

# Aggies ride to Huntsville to tame Bearkats

Texas A&M hopes to tally their 12th win against Sam Houston State this afternoon

By **TRAVIS HARSCH**  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Baseball Team proved this weekend that it can rebound better than the men's basketball team. After getting shelled 17-3 Friday by Ole Miss, the Aggies bounced back with a 6-3 victory and a 3-2 extra-inning win to take the series and improve their record on the season to an impressive 11-1.

It is a record they hope to keep building on this afternoon as they travel to Huntsville to tangle with the Sam Houston State Bearkats.

Sam Houston State will be looking to get back on track against A&M. After dropping two games to Centenary on Saturday, the Bearkats' record stands at 5-7.

The game will be the first of three versus Sam Houston for the Aggies. The other games will be

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**Mark Johnson**  
A&M Baseball Coach

played on Apr. 7 and 28 at Olsen Field. Last season, the teams played three games, with A&M sweeping the series.

Junior Jason Tyner, who pulled a hamstring in Friday's loss and did not play for the rest of the weekend, will likely be back in the lineup this afternoon, Coach Mark Johnson said. The Aggies will need him as they face a formidable Bearkat pitcher, junior Gregg Kubes, who played for Team USA this summer with Tyner and sophomore Casey Fossum.



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Sophomore **Chad Hudson** and the Aggies will need timely hitting to get by Sam Houston State.

The Aggies will start sophomore Chance Caple, who is 2-0 with a 3.00 ERA. Caple's last start came against Dallas Baptist, a game in which he went seven innings, giving up seven hits, one earned run and striking out a career-high nine with no walks.

Even if Caple matches his last performance, Johnson said the Aggies still need to be more assertive at the plate.

"We've got to attack more, we've got to be a more aggressive hitting ballclub," Johnson said. "I don't mean wild swings, but we need to work the counts and when we get our counts, we've got to look to drive the ball and not be so picky."

Despite the two wins over Ole Miss, sopho-

more Steve Scarborough said the Aggies need to improve on some things as they get ready to take on the Bearkats.

"We always need to work on moving runners and when guys are in scoring position, driving them in," Scarborough said. "We've still got a long way to go and we've got a lot of work to do."

But perhaps the Aggies do not have as far to go as Scarborough thinks. In the latest Collegiate Baseball poll, the Aggies have jumped to fifteenth in the nation, and in the most recent Baseball America poll, the team stands twentieth in the nation.

The game is scheduled to get underway at 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

# Astros' spring training disrupted by tornado

(AP) — Normally, spring training is fun and games. That all changed for the Houston Astros on Monday.

Houston called off practice after a tornado swept by their facility at Osceola County Stadium in Kissimmee, Fla.

A tornado shredded the Ponderosa Park campground behind the stadium early Monday, killing eight people. From there, it dipped down beside the Astros clubhouse, smashing a batting cage and ripping up two sections of artificial turf.

Shane Reynolds, likely the Astros' opening day pitcher, was one of six Astros players staying in homes nearby in Lakeside Estates along with starting pitchers Mike Hampton and Chris Holt, outfielder Ray Montgomery and infielders Bill Spiers and Tim Bogar.

"If the tornado had gone a little to the left of its path I don't think a lot of us would have been here," Holt said. "We would have been pummeled. I've been in and around tornadoes before but I've never seen anything like this."

Bogar and his wife Wendy, who is pregnant, went to Spiers' home during the night because their roof was leaking. When the tornado neared, they all huddled in a closet.

Bogar's rental car was smashed into his pickup truck.

"I had never been in one before and I don't ever want to be in another one again," Spiers said. "It was awful. I get chills just talking about it. It was like something you'd see on CNN. It's amazing what one of those things can do."

In Clearwater, Fla., J.D. Drew's holdout — he rejected a multimillion offer from Philadelphia — has cost the Phillies' 1997 first-round draft choice more than just money and a year's development.

The outfielder is losing the respect of his would-be teammates.

"He's in dangerous waters right now," Lenny Dykstra said. "He's a good player, but you make it hard on yourself when you've got people going against you."

"I think a lot of guys resent him. Wouldn't you?" Mark Parent said. "I wouldn't cover his butt."

In Fort Myers, Fla., the Boston Red Sox were talking about Danny Tartabull. The outfielder got \$2.2 million from the Phillies last year, broke his foot on opening day and had seven at-bats the entire season.

So it is hard to believe a team was even considering signing him. Red Sox general manager Dan Duquette appeared to say no Monday.

"I'm not expecting him to call back. I'm not expecting to call him either," said Tartabull's agent, Steve Schneider.

The seven outfielders on Boston's 40-man roster have a total of just 98 career homers. Tartabull, 35, has 262 homers in 14 seasons.

Boston is the team Tartabull probably could help the most, according to Schneider.

"He's ready," the agent said. "I think it would be a great fit for him."

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