

Aggies salvage series with Sunday win over Baylor

No. 19 Bears take 2 out of 3 in weekend series

By DOUG FUENTES
The Battalion

After losing the first two games of its series against the Baylor Bears at home, the Texas A&M baseball team was faced with the daunting task of hitting the road to try to salvage a win in the series.

Nevertheless, the Aggies did just that, using a big inning and stellar performances by their pitchers to down the Bears, 8-6, on Sunday in front of 3,933 fans at Baylor Ballpark.

"This is the biggest win this season," said A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson. "To lose two at home and go on the road to finish it and win is huge. That really says something about our ballclub. We didn't die."

"We've been struggling and we needed a win. We were playing a great ball club. But to come into their home court and get a win was big."

The Aggies (4-7, 1-2 in Big 12) jumped on top of Baylor (11-4, 2-1) early, scoring a run in the first inning to go up 1-0.

Sophomore center fielder Eric Reed lined the first pitch of the game from Baylor's Kyle Edens up the middle for a hit. Reed later came

around to score on a sacrifice fly by senior first baseman Jeff Freeman.

A&M broke things open in the fourth, scoring five runs to take a 6-0 lead. Freeman, junior second baseman Ty Garner and junior third baseman Greg Porter led off the inning by each getting a base hit.

Edens then walked freshman catcher Rusty Meyer to force in Freeman. Then, junior shortstop Ryan Wardinsky provided the big blow in the inning.

Wardinsky, starting only his third game this season after starting every game last season, laced a pitch from Edens down the right-field line, which hit the line and rolled all the way into the corner for a bases-clearing triple. Wardinsky was driven home by a single from Reed.

"Coach Johnson talked about it before the game and said, 'Everyone be ready for their chance because it might be one hit or one play,'" Wardinsky said. "That's exactly right because we finally got a break or two today. That ball that barely stayed in, hadn't been falling for us. We hadn't been getting many breaks and today showed how just one can make that much of a difference."

While the A&M offense was

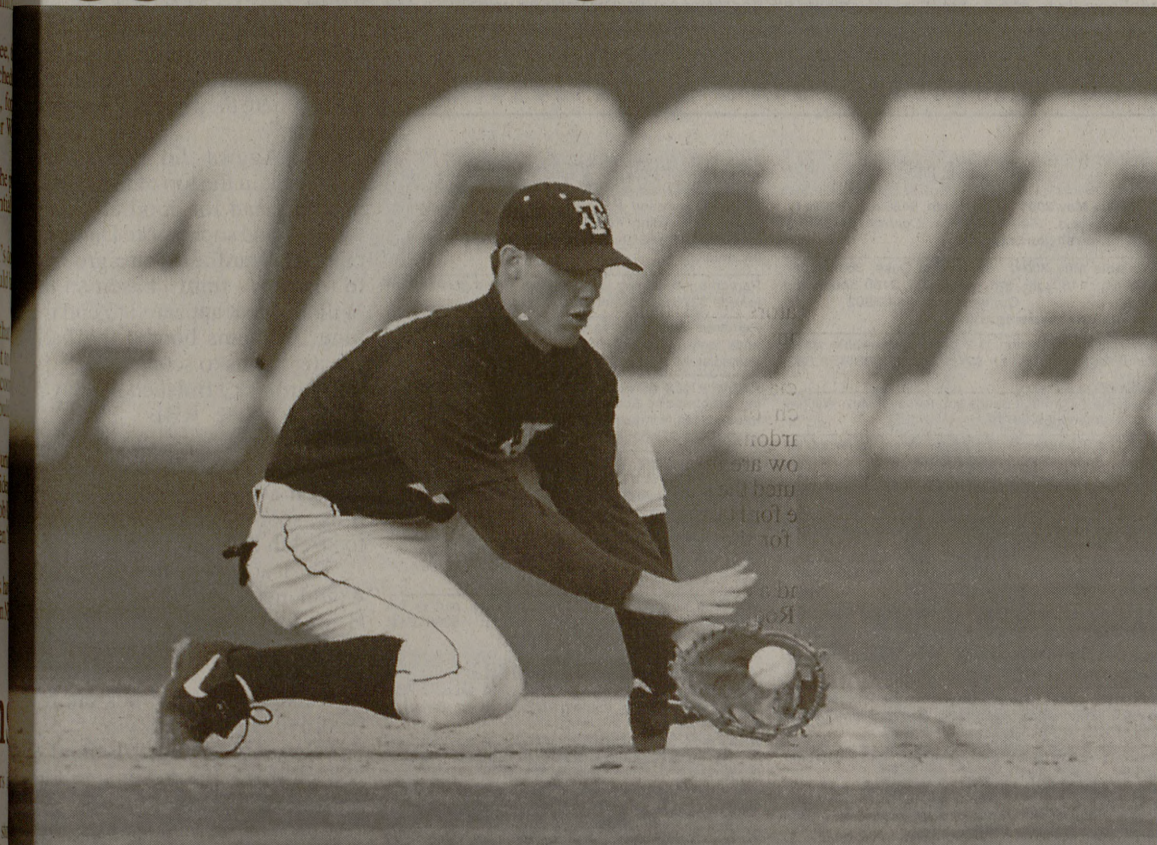
clicking, junior pitcher Khalid Ballouli was keeping the Baylor hitters at bay. Ballouli, who had not pitched since opening weekend because of tendinitis, was cleared to start and made the most of it. He allowed only four hits through the first four innings and did not allow a runner past second base. He tired in the fifth inning, and the Baylor hitters made him pay.

Ballouli gave up a two-run double to Tim Hartshorn and a RBI single to Trevor Mote to make it a 6-3 game. Junior pitcher Brian Strelitz relieved Ballouli and ended the inning by allowing a sacrifice fly to Kelly Shopach, as the Bears pulled to 6-4.

The Aggies had a chance to answer back in the top of the sixth as Wardinsky, junior left fielder Eddie Lang and Reed each reached base on bunt singles, loaded the bases with no outs.

But Baylor pitcher Jared Theodorakos, who replaced Edens in the fifth inning, got out of the jam unscathed as he forced freshman designated hitter Erik Schindewolf to fly out to first base and junior right fielder Neal Stephenson to ground into an inning-ending double play.

See SALVAGE on Page 8.



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Junior shortstop Ryan Wardinsky fields a groundball during the first game of this weekend's action with Baylor. The Aggies dropped the first two games to the Bears, but won Sunday's game in Waco 8-6.

Ags sweep Red Raiders with 62-52 win

By DOUG FUENTES
The Battalion

Until Saturday, the Texas A&M men's basketball team had been having trouble staying focused for an entire game.

But against the Texas Tech Red Raiders, the Aggies put together 40 minutes of basketball to down Tech, 62-52, in front of 4,264 fans at Senior Day at Reed Arena.

Sophomore guard Bernard King led a trio of Aggies in double digits with 18 points. Sophomore guard Jamaal Gilchrist came off the bench to chip in 11 points, and senior forward Carlton Brown, playing in his last home game, scored 10 points.

"Tonight we played 40 minutes for a change," King said. "At halftime, coach said, 'Come out and start the second half the same as you started the game.' We kept our focus tonight and came out ready to play and got the win."

After falling behind early, 6-3, junior guard Andy Leatherman and Brown hit back-to-back shots to give

A&M the lead for good at 7-6 with 15 minutes, 52 seconds remaining in the first half.

Although the Aggies held the lead, the Red Raiders stayed within striking distance. With 4:52 left in the half, Tech pulled to within two points at 22-20 on two free throws by Brannon Hayes.

With the Red Raiders within two, A&M made a run to put some distance between itself and Tech before halftime.

The Aggies went on a 11-2 run to stretch their lead to an 11-point, at 33-22, its largest lead of the game, with only 42 seconds left.

Tech went into halftime on a good note as Hayes hit a shot that appeared to be after the buzzer, but was counted, to go into the half only down by nine, 33-24.

Tech only shot 35.7 percent in the first half and committed 11 turnovers. The Aggies hit 46.7 percent of their shots in the first half.

A&M came out in the second half with the same intensity it had in the

first half and held onto the lead. Despite poor shooting the Red Raiders stayed close to the Aggies throughout the half.

Tech cut the lead to 51-48 on a jumper by Jamal Brown with 4:02 remaining.

But instead of closing in on the Aggies, the Red Raiders fell prey to the cold shooting that had plagued them the entire game.

After Brown's jumper, Tech went four possessions, a span of more than three minutes, without a score.

During that time, the Aggies went on a 7-0 run to stretch the lead to 58-48, with 53 seconds left. The teams traded free throws the rest of the game, and the Aggies held on for the victory.

Tech shot only 28.1 percent in the second half and only 31.7 percent for the entire game.

"I want to congratulate Melvin and his team," said Texas Tech coach James Dickey. "They played with a lot of energy and played good defense. We missed too many easy shots. Their defense was active and did a nice job. But

you can't shoot as poorly as we did and expect to win on the road."

Andy Ellis led the Red Raiders with 14 points. Cliff Owens was the only other Tech player in double digits, with 12 points.

Although Saturday was Senior Day for the Aggies, Watkins will only say goodbye to two seniors. Brown and forward Aaron Jack, who had to retire from basketball earlier this season because of several concussions, will depart at the end of the season.

"We have only one in uniform that we were saying goodbye to," Watkins said. "So that means that the meat and the bulk of our team will be back for us."

"We've already talked about when this season is up, we're going to have maybe one day off, then we'll get right back to the gym to get back to work to get this program where we want to be."

A&M returns to action this Wednesday as it travels to Lincoln, Neb., to take on the Nebraska Cornhuskers.



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

Sophomore guard Bernard King dribbles by a Tech defender during the Aggies' 62-52 win over the Red Raiders.

Women's tennis split weekend Big 12 action

By TRUE BROWN
The Battalion

It was an up-and-down weekend for the Texas A&M women's tennis team, as they split a pair of Big 12 matchups against Oklahoma State University and the University of Nebraska.

Friday, the No. 29 Aggies (7-1, 1-1 in Big 12) were upset by the 30th-ranked Cowgirls from Oklahoma State, 4-2. OSU, a team the Aggies beat on the road last year, ended a seven-match losing streak to A&M.

The Aggies started off strong by winning two of three doubles

The Aggies lost in singles at No. 1, 2, 3, and 5, blowing leads in two of those.

"This was a tough loss," said A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke. "It wasn't so much that we played worse, but they played better. We were not able to adjust."

The Aggies responded from Friday's upset by flying past Nebraska Sunday, 6-1.

Nebraska (7-2, 0-2) was playing its second match in as many days after coming up just short of No. 5 University of Texas Saturday.

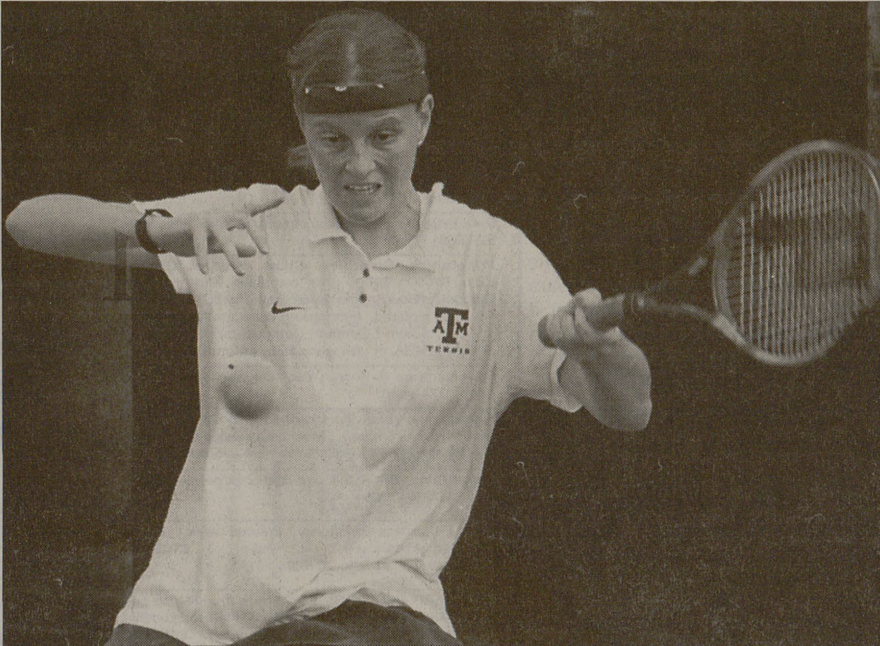
After falling behind early in all three doubles contests, A&M rallied to sweep the Huskers and take an early lead.

The No. 10 doubles team of freshman Jessica Roland and sophomore Ashley Hedberg fell behind 3-0 quickly in their match, but they stormed back thanks to a combination of strong serves by Hedberg and brilliant net play by Roland to win, 9-7.

Senior Eva Marcial teamed with junior Leah Killen to edge out Amy Frisch and Ndali Ijomah, 8-6.

"Overall I think the doubles went really well," Marcial said. "We came out solid and were able to adjust and find ways to beat them."

The Aggies have not lost the doubles point through their first eight contests.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Junior Martina Nedorostova and the Texas A&M women's tennis team took on Oklahoma State and Nebraska this

weekend. The Aggies were defeated by the Cowgirls, but rebounded against Nebraska with a 6-1 victory.

A&M jumped to a 2-0 lead just 45 minutes into singles play, as Terburgh overpowered Rose Ketmayura, 6-4, 6-1, at No. 4.

Hedberg put the Aggies up 3-0 just 15 minutes later, earning a straight-set win in her match at No. 6.

The win was sealed at No. 1 by sophomore Olivia Karlikova, who was forced to overcome some serving jitters early in the match.

Karlikova used a strong backhand to come from two games behind in the first set en route to a convincing 6-4, 6-2 win.

Junior Martina Nedorostova fol-

lowed suit by ending her three-match losing streak, posting a win in a very close match with Ijomah, 7-6, 6-4.

Freshman Roberta Spencer also claimed a victory, rolling to a straight-set win.

Nebraska's lone point in the match up came No. 2, where Roland struggled to find a rhythm and lost to Katarina Boland.

"I was very proud of the girls today," Kleinecke said. "We were able to adjust all afternoon. The better (Nebraska) played, the better we played."

Sports in Brief

Ags fall to No. 9 Iowa State, 82-61

Senior forward Jaynetta Saunders scored 29 points to break the single-season scoring record in the Texas A&M women's basketball team's 82-61 loss to the No. 9 Iowa State Cyclones.

Saunders' performance was not enough to overcome the Cyclones' eight 3-pointers, as the Aggies suffered their ninth-straight conference loss.

The Cyclones were lead by junior center Angie Welle who had 17 points and 12 rebounds on the night.

A&M will finish out the regular season when they take on the Kansas Wildcats at Reed on Wednesday. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.

Softball squad gets pair of wins

The No. 21 Texas A&M softball team defeated Auburn and Cal Poly on Friday to open up the first day of the UCSB/Easton Invitational.

Against Auburn, the Aggies took an early 2-0 lead on the Tigers, and the Aggies would hang on to win 4-1, with the help of a save by freshman pitcher Jessica Stapler.

Sophomore catcher Selena Collins hit a three-run home run in the bottom of the eighth to give A&M a 5-3 victory, increasing its winning streak to six games.

Saturday's action was cancelled because of heavy rain in the area.

Aggies tracksters take 2nd, sixth

Texas A&M's men's track team placed second in the Big 12 this weekend the gold medal performances of seniors Bashir Ramzy, Travis McAshan and junior Brandon Evans, while the women placed sixth behind Melissa Gulli's school-record breaking run.

Ramzy won his second consecutive Big 12 championship in the triple jump with a leap of 52-8. He also finished third in the long jump and sixth in the 60-meter hurdles. McAshan missed a school record by just four-tenths of a second in his championship 600-meter run. Evans broke the Big 12 record in his 200-meter dash, as well as placing third in the triple jump.

Senior Christina Ohaeri placed fourth in the 60-meter hurdles, and Robyn Burkhardt placed seventh in the high jump. Andrea Bookout finished sixth in the 1000-yard dash.

Women sixth at Midwest Classic

Freshman Mira Bendevis shot a freshman record two-under-par 70, in the final round of play at the Midwest Classic Sunday to land the team in sixth place.

Bendevis finished third in the individual standings, trailing the leader by five strokes.

The Aggies struggled the first two rounds with scores of 318 and 315 and were in ninth place going into the final round.

The Oklahoma State Cowgirls shot a 906 to win the team title.