

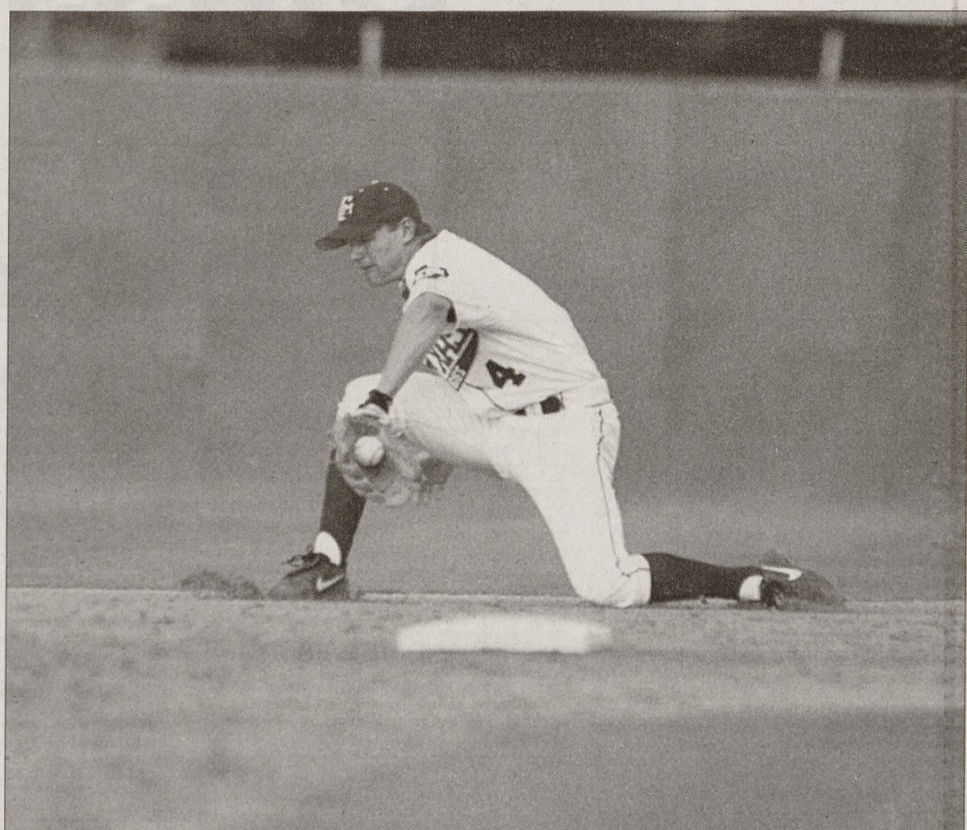
Ags explode against Islanders

BY DOUG SHILLING
The Battalion

The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi baseball team had its first trip to Olsen Field Tuesday. The Texas A&M baseball team sent them back to Corpus, showing the first-year team they have a lot to work on. The Aggies lit up the Islander pitching for 17 hits and capitalized on six TAMU-CC errors as they cruised to a 20-4 victory in seven innings. It was the fourth straight win for A&M as it improved to 9-7 on the season. The loss even the Islanders record at 6-6 on the year. A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies capitalized on the inexperience of the TAMU-CC team. "It was one of those games," Johnson said. "Corpus is just starting its program and they need Division I games, so we certainly want to try and help them. They're young right now. It was good for us in that we got to throw some pitchers we haven't seen, and we got to play a lot of guys. "We kept the offense going. In that regard it was a good game for us. It didn't give us a real edge, and I think the guys know that. It did help some guys offensively to hit the ball."

As they have been doing in the past few games, the Aggies jumped ahead early. A&M junior right fielder Daylan Holt got the Aggies on the board in the first inning with a mammoth two-run home run over the right field wall to give the Aggies a 2-0 lead. The Aggies tacked on two more runs in the second inning on a ground ball by senior second baseman Sean Heaney that scored junior catcher Jason Gremminger and a sacrifice fly by Holt to make it a 4-0 A&M lead. Holt said starting out with a home run helped him to get in a groove. "I'm just glad the umpires called that one fair, because it was kind of close," Holt said. "It feels good to come in there and finally relax. I think that was the main thing I had to do." The Islanders bounced back in the third inning when third baseman Ryan Clyde hit a three-run home run over the left field wall to cut the A&M lead to 4-3. Then the flood gates opened for the Aggies. The Aggies scored 16 runs over the next five innings, including nine in the second to put away TAMU-CC. The Aggies' offensive dominance helped Johnson get a look at some of his new pitchers' work. A&M freshman pitcher Steven Ponder looked good as he got the start for the Aggies.

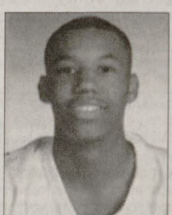
In his first action of the season, Ponder (1-0) went four innings, giving up four runs, only one of which was earned, on three hits. Senior pitcher Larry Martin also saw his first action of the season, going two innings and only giving up two hits. Senior pitcher Matt Knight finished the game for A&M, giving up only one hit in one inning. Johnson said one of the keys of the game was getting to see how his pitchers performed. "The three pitchers hadn't thrown at all," Johnson said. "Ponder and Martin hadn't been across the line yet. So that was a plus for us, and we needed to do that." TAMU-CC pitcher Larry Olivarez took the loss for the Islanders. Olivarez (2-1) gave up 13 runs on nine hits in 2 1/3 innings pitched. A&M starts up Big 12 play again this Friday as they play Baylor University in a three-game series. Holt said the roll the Aggies' offense has been on will be beneficial heading into the series with Baylor. "You want to be sure and go up there and have good ABs [at-bats]," Holt said. "I know the pitching isn't the same as we're going to face against Baylor, but a ball is a ball and a strike is a strike. It doesn't matter how fast it's coming."



A&M sophomore **Blake Whealy** backhands a ball in the Aggies' 20-4 win over the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi University Islanders Tuesday at Olsen Field. **CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION**

Men's basketball team hosts 20th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion



KING

If Texas A&M basketball coach Melvin Watkins could pick only one week for the Aggies to be at peak form during the Big 12 season, it would have to be now. The Aggies close out the Big 12 regular season this week with a pair of home games. Wednesday, the Aggies face off against the No. 20 University of Oklahoma Sooners at 7 p.m. in Reed Arena. On Saturday, the Aggies host the Univer-

sity of Nebraska to close out the season. The pair of games has the potential to be huge for A&M (7-18; 3-11) going into the Big 12 Tournament next week. With a pair of wins the Aggies could be placed as high as the eighth seed. Yet, with only three conference wins, winning two back-to-back games to close out the season will be a daunting task for the young, struggling A&M men. "We'd just like to finish up strong. We have Oklahoma coming in Wednesday and then Nebraska on Saturday," Watkins said. "It would be nice to get these two wins heading into the conference tournament." The Sooners pose the biggest, most immediate threat for the Aggies. A&M first duelled OU in the conference opener

during early January. The Aggies were trounced in the road match by a score of 78-53. The Aggies will welcome back senior Aaron Jack. Jack spent 1 1/2 games out due to dehydration. Despite the return of Jack, the Aggies will continue to rely on their youth. In the first match-up, A&M freshman guard Bernard King caught the Sooners off guard. King had 18 points, thanks to his perimeter prowess. Rest assured, Oklahoma is looking at King now. The Sooners are sure to focus on keeping King in check for the second round. "They didn't know Bernard and they didn't know his capabilities," Watkins said. "That certainly has changed but

Bernard has changed and become a better player since then." King is not the only Aggie that has stepped up his game since the January contest. The next dozen Big 12 matches showed the rise of a few other freshmen performers. Tomas Ress has found a home starting at forward, Andy Slocum has learned to play with the other big boys in the paint and a host of other freshmen have found a home making an impact off the bench. Slocum's improvement reached a new high on Saturday against the University of Texas, when the starting center had 14 points playing against Big 12 Player of the Year candidate Chris Mihm. "He started off slow, but most big kids do," Watkins said about his new big man.

"Now he's beginning to gain some confidence after putting a couple games back-to-back in which he's played pretty good. He's starting to see his upside that we saw a lot sooner." A&M needs more than improved performance by a few freshmen to overcome the veteran OU line-up. The Sooners are led by 6-8 forward Eduardo Najera. The senior has been making a run at Big 12 Player of the Year, averaging a double-double with 18.4 points per game and 10.6 rebounds per game. With nobody on the roster that can match-up well against Najera, Watkins looks to counter the threat with a mix of double teams, traps and zones. Backing up Najera's efforts in the

paint is a well rounded, experienced supporting cast. Junior guard Nolan Johnson will look to post his ninth straight game to score in double figures. Freshman guard Hollis Price has picked up his assists and scoring in recent games to go along with sophomore guard J.R. Raymond who ranks 11th in the conference scoring lists. "OU is obviously a NCAA team and has a lot on stake as they jockey for the fourth seed [in the tournament]," Watkins said. "They're going to be ready to play and have the components to beat you pretty bad." The Aggies will try and minimize OU's threat and capitalize on the home advantage to pull yet another top 25 upset.

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IT VILLANUEVA/The Battalion for four-year-old

ference. It was for all Greek the bus, minorities hang together, one Hispanic and there are going to our bus, and all the re like 50 of them and they're bus, and we were like "You're with us" and I knew half of them were like "Come sit with us and when they realized that the me ugly faces. I was like "What At the Rec Center they are us for 30 minutes. And they at 15 minutes. I heard this turn this nigger music off... deal with this on a cons afraid of us for no reason. What intimidates you? Or is it? What about me? It is no goes to how you were raised. be multicultural, like many cause I am not just black, a lot of these parents do not ing. They teach them things rson. at if you have self confidence at other people think about y room, you should not wor n is going to get up and mo o that if someone smells the smell of smoke, I am going never noticed if someone again I know that white peo they try to befriend me all t you have to have self com mom taught me. "They are e, you do not hold your head up high, because you are and that is the type of mental speaking, the world cons: crimination but you can not ou have to hold your head e the same as them.

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Math 152 Review 3	Math 152 Review 4
CHEM 227 Review 3	