

Transfers

Continued from page 5

year in attendance behind LSU, Mississippi State and Alabama.

"We had 50 to 100 people at our games (at Blinn)," Ruggiano said. "The crowd here is unbelievable."

Despite the larger crowds and the better pitching, Patton and Ruggiano have already made large contributions to the Aggie squad this year.

Both were among the team leaders heading into Monday night's doubleheader in home runs, RBIs

and batting average.

Among the players with at least 25 at bats, Ruggiano leads the team with a .333 batting average, and is second on the team behind Patton in hits with 11.

Patton leads the team with three home runs, 12 hits, 11 RBIs, 23 total bases and a slugging percentage of .590.

Patton and Ruggiano will be key players this year for the Aggies if the team hopes to get back into the playoffs for the first time since their College World Series appearance in the 1999 season.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Williams begins clearing up Astros' lineup status

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Five days before their first spring training game in the Grapefruit League, the Houston Astros lineup is taking shape.

Team Manager Jimmy Williams has named center fielder Craig Biggio as the likely lead-off hitter while shortstop Julio Lugo should be batting second. Williams said first baseman Jeff Bagwell probably

will have the third spot in the lineup, while outfielder Lance Berkman will bat clean-up followed by newly acquired second baseman Jeff Kent batting in the fifth position.

Williams has even named Roy Oswalt the starting pitcher for the Astros' opening day game at Minute Maid Park in Houston on April 1 against the Colorado Rockies.

Williams said he can see many players filling leadership roles this year.

"We're not looking for a speaker of the

house here. We're looking for a daily leader. Maybe (pitcher Wade) Miller can lead today and Oswalt tomorrow. Biggio can lead the next day and Bagwell the day after that. They have enough to think about; they have enough to do, they have enough to focus on, much less being a leader.

"I think that the best way to lead is to have the team lead and look for different leaders on a daily basis," Williams said.

Houston has its first pre-season game Saturday against the New York Yankees.

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