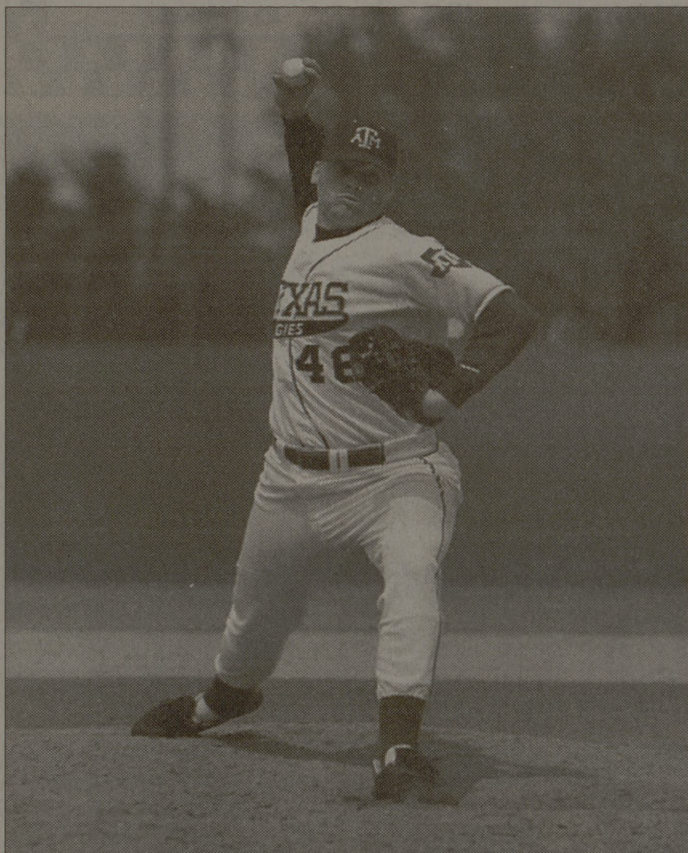


Fulbright's five inning no-hitter fuels sweep



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

Junior **John Sneed** comes in during Sunday's game to relieve freshman pitcher Chris Fulbright.

By **JAMIE BURCH**
THE BATTALION

Tied for fifth place in Big 12 Conference standings, the Texas A&M Baseball Team (30-15,13-8) entered its weekend homestand against the University of Nebraska hoping to take two of three from the Cornhuskers. A&M came away with a three-game sweep and renewed hopes for a tournament berth.

Freshman leftfielder Steven Truitt said the sweep furthers the Aggies' attempts to make the postseason.

"I think it was real important," Truitt said. "We struggled early. We've gone through the meat of the Big 12. Iowa State and Nebraska are teams everybody else played early. Consequently, they have a tough schedule to finish out the season."

With the win, the Aggies become the second Big 12 team to reach the 30-win plateau. A&M has won eight straight conference games and 10 of their last 11.

Head Coach Mark Johnson was modest when talking about the Aggies' latest streak.

"The crazy thing is, we've got this

"The crazy thing is we've got this streak going but we're not dominating any of those with the exception of one."

Mark Johnson
A&M head coach

streak going but we're not dominating any of those with the exception of one (Iowa State 19-4, April 5)," Johnson said. "All of them are close. You say we've got a big-time run but I don't know if you can call it that."

"We're not blowing people away but we're getting the W's. We seem comfortable playing close ball games."

The Aggies closed out the series Sunday in grand fashion. Freshman pitcher Chris Fulbright (2-1) threw five innings of no-hit baseball, propelling the Aggies to a 3-0 win. The no-hit bid ended when junior reliever John Sneed surrendered a two-out double to Nebraska's leading hitter, Todd Snears, in the top of the sixth inning.

Fulbright said he was not disappointed with Johnson's decision to pull him after five no-hit innings.

"I got away with just fastballs today," Fulbright said. "My slider wasn't working and eventually they would have picked up on my fastball. Sneed came in and shut the door."

Junior catcher Matt Garrick got the A&M bats started in the fourth on a two-

out RBI single, scoring Truitt from second. Continuing to hit in the clutch, the Aggies tagged Nebraska starter Kenny Duebelbeis with another two-out run on designated hitter Steve Leonard's bloop single to right field. The third and final run came in the bottom of the eighth when senior first baseman Jason Stephens singled to right, scoring Jason Tyner from second.

Freshman southpaw Casey Fossum sealed the shutout, allowing one hit in 1-2/3 innings to earn his second save of the weekend and fifth of the season.

A&M defeated the Cornhuskers 7-5 Friday evening, rallying from two down in the bottom of the sixth. Freshman designated hitter Patrick Malone sparked the Aggie offensive attack, going 3 for 4 with three RBIs. Malone, one hit shy of the cycle, hit a double, a two-run triple and an RBI single. Junior righthander Ryan Rupe (7-2) picked up the win, allowing three runs on seven hits in 6-2/3 innings.

In the second game of the weekend, the Aggies rode the strength of junior pitcher Matt Blank's arm to victory, winning 5-2. Blank (6-2) economically scattered nine hits en route to his second consecutive complete game. A&M exploded in the bottom of the fourth inning when they sent nine batters to the plate, scoring four runs on six singles.

Tiger Woods makes history at Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Finally, Tiger Woods' record-making Masters victory was more about Jack Nicklaus than Jackie Robinson.

The rollicking cheers and waves of affection that carried Woods through the final few holes onto the 18th green at Augusta National Golf Club made that moment make it inevitable.

When the green jacket draped over the shoulders of 21-year-old champion, golfer, he achieved not just the first black to win a major professional championship, but also a player of the greatest intelligence and discipline to ever play the game.

After making his final putt, Woods became a kid again, squeezing his eyes tight, fighting back tears and hugging his father Earl, who taught him the game, and his mother, Tilda.

"My dad said last night, 'You play well and be yourself. You would be the most rewarding round you've ever had.'"

It might have been more than that.

"Phenomenal performance," Nick Faldo, last year's winner, told Woods. "Welcome to the green jacket."

Closing with a 69, Woods finished at 18-under-par 270, the lowest score ever shot in a Masters and matching the record under par by anyone in any of the four Grand Slam events.

His 12-stroke victory over Tom Kite was not only a record by three strokes, but the greatest winning margin in any major since Tom Morris won in the 1862 British Open by 13 strokes.

And, for another record, 21-year-old Woods became the youngest golfer ever to win the Masters.



Woods

Softball makes history with wins over 'Horns

By **NICKI SMITH**
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Softball Team made history this weekend at the Lady Aggie Softball Field, capturing a 2-0 victory against the University of Texas Lady Longhorns.

The Lady Aggies (25-23) met up with the Lady Longhorns (22-18) for the first time in the history of both programs and came away with the first two wins between the Big 12 rivals on the Lady Ags home turf Saturday.

Head Coach Jo Evans said she could see the game meant everything to the seniors.

"Sometimes coaches don't feel the rivalry that goes on between two teams," Evans said. "It was sad

that the seniors have missed out on playing Texas all of this time, but it was easy for me because I didn't have to do anything to get them fired up."

Going in, the Lady Longhorns were only one win ahead of the Lady Aggies in the Big 12 Conference. It seemed the teams were evenly matched, as the score remained 0-0 until the fourth inning.

Senior Heather Hayden managed to hit a double and put herself in scoring position just before sophomore Kami Tucker came up to the plate.

Tucker hit a triple to right-center field, scoring Hayden, and was brought in off a single.

Senior pitcher Lori Gioco, who took the win for the Aggies,

said hitting was the main reason the Lady Aggies were able to beat the Longhorns.

"Our hitting was really awesome today," Gioco said. "It was really a matter of when the ball would fall in the right place for us. It made it even better because we knew going in they could beat us because they had the better record."

Despite their excitement about the win, the Lady Aggies had to pack their bags to face the Longhorns again Sunday at the East Austin Youth Complex in Austin.

The doubleheader was split between home fields to give each team a chance to host one game.

However, the pressure of playing against Texas on their home

field did not phase the Lady Aggies as they captured their second win against the Longhorns with a score of 9-0.

Evans said the team played very well overall against Texas.

"Even though we made a couple of mistakes, our defense was very solid," Evans said. "Jamie made some good stops at short-stop and all of the girls went all out at 100 percent. On offense we had good patience at the plate and [we] executed well in moving our runners around the bases."

The team now will prepare to host eight home games this week, starting with a make-up doubleheader against Stephen F. Austin University on Tuesday, April 15 at the Lady Aggie Softball Field.



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

(Left to right) **Mya Truelove, Kami Tucker** and **Angie Long** celebrate their win over Texas Saturday afternoon.

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