

Aggies stay perfect with two-game sweep

BY TRAVIS HARSCH
Staff writer

Junior Steve Leonard's steal of home in the bottom of the sixth inning gave the Aggie baseball team a 10-9 win over Dallas Baptist in the seven-inning first game of a doubleheader Tuesday.

The winning run came on a botched squeeze attempt, when junior Erik Sobek missed the ball. The runner on first took off for second, distracting the Patriot catcher and allowing Leonard to score.

"We'd get back in the game and tie it up, and they'd come right back the next inning," Johnson said. Sophomore Sean Heaney hit a three-run homer in the fifth to tie the game again, but the Patriots got two runs in the top of the sixth to take the lead back.

In the bottom of the sixth, the

Aggies scored three runs, including the steal of home, to take the lead.

Senior Eric French worked a perfect seventh and earned his second save of the season. Johnson said French is emerging as the closer.

"He was ready, and we've just got to keep putting him out there in those roles," Johnson said.

Not only were some individual performances big for the Aggies, but Johnson said the come-from-behind win will help the team later on in the year.

"We're going to have close games, we're going to be behind, so any time you get behind, you don't panic," Johnson said.

In the second game, sophomore Chance Caple set a career high with nine strikeouts and allowed only one run in seven innings of work as A&M took the second game from DBU, 5-1 and ran their season record to a perfect 9-0.

"It feels really good to get another win, to go out and have a good seven innings," Caple said.

A&M played solid defense behind Caple, only committing one error, and boosting Caple's confidence.

"Confidence is a huge thing, especially with a pitcher," Caple said.



RYAN ROGERS

Sophomore Steve Scarborough steals second base in game one of the two-game sweep over DBU yesterday. Texas A&M won the games 10-9 and 5-1.

"When you have confidence behind you in the defense, every little bit helps. When you feel like you have your stuff, your confidence goes up with every pitch you make."

Caple allowed just six baserunners, but said he needed the work he got with runners on base.

"I didn't spend a lot of time in the stretch, but when I did, that's a big thing I need to work on, because

that's when you need to make your most crucial pitches," Caple said. "They did a good job of hitting the ball, but the defense did a good job of keeping them off-balance. We just concentrate on throwing and putting the ball in play."

The Aggies next take on Mississippi in the first game of a three-game series Friday afternoon at Olsen Field.

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