

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Aggies complete shutout of Sam Houston

Staff & Wire
THE BATTALION

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Matt Alexander scored two runs and had two RBIs to lead Texas A&M to an 8-0 shutout victory over Sam Houston State Tuesday afternoon.

The Aggies visited Sam Houston's Holleman Field after posting a 3-1 record last week, including a trip to the Minute Maid Park College Classic in Houston. The Aggies' only loss during the week came at the hands of nationally ranked Rice University.

The Bearkats entered the game with a 4-3 record under new Head Coach Chris Rupp. Rupp is a former A&M baseball player and was an assistant coach at Rice before assuming his current role with Sam Houston.

A&M first took the lead in the game in the third inning. The Aggies scored three runs in the inning, including two runs off a double into right field from junior infielder Matt Alexander. Alexander later scored on a sacrifice from junior outfielder Cory Patton.

The run surge continued in the fourth inning thanks to a two-out single from A&M freshman infielder Cliff Pennington. Each of the Aggies' first four runs came off Bearkats' pitcher Caleb Rogers (0-1). Rogers struck out three in the losing effort.

Sam Houston reliever Dustin Craig surrendered four runs in the bottom of the ninth after the game was out of hand. The Aggies' final four runs were partly due to a Sam Houston error and two walks given up by Craig.

Both Patton and junior outfielder Scott

Beerer extended their hitting streaks to five games with ninth-inning singles.

A&M junior pitcher Brian Finch (1-1) picked up the win for the Aggies. He struck out four batters and allowed only four hits during his stead. Freshman relief pitcher Dan Donaldson pitched the last three innings and had three strike outs.

The win upped the Aggies' record to 4-1, while Sam Houston fell to 4-4 for the season.

Tuesday's game marked the first time Sam Houston had been blanked by the Aggies since the 1993 season.

Following the game, A&M sophomore pitcher Logan Kensing joined Kansas sophomore third baseman Travis Metcalf in receiving Big 12 Honors for the week. Kensing was named Phillips 66 Big 12 Pitcher of the Week, while

Metcalf was named conference Player of the Week.

Kensing was victorious on two occasions last week. He first fought off Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in the ninth inning of the Aggies' season opener. Kensing allowed zero runs on only one hit in a relief role, before a late two-run rally gave the Aggies the win.

Kensing's second victory came in the College Classic against the nationally ranked Houston Cougars. The pitcher gave up seven hits and only two runs in eight innings of work. The game versus Houston was the first start of Kensing's career at A&M.

Texas A&M will return home on Friday to face University of California-Los Angeles. at the Domino's Pizza Aggie baseball Classic at Olsen Field. The opening pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Fans should attend A&M, ISU matchup



Those who missed the game missed the Aggies' 73-71 win over No. 21 Missouri and a chance to storm the court with the Reed Rowdies and their cult-like following of Aggie basketball.

The win also created instant attention for the Aggies (12-9, 4-6 Big 12) who have done well against top teams this season. The Aggies have kept things close but were unable to close out games on the road against Oklahoma and at home against Texas, two teams that will be in the hunt for the Final Four this year.

However, following their win over Missouri, the Aggies have begun to appear on ESPN.com's list of "bubble teams" heading into the end of the season, meaning they are one of the teams that could

make the NCAA tournament with a couple of big wins. The first of those must come against Iowa State.

The Cyclones are 12-9 overall, same as the Aggies, but in Big 12 Conference play Iowa State has struggled to a 2-8 record.

"Every game we are play-



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M guard Antoine Wright drives past a Missouri defender.

ing for something," said A&M Head Coach Melvin Watkins. "In the past we haven't been. I hope our students understand we need their support."

Senior guard Bernard King said that he hopes the students

See **Basketball** on page

Ags plan to visit Iowa

By Michael Crow
THE BATTALION

When the Texas A&M women's basketball team visits Iowa State University Wednesday, two lagging programs will struggle with equal vigor for some semblance of relief. The Aggies (10-12, 3-8 Big 12) and Cyclones (9-13, 4-7 Big 12) will share more in common than a venue, as each team has had to deal with incredible adversity while trying hard to stay afloat in Big 12 Conference play.

Many of A&M's problems this season have stemmed from untimely injuries to key players. Junior forward Alaina Johnson retired early in the preseason due to a back problem. At present, juniors Toccara Williams and Lynn Classen and sophomore Sabrina Mitchell will all need medical attention for various injuries at season's end.

"With all the adversity we've

gone through, our kids are still playing," said A&M Head Coach Peggie Gillom. "And they're trying to go on. They're doing everything they can, and we're just playing with what we have."

Even while hindered by an ankle injury, Williams has been a constant for Gillom in conference play at the guard position. In the Aggies' last outing, Williams posted a double-double, contributing 10 points and 10 rebounds in a home win against Nebraska. In doing so, Williams became only the second women's player in Big 12 history to tally 800 points, 500 assists and 300 steals in a career. While leading A&M in points, Williams' national lead in steals among active players has drawn the most attention.

"(Defense) is my main focus," Williams said. "I'm all about defense."

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CAMPUS
calendar

Wednesday

Feb. 19
onio Sacre, bilingual storyteller and performance artist, will present three presentations at the Spring 2003 student-residence program. Sacre will hold a writing workshop from 4 to 4 p.m. and will deliver a selling performance at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required for the workshops. Limited to 60 participants. For more information call Jane at 862-3070.

Friday

Feb. 21
Hillel Foundation will be sponsoring Erev Shabbat Services at the Hillel Building on Friday nights at 8 p.m.

Saturday

Feb. 22
Agiess Helping Students & Pets will be having the first Aggieland Dog and Cat Show at the Pearce Pavilion at 11 a.m. For more information call at 696-2217.

Monday

Feb. 24
Alpha Chi Omega Zeta Nu Chapter will kick off its annual Chi Omega Hugs and Kisses Children of Domestic Violence Diaper Drive starting Feb. 28 at the Chi Omega House located at 505 Olympia Way. All diapers will be delivered to the Home on March 1. For information, call Beth at 696-8501.

Tuesday

Feb. 25
An Buddhist monks from the Loseling Monastery will present two programs titled "The Arts of Tibet" during National Week. The Tibetan monks will construct a sand painting in the Student Center from Feb. 25 - 28. Admission is free. Multiphonic singers from the Loseling Monastery will perform Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 at the Rudder. For more information call Andy Huang at 845-1515.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Weekly editor signs year contract

YORK (AP) — Bonnie Fuller, who was brought in as editor of Us Weekly to revive the glossy celebrity magazine, has signed a new year contract.

of the deal weren't disclosed, a source familiar with the contract, speaking to The New York Press on condition of anonymity, said Fuller would get \$1 million a year.

and Us Weekly's owner, Time Warner, who also owns the Stone magazine, reached a deal Friday, spokesman said Tuesday.

ago, Us Weekly's circulation lagged behind arch rival Entertainment Weekly, despite investing millions in the effort to bring it to a weekly format.

time, Us had a total circulation of 929,000 versus 3.7 million, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

the end of June 2002, Us circulation increased to 3.7 million, whereas People's slightly but still leads the margin at 3.6 million, according to a strategy tracking firm said. Number of advertising spots increased 8 percent over the year under Fuller's leadership, according to officials at Time Warner.

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