

Ags offense sputters in series loss to BU

By Doug Fuentes
THE BATTALION

WACO — After defeating Baylor on Friday night at Olsen Field, the Texas A&M baseball team needed only one win at Baylor Ballpark to come away with a series win over the Bears.

However, the No. 16 Aggies were missing one key component of winning — offense. No. 15 Baylor shut them down on Sunday, 4-2, to take the series and leap from the Aggies in the Big 12 standings.

A&M lost by a combination of an anemic offense, one big inning by the Baylor offense and superb pitching by the Bears' Justin Taylor.

Taylor (7-1) pitched seven innings, allowing only three hits and striking out seven.

"Our offense didn't get going," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "You can credit that to Taylor. He threw very well. He got the breaking pitch in there and it became a problem for us."

"Warpinski threw well. They had one good inning, but that was it. He held them at bay. I was pleased we came back and got ourselves in position to win. We got the tying run to the plate but weren't able to pull it off."

The Aggies (31-15, 10-8 Big 12), left with a bad taste in their mouth after losing in the bottom of the ninth on Saturday, 6-5, and could not come out on Sunday to make a

statement early in the game. Instead, the Bears (29-14, 12-8) came out and staked their claim early, putting up four runs in the third inning.

Paul Witt and Trey Webb started the inning with consecutive singles off A&M starter Ryan Warpinski.

Paul Richmond reached first safely on a bunt, driving in Witt and leaving runners on first and second with no outs. Chris Durbin supplied the big blast, as his triple to right center field plated Richmond and Webb.

Ross Bennett, who was the Aggies' nemesis in the games in Waco, capped the scoring as his sacrifice fly plated Durbin to give the Bears a 4-0 lead.

The Baylor hitters came up big in the third as three of their five hits in the inning came with two strikes.

"That was key," said Baylor head coach Steve Smith. "We practice hitting with two strikes all the time just like they do. It paid off for us and was the difference."

"Baylor did a great job of hitting with two strikes and hitting the ball up the middle and to the opposite side when they got themselves behind in the count," Johnson said.

Warpinski (2-3) settled down after the third, but still was saddled with the loss. He gave up four runs on nine hits in 6 2/3 innings of work.

The Aggies mounted a

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Aggies fall short against Bears

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The No. 7 Baylor Bears took the drama out of the Big 12 race on Saturday with their 4-3 victory over the No. 17 Texas A&M men's tennis team at the Varsity Tennis Center, to claim the outright regular season title while handing A&M its first conference loss at home since 1999.

The Aggies (18-5, 5-2 in Big 12) entered the match with an opportunity to earn a share of the conference title with a victory that would have given the Aggies, Bears and the University of Texas Longhorns the co-championship.

However, after starting in the hole by losing the doubles point, the Aggies were unable to win four of six singles matches and left the Tennis Center in third place in the conference.

"Doubles has not been what I would consider our strong suit this year," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "When you're playing a team as good as they are, it is always tough to go in the hole and have to win four singles matches."

The singles effort was looking up for the Aggies as they claimed wins in the first set at three courts and freshman Lester Cook rallied back from a 4-1 deficit to bring his set into a tie-breaker.

Cook, who faced tie-breakers in both of his sets against Oklahoma State on Thursday, took the 5-2 lead with the support of 675 fans in attendance, but Baylor's 22 year-old sophomore Markus Hornung rallied for five consecutive points to claim the first set.

Aggie sophomore Khaled El Dorry put the Aggies on the board with his 6-1, 6-2 win at court No. 6 before senior Keith From, who has been battling injury for the past two weeks, lost on court No. 2 to Baylor's Zoltan Papp, who is No. 42 in the nation.

"We just don't have the depth that we've had in past years because our team hasn't been 100 percent healthy all year," Cass said. "Keith was probably at about 60 percent out there today. He's a senior and wanted to play, so I felt like I owed the opportunity to him."

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION
A&M freshman Ante Matijevic hits a forehand during his match against Baylor on Saturday at the Varsity Tennis Center.

Women's tennis team rolls over KU

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

The Aggie women netters entered the weekend looking to rebound from their loss to Texas and set up a possible rematch in the Big 12 tournament finals.

The Aggies bounced back strong, knocking off the Kansas Jayhawks who entered their weekend trip to the Lone Star State with a perfect 9-0 record in Big 12 play.

Kansas, however, left Texas with two losses, one from the Aggies and one from the Longhorns, setting up a possible rematch between A&M and Texas in

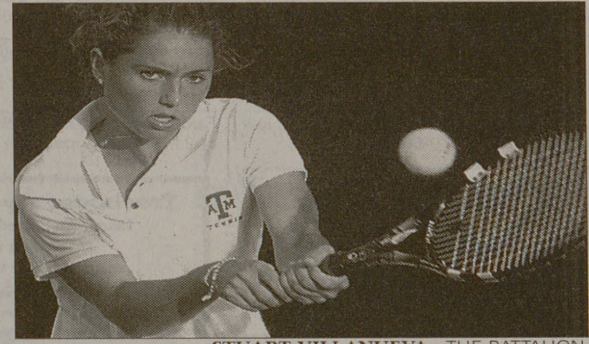
the Big 12 tournament title match.

"This was a very hard fought match," said Aggie head coach Bobby Kleinecke. "I was proud of the fight and the tenacity that the girls showed. We went out there and did whatever it took to win."

The win also set a new school record for wins in a season improving the Aggies record to 21-4 overall and matching the school-best 9-2 conference record.

"The girls were excited about [setting the new record]," Kleinecke said. "We set that goal a long time ago. I am

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION
A&M sophomore Roberta Spencer hits a forehand during her match on Friday at the Varsity Tennis Center.

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