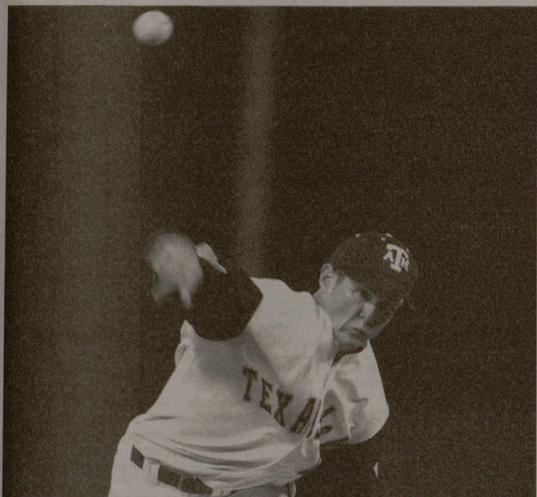


SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Baseball team overcomes UTSA surge for win



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M pitcher **Matt Farnum** hurls a fastball against UTSA on Tuesday. Farnum allowed only three hits during seven scoreless innings pitched.

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

After four innings of shutout baseball which looked like a pitcher's duel in the making, the Aggie baseball team lit up the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth with five runs on three hits.

That was more than enough run support for junior right-hander Matt Farnum, who shut down the University of Texas — San Antonio (4-8) for seven innings and led the Aggies (11-4) to an 8-5 win in front of 3,790 fans at Olsen Field Tuesday night.

Farnum said he was aware of the strong performance that UTSA's senior left-hander Trey Rice began the game with but stayed focused on his game.

"I don't pitch based on what the other guy is doing," Farnum said. "I just try to go out there and shut them down."

UTSA Head Coach Sherman Corbett, who played for the Aggies in 1982-84, said that Farnum was the key for the Aggies.

"(A&M) did a good job of mixing it up on us at the plate," Corbett said. "(Farnum) did a great job of getting his breaking pitches over the plate and that kept us off balance. He pitched a great ballgame."

Farnum did not walk a batter and struck out four in his seven-inning shutout. With the win Farnum improves to 3-0 and his ERA is now 0.92 for the season after the shutout.

Farnum said he did not worry about getting run support from his teammates.

"I knew we would score some runs. When they come is not up to me," Farnum said.

After four silent innings, the Aggie offense finally came alive.

Junior center fielder Justin Ruggiano started the five-run

offensive explosion with a one-out single up the middle to center field. An RBI single by junior infielder Scott Beerer was followed by two walks and a hit batter with the bases loaded.

Junior catcher Justin Pouk scored from third on a wild pitch by Rice and freshman third baseman Cliff Pennington finished off the inning with a two-run single. The Aggies scored four runs in the inning with two outs before Pennington was picked off at first base.

Pennington would redeem himself in his next at bat in the bottom of the seventh with a shot over the right-center field wall for a two-run home run, his first home run as an Aggie, giving the freshman four RBI in the game.

"I hit it well but the wind carried it out of here," Pennington said. "It felt really good (to hit it at Olsen). It was a great feeling and it was hard to keep a smile off my face."

The Aggies would add another run in the sixth inning after back to back triples from junior Cory Patton and Ruggiano.

The Roadrunners didn't go down without a fight. UTSA rallied against A&M's junior right-hander Brian Finch who came in for Farnum in the eighth inning.

Finch gave up five runs on four hits in the inning as UTSA batted around.

UTSA senior leftfielder Cory Horton led the way for the Roadrunners in the eighth with two RBI.

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson said he thought Finch was throwing the ball well and that UTSA was just getting good hits off of him.

The Aggies improved to 7-1 at Olsen Field this season.

A&M will travel to Round Rock today to face Southwest Texas State at Dell Diamond. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Aggies host BU in home finale Tennis team fights off TCU

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

Tonight's men's basketball game against the Baylor Bears will be the last game at Reed Arena for this year's senior class, barring a dramatic finish that results in the Aggies hosting a game for the National Invitational Tournament. This year's seniors, including guards Bernard King and Bradley Jackson, and forwards Keith Bean and Brian Brookhart, have led the 2002-03 Aggies to their best finish since they've been at A&M and need one more win to assure them their first winning season in nine years.

A&M Head Coach Melvin Watkins said A&M has plenty of motivation for Wednesday night's game.

"We still feel like we're playing for something and we are," he said. "We are playing for seeds in the (Big 12) conference tournament and it's the last home game for the seniors that have been in our program for a while."

A&M and Baylor are entering the match up tonight coming off tough losses at home and riding losing streaks.

In the first meeting between these two teams this year, the Bears overcame a 32-27 A&M lead at the half and walked away with a 77-69

win in Waco.

Sophomore guard John Lucas led the Bears with 24 points and six assists while sophomore forward Lawrence Roberts added another 23 points and 10 rebounds.

King led the Aggies with 17 points and eight rebounds in the losing effort.

"They did a much better job in the second half of spreading the floor and Roberts really hurt us down low," Watkins said. "There are some adjustments we need to make and we feel we can make them."

Lucky for the Aggies, this game is at home, where they are 9-4 this year.

See **Baylor** on page 7

By Blake Kimzey
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's tennis team wrapped up its six-match home stand Tuesday with a 4-3 victory against Texas Christian University. With the confidence of a lengthy win streak at home under its belt, A&M Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke said his team is ready to hit the rest of the season with full force.

"Now we need to make a push," Kleinecke said. "This match gives us an opportunity to do that, to move up and make a statement nationwide that we are a team to watch out for."

It took all they had, though, to close out the Lady Horn Frogs before embarking on a three game road trip. The Aggies went into singles play by securing the doubles point with victories at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles, which put the pressure on TCU.

After being named co-player of the week, A&M freshman Nicki Mechem came out swinging. Mechem was the first Aggie netter to put A&M on the board at No. 5 singles by making quick work of TCU's Ivonne Andrade 6-1, 6-3.

After going down 2-0 in the match, TCU battled back with two consecutive victories to level the playing field by deadlocking the

See **Tennis** on page 7

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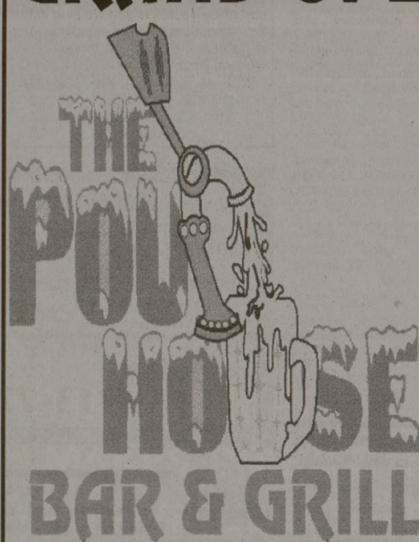


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