

Texas A&M takes series from Baylor Schumacher's late-inning heroics pave way for Aggies to defeat

BY DOUG SHILLING
The Battalion

Shawn Schumacher is not a hero in real life — he just plays one on the baseball field.

The senior catcher from Carthage, Texas, flashed his heroics not once, but twice this past weekend at Olsen Field as he led the fifth-ranked Texas A&M Baseball Team to a series win over the seventh-ranked Baylor University Bears (35-9, 16-5 Big 12).

Schumacher was only 2-13 for the series against Baylor with four RBIs, but his two hits were quite possibly the biggest of the season for the Aggies (35-9, 16-4 Big 12).

His two-run single with the bases loaded in the ninth inning Sunday capped off an 11-10 comeback win for the Aggies.

Sophomore right fielder Daylan Holt started the Aggies off with the lead Sunday with a lead-off home run in the second that made the score 1-0.

Throw in senior pitcher Matt Ward pitching a perfect first three innings, and things could not have been any better for the Aggies Sunday.

Then, in the top of the fourth, the bottom fell out for A&M.

After singles by Baylor's Mark Cogdill and Jaime Bubela, Baylor second baseman Eric Nelson hit a home run to give the Bears the lead at 3-1.

Baylor tacked on two more runs in the top of the fifth when Cogdill homered for the Bears to make it a 5-1 game.

Sophomore Chris Russ came into the game to relieve Ward, but the Bears were not done yet. Preston Underdown hit a bases-loaded single to score two runs in the top of the sixth to make the score 7-1 in favor of the Bears.

Holt highlighted the Aggie comeback in the bottom of the seventh when he sent Baylor reliever Kyle Evans' first pitch of the game over the left field wall for a three-run home run to tie up the game at seven.

Baylor came right back in the top of the eighth as they scored three runs to make the score 10-7.

A&M head coach Mark Johnson said the Baylor rally almost took the wind out of the team's sails after its big comeback.

"We came back and had the crowd behind us and our guys were pumped," Johnson said. "Then they picked up three more runs, and we just went back down."

They were not down for long, though, as the Aggies responded with two runs of their own in the bottom of the eighth on a Sean Heaney triple to close the gap to 10-9.

Schumacher then came through for the Aggies



A&M baseball players mob catcher Shawn Schumacher (third from left) after his bases double in the bottom of the ninth gave the Aggies an 11-10 win over Baylor Sunday night in the bottom of the ninth as he drove a pitch into left field for the game-winning hit.

"We did have some magic going today," Johnson said. "Holt had a great day and Schumacher came through for us once again."

Freshman pitcher Khalid Ballouli (5-0) pitched a third of an inning to pick up the win for the Aggies.

Baylor pitcher Mark Outlaw (4-2), who gave up the double to Schumacher, took the loss for Baylor. Schumacher's heroics Sunday came on the heels of his heroics Saturday night.

In front of an announced crowd of 10,730 Saturday inside and out at Olsen Field, the largest ever witness an Aggie game, Schumacher hit a game-winning two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth to lead the Aggies to a 5-4 win.

Junior pitcher Chance Caple, who started the game, said he knew the large crowd at Olsen had a direct effect on the outcome of the game.

"We knew it was going to come together some time," Caple said. "Olsen Field brings a little magic to our games."

With Baylor holding the lead most of the game, the Aggies pulled to within 4-3 going into the bottom of the eighth.

With one out, junior left fielder Chad Hudson drew a walk from Baylor relief pitcher Justin Taylor.

After a Steve Scarborough strikeout on the right field wall to give the Aggies the lead, Johnson said Schumacher's hit was a "game-changing" moment.

"It was a big hit, no question about it," Johnson said. "Even though he got all of it, I think that he wasn't going to get it up enough."

Schumacher did not have the same reaction as his coach about his hit.

"I didn't have a doubt about it," Schumacher said. "I knew I hit it really good."

Russ (10-1) retired the side in the ninth to give the victory for the Aggies.

Taylor (4-3), who gave up the home run to Schumacher, took the loss for the Bears.

In Friday's series opener, Jason Jensen dueling junior pitcher Casey Fossum as he took the first game 7-2.

Fossum (7-4) was touched up by the Aggies in 11 hits and seven runs in 7 1/3 innings.

Scarborough led the way for the Aggies, going 3-5 from the plate with one hit.

With the series win, the Aggies moved ahead of Baylor and into first place in the Big 12.



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EVENT DATE
April 22-25
April 22
April 27
May 17-20
& 24-27

REGISTRATION
April 5-19
April 6-20
April 8-22
April 12-14
May 12

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EVENT DATE
April 20
April 23-25
April 22 & 24
April 24
April 24-25
April 24-25
April 27
April 30-May 2
April 30-May 2
May 1

REGISTRATION
April 5-19
April 5-20
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April 12-27
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April 12-27

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