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Texas A&M blanks Michigan, 12-0



th a record of 14-4, the Aggie all team is two games ahead pace it set last season. After mes of the 1997 campaign, was 12-6, with losses to South-Texas State, UT-Arlington, la and two losses to Baylor. ggies losses this season have at the hands of Ole Miss, Sam ton State, Texas Tech and igan. With two games still to be d against the Bearkats, A&M on all of its three-game series season, with a split against gan and sweeps in its two-

oving on up... Aggie Baseball were a stock, its ould be steadily rising. ed lower in the polls or uned at the opening of the season, has begun to make a move in olls thanks to their hot start. Aggies sit at 11th in the USA To-ESPN poll, unchanged from veek; have moved up two spots umber 13 nationally in the Colte Baseball survey; and jumped pots, from 20th to 17th in the recent Baseball America poll.

aying Long-ball mior John Scheschuk's home gainst Michigan gave him on the season in 14 games. chuck appeared in 25 games ason and had two long fly that went deep into the College on night and didn't come back. her Aggie who is on track to s last season's totals in the run column is sophomore Heaney. Heaney's two-run in the ninth inning of Wednesgame gave him three for the atting him on pace to better total of five.

Spring '99

Veekend at Aggie's n college baseball, the best pitchpically throw on the weekends. eading into the three-game se-rith Missouri that starts Friday, pitching has been stellar on the cends. The three primary Aggie s, Casey Fossum, Matt Ward yan Rupe have compiled a 9-1 piling up 74 strikeouts and al-just 14 walks.

By MICHAEL TAGLIENTI Staff writer

It has been said that sports teach lessons that will help you later in life. Tuesday night the 11th-ranked Texas A&M Baseball Team was taught a lesson in preparation by 20th-ranked University of Michigan. The Aggies were not ready to play when they got to the ballpark, and it showed in a 8-6 loss. However, A&M showed that they are fast learners as they defeated the Wolverines 12-0 Wednesday night at Olsen Field to split the two-game series.

The Aggies jumped on Michigan early,

scoring four runs in the second inning to take a 4-0 lead. That was more than enough for sophomore right-hander Chance Caple who held the Wolverines scoreless, giving up three hits in seven innings, while striking out four and walking two. A&M added three runs in Johnson the fifth inning on a John

Scheschuk three-run home run to right field. Freshman right fielder Dayman Holt led off the sixth inning with a double, and later scored on an error. Jason Tyner led off the seventh inning with a single and was brought home on a Craig Kuzmic triple. Kuzmic scored on a Scheschuk sacrifice fly to make the score 10-0 in favor of the Aggies. Sophomore second baseman Sean Heany completed the Aggie scoring in the eighth, with a

three-run blast over the centerfield fence. Sophomore pitcher Chris Fulbright took over for Caple in the eighth and held the Wolverines hitless. Sophomore pitcher Courtney Weller struck out the side in the ninth to end the game

SPORTS

Texas A&M Coach Mark Johnson credited Caple with helping the team bounce back from the loss.

"It was a pretty good bounce back. You never know what causes it, but I think Chance Caple had a whole lot to do with it," Johnson said. "Chance Caple came out and gave us an oustanding outing against a pretty good hitting ball club, so I'm really encouraged by that.'

Caple said the key to the win was his teammates putting runs on the board early.

"It's a lot easier to pitch when you are ahead," Caple said. "Especially with a fourrun lead, all you have to do is go in and throw strikes. That's what I concentrated on and tried to let them put the ball in play and let the defense do the work.

Scheschuk said that it was important for the team to respond to Tuesday's loss.

'Yesterday, we just weren't ready to play,' Scheschuk said. "The whole team wasn't, and today it was really important to come back. We knew we could beat these guys, we came back today and everyone was ready to play which just shows you what we can do when we're ready to go.

Heany said that the midweek games are important when it comes time for teams to be picked for regionals.

RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Sophomore shortstop Jamie Smith drops the ball in the fourth inning as a

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University of Texas - Arlington player gets a stolen base in A&M's 3-2 win.



Sophomore Steven Truitt contributes a hit to the Aggie offensive explosion against Michigan.

"These are big games," Heany said. "Midweek games are what is going to help you get into a regional, and hopefully host a regional.

We came out in the second inning and scored those four runs, and we didn't let up. We kept scoring on them the whole game, and we just kept putting it on them he whole game.'

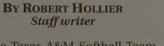
Caple said the win shows the character of the team.

'That's the thing that is so good about this

team," Caple said. "We're not gonna make the same mistake twice. We knew we weren't ready to play yesterday, and you have to give them (Michigan) credit. They put runs on the board and they beat us. We knew we weren't going to lose two to these guys and we had to come out ready to play today. We all came out and the bats were hot, and we put the bat on the ball and produced some runs.'

The Aggies' next game is Friday at 3 p.m. against the Missouri Tigers at Olsen Field.

A&M Softball team sweeps doubleheader with



The Texas A&M Softball Team (13-8-1) swept a doubleheader against the University of Texas-Arlington (2-11) 3-2 and 5-0 night in front of 200 enthusiastic fans at the Aggie Softball Complex last night.

In the first game, the Aggies jumped on the Mavericks early when freshman centerfielder Tiffany Esters belted her second home run of the season in the bottom of the first inning to give A&M a quick two run lead. However, UTA came right back in the top of the second when Maverick centerfielder Tammy Freedman connected on a solo home run off of fresh man starter, Ashley Lewis, which brought the score to 2-1.

In the top of the third, UTA tied the score at two all when second

baseman Elizabeth Harsma doubled in right fielder Stacy Chambers, and that was the way the scored stayed until the bottom of the fifth.

Freshman first baseman Bree Whisenhunt led off the inning with a double but was thrown out at home plate when freshman left fielder Amy Lawler tripled. However, one batter later, freshman third baseman Amanda Whalen singled in Lawler to give the Aggies a 3-2 lead.

Lewis then struck out five of the next six batters she faced to pick up her sixth win of the season and her seventh complete game. Lewis threw seven innings and gave two runs on six hits, striking out nine and only walking one.

'I think once we got out of the third inning still tied, we knew we were okay," Lewis said. "I was really happy with my control tonight. When I walk too many batters, it puts too much pressure on my defense. Only giving up one walk really helped us tonight.

The whole year has been rocky for me because I given up too many walks," Lewis added. "After the fourth or fifth inning I just got into a zone.

In game two, the Aggies jumped out to a comfortable lead early when freshman pitcher Amy Vining helped herself when she doubled in two runs and a third run scored on a bases loaded error to give them a 3-0 lead.

That would turn out to be all the Aggies would need as the Mavericks were totally dominated by Vining, but the Aggies padded their. lead in the sixth when, with runners

PLEASE SEE SOFTBALL ON PAGE 10.



INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Study Abroad In Italy

in 154 Bizzell Hall West

-Monday, March 2 10:30-11:00 AM

-Tuesday, March 3 3:00-3:30 PM

-Wednesday, March 4 10:30-11:00 AM

-Thursday, March 5 3:00-3:30 PM

-Friday, March 6 1:30-2:00 PM

ck up an application at the meeting or drop by the **Study Abroad Program Office.** itudy Abroad Program Office, 161 Bizzell Hall West, 845-0544

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Thursday, March 5 at 4:00 pm Friday, March 6 at 3:00 pm

Study Abroad Programs; 161 Bizzell Hall West; 845-0544 Check out the Fulbriaht Website at http://www.iieora/fulbriah





Have you...

□ Picked up or purchased your '97 Aggieland?

If you ordered a 1997 Aggieland yearbook and haven't picked it up, stop by room 015 (basement) of the Reed McDonald Building between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please bring your Student ID. If you did not order a '97 book, you may purchase one for \$35 plus tax in 015 Reed McDonald. The 1997 Aggieland is an 848-page record of the 1996-97 Texas A&M University school year.

Cash, Check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express accepted.

