

# Cowboys round up Aggies, 11-7

## A&M drops two of three to OSU in series

By CHRIS FERRELL  
THE BATTALION

There were no angels in the outfield at Olsen Field Sunday afternoon, but the Oklahoma State Cowboys had a leprechaun in their pockets as they defeated the Texas A&M Baseball Team 11-7 in the rubber match of a weekend series.

OSU (15-7, 6-3) took advantage of a five-run, one-hit sixth inning and an eighth inning two-run homer by centerfielder Billy Gasparino to put the Aggies (16-10, 3-6) away.

Trailing 2-0 in the third, A&M put together a textbook two-out rally to claim a 4-2 advantage.

Sophomore center fielder Jason Tyler got the run going with a bunt single and was driven in by senior second baseman Brian Benefield. After a single by senior shortstop Rich Petru, senior third baseman Ja-

son Stephens knocked in Benefield with a double to the left field gap to tie the game. Junior designated hitter Matt Garrick put the Aggies ahead with a bases clearing single to close out the rally.

The Aggies increased their lead to 5-2 in the fourth when senior right fielder Johnny Hunter scored from third base on a wild pitch by Oklahoma State starter Scott Williamson.

The Cowboys got back into the game in the sixth inning. A tiring Casey Fossum walked three straight batters to load the bases and was replaced by freshman Chris Fulbright.

The same bullpen woes that have haunted the Aggies all season came into play again as OSU took advantage of the situation to claim the lead.

Fulbright faced only two batters, allowing an RBI sacrifice fly to OSU junior left fielder Tony Roosien and walking Gasparino to allow another

run. He was replaced by freshman Colby Martin with the bases still loaded.

Martin was unable to stop the bleeding either, giving up a two-run double to All-American right fielder Jeff Guiel.

"We didn't want to get to the bullpen too early," Head Coach Mark Johnson said. "We stayed with Casey a long time. But again it's evident sometimes when we go to the bullpen, you understand why we stay with guys sometimes."

Johnson said Fossum was tired after coming out of the bullpen to record a save on Friday night.

"We felt like he could do that (come in for relief)," Johnson said. "And he felt like he could do that, but apparently he didn't have as much stuff today as he normally does. It was an attempt, because we weren't coming out of the bullpen well, to see if we could solve that problem."

"He probably wouldn't tell you that, but I didn't think he had as good of stuff, now it may have just been one of those days, but he didn't have the velocity [and] he didn't spot the ball as well."

For the Aggies, struggling in the third game of a series is becoming a habit the team would like to break.

"It has come that way for all three series (Baylor, Missouri, and Oklahoma State)," Johnson said. "We come down to the last ball game and we're in it at the end, and it's just taken away from us. It's frustrating, and for young people especially, their resolve is going to be challenged."

Stephens, one of A&M's team captains, agreed.

"It makes it tough because we've been in all the ballgames," Stephens said. "Against Baylor, we had the



OSU senior first baseman **Jamey Wood** tries to prevent A&M senior **Jason Stephens** from stealing second at Olsen Field Sunday.

third ball game today, against Missouri we were tied, and the same thing today. We just haven't found the answer to get things done."

The Aggies split the first two games, picking up a win Friday, but losing the second.

Junior Ryan Rupe went 6-1/3 innings giving up three runs in six hits while striking out nine as the Aggies beat OSU 8-4. Sophomore Steve

Leonard went three-for-four with an RBI and senior Johnny Hunter added two RBIs to pace A&M's offense.

Saturday night, the Aggies had no answers for OSU freshman pitcher Thom Drier who held them to three runs on four hits in six and two-thirds innings. Guiel went four-for-six with a home run and two RBIs as OSU won 9-3.

A&M comes out of the weekend

series, which was supposed to be a battle of the two teams expected to compete for the Big 12 title, trying to get back to where they need to be.

"We've got a sour taste in our mouths right now," Stephens said. "We know we're a better ball club than what we're showing. Hopefully we can get some more wins under our belt and make a run at the conference tournament."



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Junior catcher **Matt Garrick** swings at a pitch against the OSU Cowboys at Olsen Field Sunday.

# March Madness has narrowed to Sweet Sixteen

## Texas slides by Coppin State, 82-81

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Reggie Freeman scored 22 points and Texas stole an inbound pass with four seconds left as the Longhorns withstood Coppin State's scrambling guards and held on for an 82-81 win Sunday in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

The Longhorns, advancing to the final 16 for the first time in seven years, survived a close call against the Eagles, who were bidding to become the first No. 15 seed to move into the Sweet Sixteen.

With the Longhorns holding a one-point lead, DeJuan Vazquez stole an inbound pass from Fred

Warrick with four seconds left to preserve the win. Warrick had just replaced Coppin State star Terquin Mott, who fouled out.

Freeman, who had 31 points in a first-round win over Wisconsin in the East Regional, shot only 35 percent, but scored 17 of his points in the second half for the 10th-seeded Longhorns, the only team with 16 regular-season wins to get an at-large bid.

Texas, which reached the regional finals in 1990 and then lost to Arkansas, plays Louisville on Friday in Syracuse, N.Y.

See LONGHORNS, Page 10

## Pac-10 teams lead way into third round of NCAA Tournament

(AP) — Two rounds are complete in the NCAA tournament and so far the Pac-10 conference and the selection committee are perfect.

Four of the tournament's final 16 teams are Pac-10 partners with one in each of the tournament's regions.

Stanford made it a clean sweep for the conference, eliminating Wake Forest 72-66 in the West Regional on Sunday and joining Arizona, UCLA and California who all had advanced earlier.

"For a long time, a lot of people have been down on the Pac-10 and said we couldn't win big games," Stanford's Brevin

Knight said. "And we're showing we deserve the number of teams we got in."

As for the tournament committee, it came through the first weekend with its four top seeds intact. Minnesota completed that sweep Sunday, ripping Temple 76-57 in the Midwest Regional and joining North Carolina, Kansas and Kentucky in the next round.

In Sunday's other games, it was Louisville 64, New Mexico 63 and Texas 82, Coppin State 81 in the East; Providence 98, Duke 87 and Tennessee-Chattanooga 75, Illinois 63 in the Southeast; Clemson 65, Tulsa 59 in the Midwest; and Utah 77, North Carolina Charlotte 58 in the West.

Providence 98, Duke 87

Derek Brown scored a career-high 33 points, making 12 of 16 field-goal attempts and Austin Croshere added 21 points for the 10th-seeded

Friars (23-11), who outrebounded No. 2 seed Duke 43-24.

Croshere played in foul trouble most of the day. But it was his 14-footer with just over five minutes to play that broke a 74-74 tie and triggered an 11-1 Providence run.

Jeff Capel closed his career with 26 points, including 19 in the second half for Duke (24-9).

Tennessee-Chattanooga 75, Illinois 63  
The 14th-seeded Mocs knocked off another higher seed, ousting No. 6 Illinois after stunning No. 3 Georgia in the first round.

UTC (24-10) held Illinois to one basket in the final 10:09 and advanced to the round of 16 for the first time.

See MADNESS, Page 10

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