

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Wednesday, February 23, 2000

Warren dominates in A&M loss

Bearkat pitcher throws complete game, four-hitter in 2-1 SHSU victory

BY DOUG SHILLING
The Battalion

HUNTSVILLE — It was almost a perfect day for A&M freshman pitcher Zach Dixon.

Making his first start, Dixon did about everything one could do to win a game, holding Sam Houston State University to two runs and six hits in 7 1/3 innings pitched.

The only problem was that his first start came against Bearkat pitcher Andy Warren.

Warren, fresh off a two-hit shutout of Rice University last week, did Dixon one better, allowing only one run on four hits as he threw a complete game to lead the Bearkats to a 2-1 victory over the Aggies Tuesday.

"Warren was very, very good today," A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson said. "I don't know a lot of ballclubs that would have beaten him today."

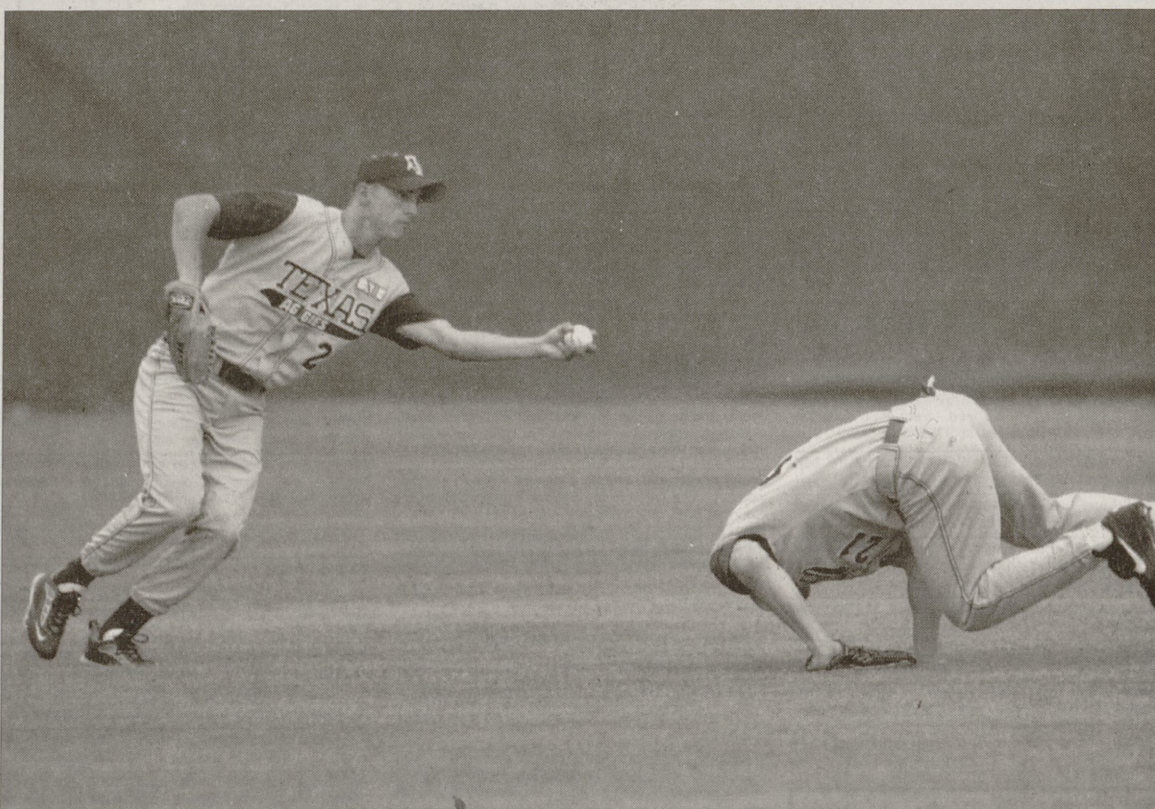
"The bright spot was that Zach Dixon threw very well. We had a freshman go out there for his first start and gave us a great chance to win. It's just discouraging that we didn't get some more runs. I contribute that a lot more to Warren than our hitters."

It looked as if A&M would jump on Warren early in the game as he loaded the bases in the first inning on a single by A&M junior right fielder Daylan Holt and giving up walks to sophomore third baseman Greg Porter and freshman shortstop Ryan Wardinsky.

A passed ball by Bearkat catcher Foreman allowed Wardinsky to score for a 1-0 A&M lead.

With runners at second and third and only one out, the Aggies seemed poised to break the game open, but Warren pitched out of the jam, getting A&M freshman first baseman Travis Wong to strike out swinging and sophomore designated hitter Jeff Freeman to ground out to shortstop to end the inning.

A&M kept the pressure on in the second inning, getting runners on second



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

A&M freshman center fielder Eric Reed (l) and sophomore right fielder Carlos Sepulveda chase after a ball in the Aggies' 2-1 loss to Sam Houston State University Tuesday in Huntsville.

base and men in scoring position and Warren just threw tough pitches. He didn't make a lot of mistakes when he got in those spots."

Meanwhile for the Aggies, Dixon was on cruise control. He did not allow a runner past first base through five innings and had allowed only three hits.

Then, in the sixth inning, he made his only mistake of the game. With Bearkat left fielder Aaron Dieudonne on first and one out, SHSU third baseman Kelly Eddlemon sent a Dixon pitch over the right field wall, giving the Bearkats a 2-1 lead.

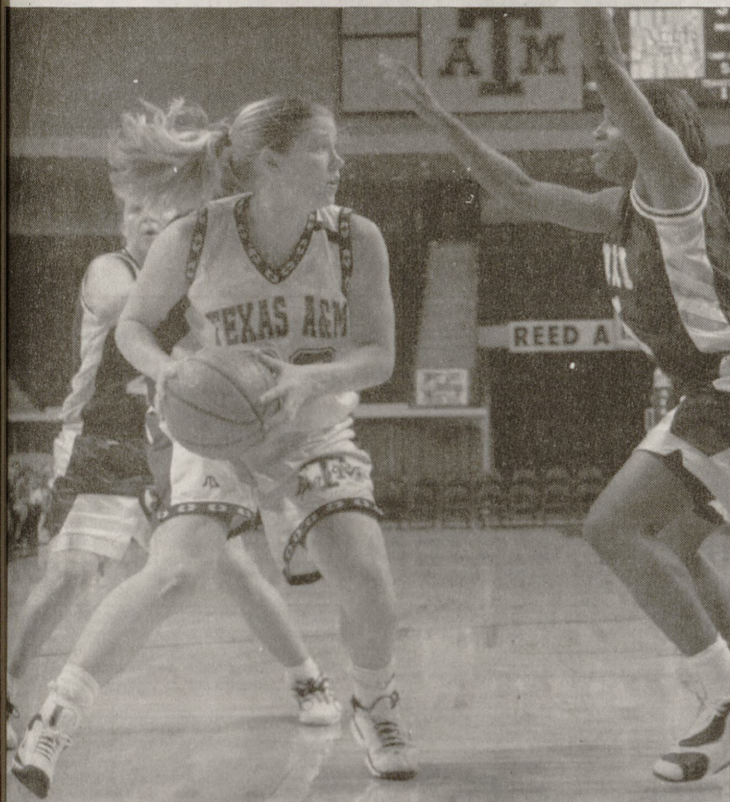
The one-run lead was more than enough for Warren as he shut down the Aggies the rest of the way.

A&M tried to manage a rally in the ninth, getting runners on second and third with two outs, but Wardinsky popped out to right field to end the game.

Johnson said that even though he took the loss, he was impressed with the performance of Dixon.

"I thought Zach threw extremely well for a freshman," Johnson said. "To come in there and throw strikes, and offspeed pitches, he did a very good job and got our attention again. As a freshman he can come in and start helping us right now."

The Aggies return home Friday as they begin Big 12 conference play with a three-game series against the Kansas State University Wildcats.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

A&M senior forward Kera Alexander avoids pressure from University of Missouri defenders during the Aggies 66-55 win last Wednesday.

Ags host Iowa State

BY REECE FLOOD
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team will try to win its third home game in a row against the 13th-ranked Iowa State University Cyclones tonight at 7 p.m.

A&M is coming off a 80-66 loss to the Oklahoma State Cowgirls on the road. But the team still has the momentum of two-straight home victories against Baylor University and the University of Missouri on their side.

Senior forward Prissy Sharpe thinks the home court advantage might give the Aggies an edge.

"It gives us confidence at home, confidence in what we can do here in the arena," Sharpe said. "With a ranked team coming in here we need that."

The Aggies (11-12, 3-10 Big 12) will have their work cut out for them when they take on the Cyclones (19-5, 10-3 Big 12).

ISU is at the top of the Big 12 Conference standings, and is coming off a 101-66 victory against the University of Missouri.

The Cyclones have earned their success this season at the hands of four players, all of whom are averaging over 10 points per game.

Stacy Frese and Angie Welle are helping the Cyclones by averaging 14.5 and 14.4 points per game, respectively. Teammate Megan Taylor is earning 13.1 points per game, while Desiree Francis chips in 13 points a game.

A&M women's basketball coach

See IOWA STATE on Page 11.

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