State.

15 of their 22 shots from the charity stripe, while A&M shot a dismal 58 percent from the line, connecting on 11 of its 19 attempts.

Several key players were in foul trouble for A&M. Anderson picked up his third foul just over five minutes into the game and was forced to sit out the rest of the first half.

The Aggie front court was also hit hard. Quesada, Jones, and junior forward Larry Thompson, who saw his most extensive action since breaking his nose last month before fouling out, were all in foul trouble throughout the night.

"I think it was called pretty tight," Brown said. "You can't blame it on the officials. I don't think it was a fairly evenly called game, but you can't get caught up in the officials for the loss. You just have to go out and play."