

## Ags defeat UNLV, take Classic title

A&M Baseball Team moves to 22-6

BY AARON COHAN  
The Battalion

The battle for first at the Aggie Continental Classic went down to the last game Monday, but the Texas A&M Baseball Team held on to defeat UNLV, 5-1, for the title.



SCARBOROUGH

The Rebels, who already had topped the Aggies, 14-3, Friday to hand A&M its first home loss of the season, jumped out to a 1-0 first-inning lead Monday. They added to it in the bottom of the third inning off a three-run homer from sophomore Ryan Ludwick.

The Aggies struggled to put some type of offense together for the next few innings, and it finally happened in the top of the sixth.

With two outs and two runners on, freshman Greg Porter came to the plate. Previously hitless on the evening, the lefthander launched a hanging slider over the center-field wall to give A&M the lead for good. "Coach just said to hit the ball, and I took a hack at it," Porter said. "I thought that it was a great win for the team."

The victory sealed the tournament crown for the Aggies after four days of tough competition.

A&M battled back from Friday's loss to beat the University of Michigan, 6-4, in the first of two games that day. Preseason All-American Chance Cagle threw seven-plus innings, giving up just two runs while whiffing seven batters.

But the Wolverines kept it close and sent the game into extra innings. A&M sophomore Chris Russ came into the game and struck out

five batters in a little over three innings of work, but the game was decided in the 11th inning when A&M junior shortstop Steve Scarborough hit a line-drive home run over the left-field wall to give the Aggies the win. The long ball was only the fifth of his college career and highlighted a 3-for-6 night at the plate for Scarborough.

The second game of the day was dominated by Casey Fossum. The junior All-American pitched a complete game and struck out twelve batters versus Cal State-Northridge in the seven-inning contest.

Sunday's game featured another matchup with the Wolverines, who had revenge on their minds. But the Aggies had other thoughts as they hurled senior Matt Ward against the blue and yellow.

Ward, who has not started a game in two months, pitched six-plus innings and blew away seven batters.

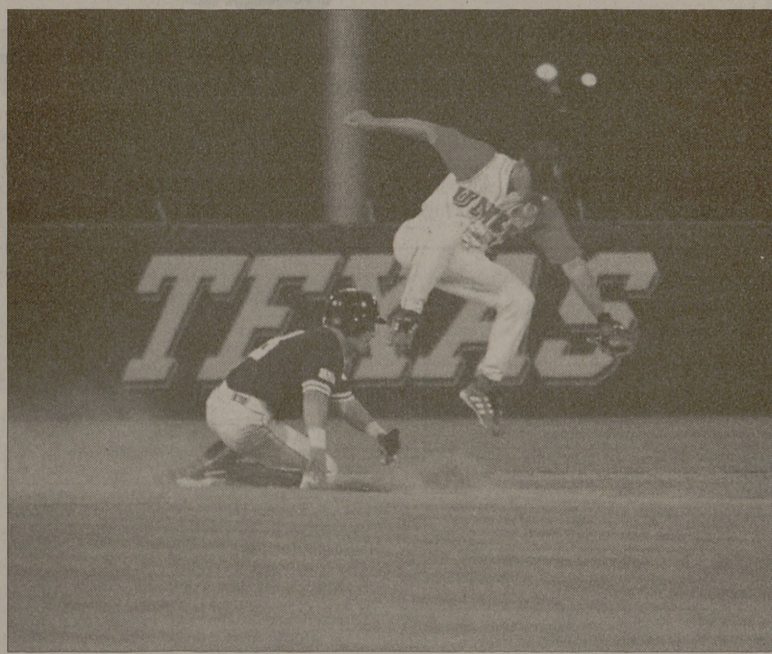
"It felt real good to get up there and throw again," Ward said. "My stuff was working both on the inside and the outside of the plate. My ball was really finishing better today."

The Aggies finished regular tournament play Monday with matches against Cal State-Northridge and UNLV.

The A&M bats scored 12 runs off the Cal State pitching staff, led by junior transfer Dell Lindsey, who went 4-for-5, hitting his fifth home run of the season and driving in three runs.

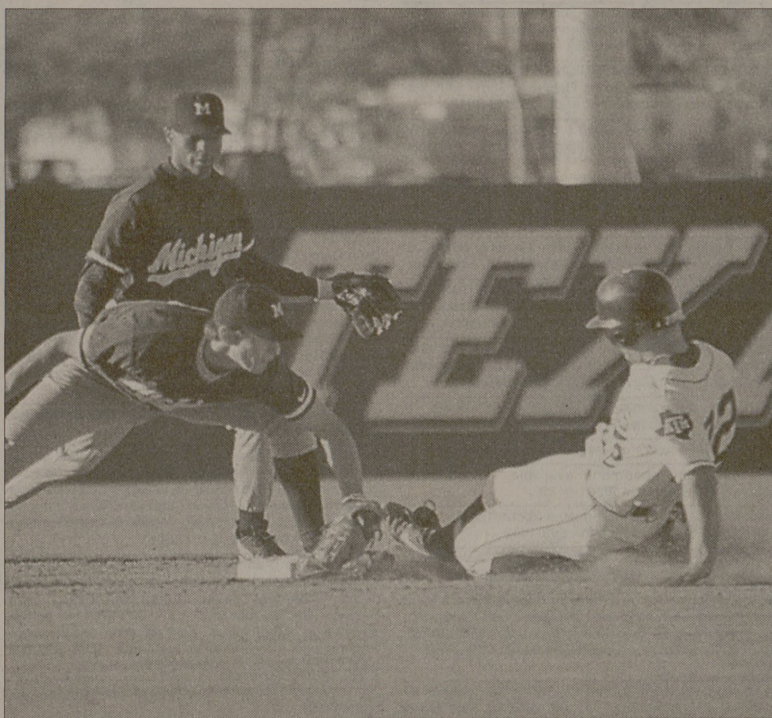
"We played pretty good," Lindsey said. "I think we are really improving on all parts of our game at this point in the season."

The sixth-ranked Aggies, who boast an overall record of 22-6, will take a day off before hosting Lamar University Wednesday at Olsen Field.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

TOP: A&M junior Steven Truitt successfully steals second base during the Texas A&M Baseball Team's against UNLV Monday night at Olsen Field.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

BELOW: Senior Shawn Schumacher slides into second base during the Aggies' game against the University of Michigan Saturday at Olsen Field.

## Spurs back on track as Admiral struggles

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — After a rocky start, the San Antonio Spurs are getting a taste of winning again.

At the midway point of this NBA season, the Spurs have overcome a 6-8 record in February to win 10 of 11 games in March, including seven on the road.

"We're glad that we're playing pretty well and we're moving up the ladder a bit because we were pretty far down the ladder for a while," coach Gregg Popovich said Monday.

At 16-9, San Antonio is three games behind Utah in the Midwest Division. The Spurs and Houston Rockets were tied for second going into Monday night's action.

"We've been able to gain some ground on Utah," guard Avery Johnson said. "This is another week where we can't have any slipups because you don't when Utah is going to lose again. And we don't play them until the end of April."

The Spurs could be on a roll by then. They play seven of their next eight games at home, beginning Tuesday against Denver. San Antonio has played just 10 games in the Alamodome, tying Sacramento for the fewest home games in the conference.

"We must try to continue to establish some homecourt advantage at the dome this year going into the playoffs," Johnson said. "We've got to get some confidence in our own building."

San Antonio is getting a boost from an easier stretch in its schedule compared with February, when the Spurs played Utah, the Los Angeles Lakers and Seattle twice and Minnesota three times.

A sore spot for the Spurs has been David Robinson's production. The center is averaging 14.4

### Sinking Admiral

Career statistics for San Antonio Spurs center David Robinson:

| Year   | Points | Rebounds | Blocks | FG%  |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|------|
| 89-90  | 24.3   | 12.0     | 3.89   | .531 |
| 90-91  | 25.6   | 13.0     | 3.90   | .552 |
| 91-92  | 23.2   | 12.2     | 4.49   | .551 |
| 92-93  | 23.4   | 11.7     | 3.22   | .501 |
| 93-94  | 29.8   | 10.7     | 3.31   | .507 |
| 94-95  | 27.6   | 10.8     | 3.23   | .530 |
| 95-96  | 25.0   | 12.2     | 3.30   | .516 |
| 96-97* | 17.7   | 8.5      | 1.00   | .500 |
| 97-98  | 21.6   | 10.6     | 2.63   | .511 |
| 98-99  | 14.4   | 9.3      | 2.64   | .483 |

\* - Robinson missed all but six games during the '96-'97 season with a strained lower back.

points per game, down from 21.6 points last year. He has scored only 21 points in the last three games combined.

Popovich benched Robinson in the final minutes of the fourth quarter in two road games last week, opting instead to play Malik Rose.

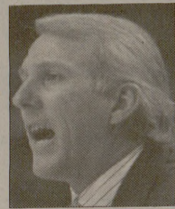
A seemingly dejected Robinson told reporters after a practice Monday he always prefers to be on the court when the game is on the line.

"That'd be an understatement," he said. "Sitting on the side you have no power to help at all. It's like being a fan over there. When I'm in there at least I feel like I can make things happen."

Robinson has seen second-year star Tim Duncan become the team's leading scorer with an average of 21.6 points per game.

Robinson said he is trying to improve his shot and that he was encouraged by a key jumper he made in overtime Saturday in the Spurs' victory at Vancouver.

"Offensively, I've got to get going and make some shots," Robinson said. "We've still got a lot of things to do. I know I'm going to be a big key to that. So if I can get my shot rolling, get some things happening, I think it's really going to make us more solid."



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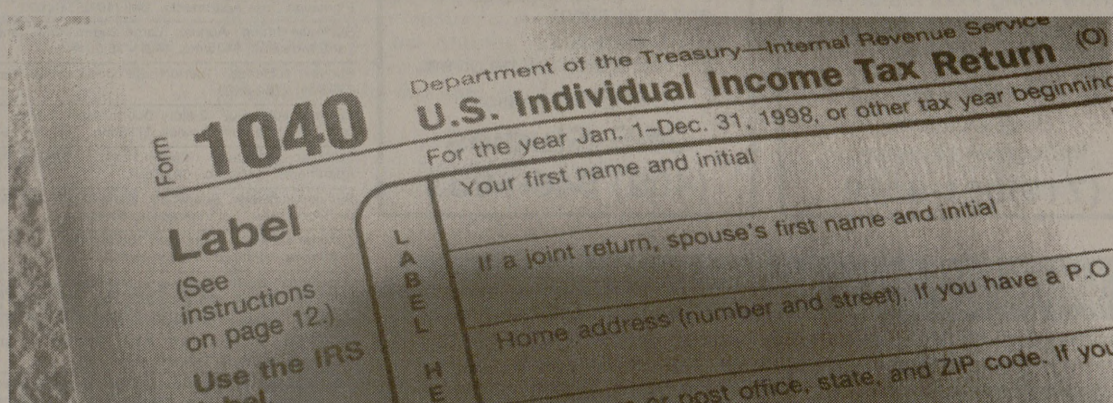
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