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No. 17 Red Raiders take a pair from Aggie

Texas A&M fails to produce timely hits against Red Raiders, ties Baylor in 10-inning

By **ROBERT HOLLIER**
 Staff writer

It is not always how many hits a team gets, but when they get them. The Texas A&M Softball Team (32-24-2, 6-10-1) learned that the hard way as they dropped a pair to No. 17 Texas Tech 3-1 and 2-1 on Saturday afternoon at the Aggie Softball Field.

In the second game, the Aggies left the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh with nobody out and stranded nine runners on base for the game in the 2-1 loss in eight innings.

"Seven hits is enough to win a ball game," Coach Jo Evans said. "Our problem is not getting the timely hits."

Tech started the scoring in the top of the second when they took a 1-0 lead on a questionable call at the plate. With two outs and a runner on first, the Tech first baseman doubled. The relay throw to home plate appeared to be in time as the catcher, Marianne McGuire, applied the tag to her foot, but the umpire called her safe.

"My hand hurt after the tag," McGuire said of

the questionable play. "I hit her right in the cleat. That run made a huge difference in the game."

Evans agreed, "Mary clearly tagged her in the foot. I obviously didn't agree with the call."

The score would remain 1-0 as freshman starting pitcher Amy Vining was able to put the play behind her to throw eight strong innings, giving up seven hits and two runs while striking out four and walking two in the loss.

"She (Vining) pitched so well," Evans said. "When we get good pitching and solid defense, we usually win games."

Trailing 1-0 going into the bottom seventh, the Aggies were able to tie the score at one on an RBI single by first baseman Julie McMullen to score Vining. The Aggies would then load the bases with nobody out, but Tech pitcher, Amanda Renfro got the next three A&M batters on a pop out and two strikeouts.

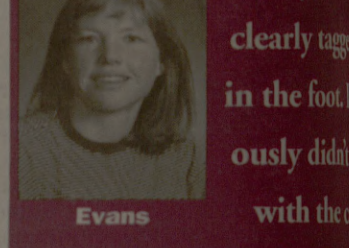
"I was very proud of our team battling back," Evans said. "We were exactly where we wanted to be in that situation. We just couldn't get the clutch hit."

In the first game, the Aggies lost 3-1 as they

were out-pitched and out-hit all game.

Texas Tech was able to run starting pitcher Ashley Lewis out early as they scored two runs in the first two innings and never let the lead slip.

Lewis threw two innings, giving up five hits, walking two and recording



Evans

"Mary (McGuire) clearly tagged her in the foot. I obviously didn't agree with the call."



Sophomore **Jamie Smith** could not power the Aggies to victory in the Saturday doubleheader with Texas Tech. The second game of Sunday's doubleheader with Baylor was canceled due to inclement weather.

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