

# Aggie baseball goes for eight in a row

By Troy Miller  
THE BATTALION

In winning its first seven games of 2004, the Texas A&M baseball team has its offense to thank.

So far, the No. 21 Aggie lineup has hit at a .367 clip as a team this season. Individually, sophomore shortstop Cliff Pennington hit .643 in the Aggies' three-game series sweep of South Alabama.

When the Aggies (7-0) face the University of Texas-San Antonio (4-3) at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Olsen Field, the Roadrunners better have a few defensive gems hidden up their sleeves to keep the Aggies from making them win No. 8.

"No one's going to hold our offense down for nine innings," said A&M redshirt freshman pitcher Jason Meyer. "We're pretty confident, and our pitchers definitely enjoy our offense."

A&M has been battering opposing pitchers spraying 94 hits so far this season resulting in 69 runs. Aggie opposition has managed only 15 runs through A&M's seven games.

The Aggies haven't played a weak schedule either. A&M always has trouble at Sam Houston State, where A&M has gone 6-6 since 1990. This season, the Aggies won there, 15-1.

"Personally, I always struggle against (Sam Houston State)," said A&M sophomore first baseman Coby Mavroulis. "I think I'm like one-for-11 the two times I've ever played at their field. Every week we move on and we're going to play more and more competition."

South Alabama made it to the Tallahassee Regional final of the NCAA tournament last season. It was the team's ninth-straight appearance in the NCAA tournament.

The Jaguars, the coaches' preseason pick for Sun Belt conference champion, lost to



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Texas A&M second baseman Erik Schindewolf bats in the second game of the Aggies' three-game series with the University of South Alabama. The Aggies won all three games and will face the University of Texas-San Antonio at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Olsen Field.

of the Aggies 13-3, 8-0 and 4-3.

"(South Alabama's) a good ball club," said Pennington, who leads the Aggie offense with a .500 batting average. "They're a young team from what we saw, and they had some good arms come out of the bullpen."

The Aggie lineup is basically intact from the 2003 A&M squad that finished the season batting .303 as a team. Only designated hitter Jordy Mitchell and outfielder Scott Beerer are no longer with the Aggies - Mitchell graduated while Beerer moved on to the minor leagues.

Now with the reemergence

of outfielder/designated hitter Justin Ruggiano, who is back in the lineup after injuries plagued him throughout the summer and fall, the Aggies have gotten a big gun back in the lineup.

Mavroulis, who sat out last season with a back injury, is back in the lineup, hitting cleanup. Mavroulis said he hopes to hit like he did in 2002, his freshman season, in which he hit .252 with 17 RBIs.

"I've been ready to play for the last year-and-a-half," Mavroulis said. "I missed a good year last year, so I want to get in and get into a groove."

Mavroulis has hit .344 with a home run and six RBIs through

A&M's first seven games.

The anchor of the Aggie lineup is senior outfielder Cory Patton who threatens to do something big every time he steps into the batter's box.

The Aggie lineup can legitimately be called one of the best in college baseball from top to bottom. They are firing on all cylinders - and it's only February.

That doesn't bode well for UTSA as it limps into College Station after a 6-3 defeat to Army. Roadrunner pitching has given up 43 runs through seven games this season.

That figure suggests that the Aggie offense should have a field day against Roadrunner pitching.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Aggies win second straight Big 12 match

The Texas A&M men's tennis team subjected the University of Colorado to its third consecutive loss Monday, 5-2, in a pressurized dome in Boulder, Colo. The No. 9 Aggies, leading 5-0, decided to default the remaining two matches.

"We defaulted five and six because we had won the match and because we've been on the road for something like 19 of the last 30 days," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "We've been right to left, north to south, and had a 9:00 flight from Denver. I thought it was time to get off the road and get back to class."

A&M freshmen Brett Joelson and Marvin Rolle were tied with their opponents, 4-4 and 1-1, respectively, when Cass decided to default their matches.

The Aggies (9-4, 2-0 Big 12) swept the doubles point and won the first four singles matches, dropping only one set to Colorado (4-3, 0-2).

A&M will next take to the court at 12 p.m. Saturday against the University of Southeastern Louisiana at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center.

## YCT

Continued from page 1

their opinion on how they have overcome institutionalized discrimination and to discuss the ethical implications of racial preference in admissions policies.

Funding for the scholarships, McCaig said, is provided by anonymous alumni donors.

"We can't guarantee that it will continue," he said. "The future of the scholarship is solely based on future funding."

Nick Anthis, president of the Aggie Democrats, said YCT's actions will only hurt A&M's image more.

"A&M is working hard to show this is a non-hostile environment," he said. "I think this is something that would work against that."

Anthis said he believes conservatives in the 1960s supported issues on racial preference, and now they seem to have a problem with race-based policies.

"Racism is strong in our society," he said. "We still have a long way to go."

Harris Berger, associate professor of music and performing arts and a member of Faculty Committed to an Inclusive Campus, said affirmative action is a useful tool.

"Affirmative action has been accepted by the United States as a way to achieve diversity," he said. "The University announced it will not use race in considering a student for admission and we applaud it."

Anthis said there are racial inequalities in areas such as economic status.

"If an African-American applied for a job, just based on his name he would have a 50 percent less chance of getting an interview," he said. "If people understood affirmative action they would support it."

## Bonfire

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"Any help we can give is a service."

Kirkpatrick said the land owner will decide what happens to the cleared wood, but the most likely uses will be fence posts for the land owner and wood being split for sale.

Kirkpatrick said former students such as himself will take part in land clearing, and he looks forward to the interaction with younger students - especially passing on tales of Bonfire to a new generation while they work.

"A lot of former students said they want to come back and take part in it," Kirkpatrick said.

**"A lot of former students said they want to come back and take part in it."**

— Ryan Kirkpatrick  
Bonfire Coalition chair

He said the most important aspect of land clearing will be showing cut can be done safely.

"The reason (people) teach history is to learn mistakes of past," Kirkpatrick said. "We can't let our mistakes of the past be repeated."

Kirkpatrick said the drinking that went on during the previous Aggie Bonfires was a mistake he hopes to learn from. "A lot of people in Bonfire were out there getting drunk," Kirkpatrick said. "That's not a good idea on a construction site."

King said land clearing will be limited to the spring semester so it won't mimic cut or interfere with any off-campus bonfires.

"We are not trying to compete with anybody," King said.

King said the official position of Bonfire Coalition for Students is not to support off-campus bonfire, but respect the effort, such as those by the unsanctioned Student Bonfire, of building a bonfire in a safe manner.

A representative from Student Bonfire said he was not aware of the land clearing plans and cannot issue a statement at this time.

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