

Texas A&M takes 2 of 3 from Mizzou Tigers

Rupe sets tone with 11-strikeout, 4-hit, complete-game win

BY TRAVIS HARSCH
Staff writer

Mother Nature did her best Sunday afternoon to make the Missouri Tigers feel at home. With game-time temperatures tumbling into the mid-40s and wind magnifying the effects of the cold before 2,181 chilly loyalists at Olsen Field, the Aggies overcame the weather and a solo effort by Tiger pitching to take the final game of the weekend series, 4-3, and rebound from a 3-1 loss Saturday. The victory, coupled with A&M's 9-2 win on Friday, handed the Aggies their second series victory in a 3-game set.

Junior Matt Ward pitched a complete game, striking out 11 with no walks. "I just came out and threw strikes," Ward said. "The team played solid defense, that wind was tough on those fly balls, you could see the balls in the air there diving."

The Southern California native was affected by the weather, but stayed warm when he wasn't throwing. "It was really cold out there, my fingertips were numb," Ward said. "But Casey Fossum said that once you were on the mound, you'd feel pretty warm, and every inning I came in the locker room, stretched out a little bit and stayed warm and kept moving so I wouldn't tighten up."

Sean Heaney hit a two-run homer to right in the bottom of the second to give A&M a 3-0 lead after Jason Tyner scored on a single in the first.

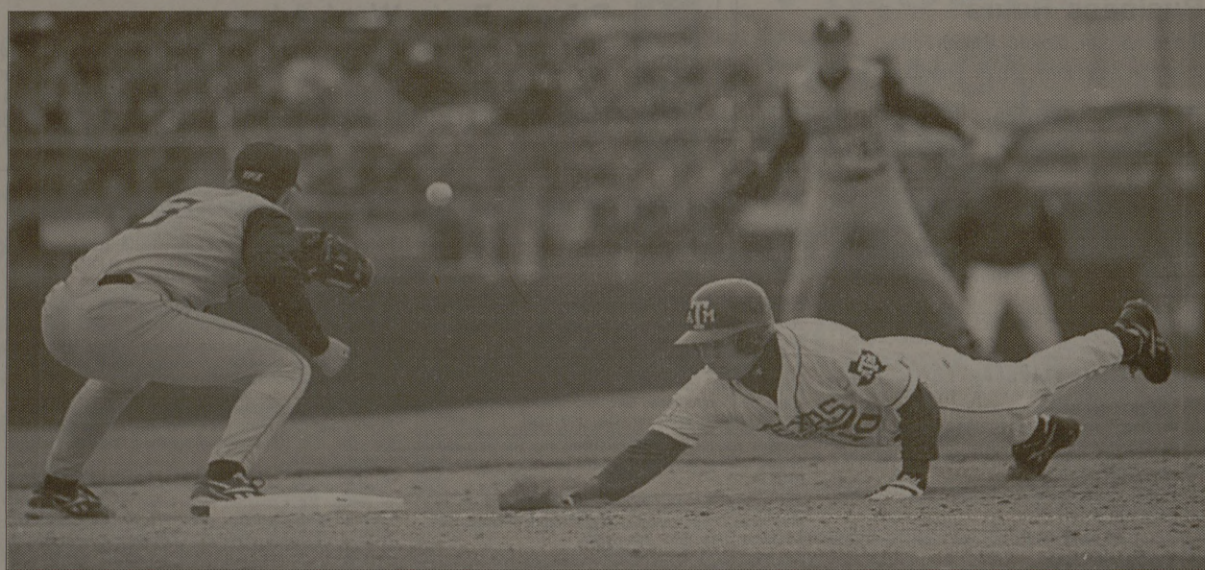
"I was just trying to go the other way with the ball, and luckily, the wind was blowing out that way, so that helped it out," Heaney said.

The Aggies added another run in the fourth to make the score 4-1, where it remained until the seventh, when Mizzou got two doubles and a triple to cut the lead to 4-3. With the tying run at third, Ward forced a pop out to end the inning, then sent the Tigers back to the bench in order in the next two innings for the win. Coach Mark Johnson said Ward is doing everything well.

"He's throwing strikes, he's getting ahead in the count, he's working in and out and changing speeds," Johnson said.

Ward's complete game matched the one Ryan Rupe threw in the first game of the series for A&M on Friday. Rupe threw well, allowing only four hits and striking out 11 to improve his record to 4-1 on the year. Craig Kuzmic went deep for three of the Aggies' nine runs as they triumphed 9-2.

A&M didn't fare as well Saturday, losing 6-3, as Missouri pitching allowed only one hit into the eighth inning. Casey Fossum pitched well in the loss, however, giving up three runs and striking out 11 in eight innings of work. Johnson said Fossum gave a solid effort, but it wasn't enough.



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Junior designated hitter Erik Sobek dives back into first base during the Aggies' 4-3 win over Missouri yesterday.

"I hate it that Casey's fallen into a hard-luck pitcher, because he gives up two runs and can't get a win out of it," Johnson said.

Ward said the series victory will help the self-esteem of a young team.

"Our confidence is up right now," Ward said. "We're

playing solid defense, we're hitting the ball pretty good, we're throwing strikes, we're not walking too many guys, so we're going to succeed if we keep doing that."

The Aggies next take on Southwest Texas State in a doubleheader Tuesday at Olsen. The first game begins at 4 p.m.

Big 12 Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments offer few surprises

Men's top seed Kansas, women's top seed Texas Tech roll to respective conference tourney championships

from staff and wire reports

Red Raiders slam Jayhawks in final

The Texas Tech Women's Basketball Team defeated the Kansas Jayhawks 71-53 Saturday night to win the Women's Big 12 Tournament Championship.

With the win, Texas Tech earned the Big 12 Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament. The team led by three Tech players scoring in double figures with 21 points on 5-6 shooting from outside the three-point arc.

Alicia Thompson and Angie Brazier had 14 and 13 points, respectively, for Texas Tech. Thompson was named the tournament's most valuable player, and joined Brazier on the All-Tournament team.

Tech defeated Colorado and Oklahoma State to earn the right to play Kansas in the finals. Kansas' road to the final game included victories over Kansas State and Iowa State.



Thompson

Iowa State ended Texas A&M's dreams of a Cinderella run through the tournament with a 88-68 victory in the second round. The Aggies advanced to the second round with a 98-74 victory over the Texas Longhorns in the first round. The loss marked the earliest exit from postseason play for a Longhorn basketball team in the history of the program.

Kansas post Lynn Pride, Iowa State guard Stacy Frese and Oklahoma State guard Cheri Edwards rounded out the All-Tournament team.

Kansas proves too tough for Sooners

The No. 1 seeded Kansas Jayhawks won their second straight Big 12 Tournament Championship with a 72-58 victory over the Oklahoma Sooners. With the win, Kansas gets an unnecessary automatic NCAA Tournament bid.

Kansas' 34 wins ties the previous year's team for second most victories in school history. The 1985-86 Final Four team garnered 35 wins. Trailing 40-38 at the 12:03 mark, the Jayhawks went on a 25-8 run over

the next eight minutes to ice the win. Jayhawk junior forward Paul Pierce was the tournament MVP after scoring 26 points. He is the first Jayhawk to be named tournament MVP in consecutive years since Danny Manning in 1986 and 1987.



Pierce

Other members of the All-Tournament team were Nebraska guard Tyrone Lue, Oklahoma center Evan Wiley, Oklahoma

guard Corey Brewer and Kansas forward Raef LaFrentz.

To get to the finals, Kansas beat Kansas State 68-61 and Nebraska 91-59.

Oklahoma defeated Missouri 58-53 and Texas 68-55. Baylor ended Texas A&M's chances of a Cinderella tournament run with their 66-63 victory over the Aggies.

Texas surprised some by upsetting both Texas Tech in the first round and No. 2 seed Oklahoma State in the second. Kris Clack managed to play despite a shoulder injury that figured to keep him out of the lineup.

Elect Bill Youngkin Judge 85th District Court



A professor once stated that "Good judgement comes from experience. Experience comes from the decisions you make in life."

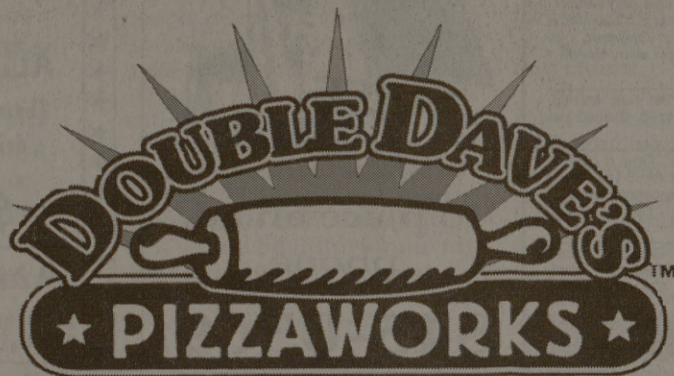
I have made those decisions for the last twenty-two years of my trial career. That Experience provides me with the Good Judgement required to be the Judge of this Court.

About Bill Youngkin

- ★ TAMU, Class of '69
 - Head Yell Leader
 - Ross Volunteer/Corp of Cadets
- ★ Vietnam Veteran
- ★ Graduate Baylor Law School
- ★ Partner in the Law Firm of Youngkin, Catlin, Bryan, Stacy & Dillard
- ★ Past President Brazos County Bar Association 1985-86
- ★ Past President of the Association of Former Students - 1991
- ★ Current Member of the Executive Committee of the 12th Man Foundation
- ★ Daughter Libby, Class of '00 - Chi Omega Sorority

Next to my relationship with the Good Lord and my family, nothing has had a greater influence in my life than my university. That was what drew me back to this community to begin my family and my legal career. I have tried to serve my university over the years by remaining involved. Now I want to serve my community by being your judge of the 85th District Court. It can only happen with your help, your vote, this Tuesday.

Gig'em and God Bless!



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