

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Aggies fall to national champion Rice

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION

The No. 10 Texas A&M baseball team dug themselves into a hole Tuesday night at Olsen Field, and didn't escape as No. 6 Rice held on to win 15-10.

A&M beat themselves early on, allowing Rice to run up the score to 14-0 by the middle of the fifth inning. The Aggies tried to stir up some "Olsen Magic" in the late innings, but were without a miracle to overcome such a large deficit against the defending national champions.

"You get 14 to two and it kind of gets away from you," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "It just got where it was contagious for one reason or another, and we end up throwing something like 227 pitches on the ballgame. Then we had hit batsmen and bases on balls, 12 of those."

For the most part, the Aggies couldn't keep a lid on their mistakes, and the Owls capitalized.

The Aggies committed four errors, walked bottom of the order hitters and missed out on key double play opportunities in the third and fourth innings.

The Owls responded to the Aggies' mistake with patient and timely hitting, which lead to more runs than A&M could overcome.

Already leading 1-0 off of an

unearned run, the Owls exploded in the third with back-to-back five-run innings.

An error by A&M sophomore short-stop Cliff Pennington, already his 13th of the season, came back to haunt the Aggies in the third. Pennington was trying to turn a double play, but ended up dropping the ball, leaving runners on first and second with no outs.

Owls' junior first baseman Adam Rodgers responded with a three-run home run to left field, knocking A&M freshman pitcher Doug Frame out of the game. Frame would be the first of six pitchers used by the Aggies on Tuesday night.

The damage didn't stop there as the Owls scored two more runs after what could have been the second and third outs, if not for Pennington's error.

A mix of walks and poor fielding prevented the Aggies from stopping the pain, as the Owls' lead swelled to 14-2 by the middle of the fifth.

"We didn't play good defense and I don't know why," Johnson said.

The Aggie offense, came alive in the bottom of the fifth, scoring four runs off three hits.

The Aggie surge would prove to be too little as Rice freshman relief-pitcher Adam Hale went in and quieted the



Texas A&M sophomore second baseman Cliff Pennington (right) drops the ball while Rice Owls base runner junior Paul Jannish slides into second base during the third inning Tuesday night.

JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Aggie bats. Hale allowed an inherited runner to score, but no more, limiting the Aggies to two hits over two and two-thirds innings.

The Aggies made one last gasp for air in the eighth, scoring four runs, but it wouldn't be enough. The order was too tall.

"That happens every year, every team has an embarrassing loss," Johnson said. "You just hate to do it in front of a packed house on a beautiful night."

A&M football players suspended, must take awareness classes

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Two Texas A&M players have been suspended indefinitely after they were charged with alcohol-related offenses and accused of shouting racial slurs.

A&M head coach Dennis Franchione said the team will consider allowing center Geoff Hangartner and offensive lineman Cole Smith to return after they attend a multicultural course, perform 24 hours of community service and complete an alcohol awareness program.

"These young men have to meet several criteria to be considered back on the squad," Franchione said in a statement. "First and foremost, they had to address their actions in front of their teammates."

Hangartner has denied making racial slurs. "Geoff did not make any racial slur and finds that kind of language abhorrent," said attorney Jim James.

Smith couldn't immediately be reached by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

A&M spokesman Alan Cannon told the AP on Tuesday that the players met with teammates Monday and were informed of their suspension.

Last week, Hangartner, a junior, was charged with driving while intoxicated, and Smith, a sophomore, was cited with public intoxication.

Employees at a fast-food restaurant called police March 15 to report that two white men in the drive-through were shouting racial slurs at black passengers in a car in front of them, according to court documents obtained by The Eagle.

Franchione told the newspaper he is pleased with how his team — which has seen nine members arrested since September — has handled the situation. He said it would be a joint decision by the coaching staff and the team on whether to

accept the players back. "Adversity only does one of two things," Franchione said. "It drives you further apart or it drives you closer, and in this situation, I think it will drive everybody on this team closer."

AGGIES IN TROUBLE '04

The following members of the Aggie football team have been arrested during Spring 2004:

PLAYER	POSITION	CLASS	CHARGED WITH	DATE CHARGED
* Cody Scates	* Punter	* Senior	* Malicious mischief	* Jan. 20
* Quentin Gardner	* D-back	* Recruit in Tyler	* Robbery	* Attempted theft
Todd Pegram	* Kicker	* Sophomore	* Evading arrest	* MIP
Geoff Hangartner	* Center	* Junior	* DWI	* March 15
Cole Smith	* OL	* Sophomore	* Public intoxication	* March 15

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BRIDGING THE GAPS
The Future of the EU-U.S. Relations
March 26, 2004
Annenberg Presidential Conference Center
George Bush Presidential Library Complex

Symposium Panel Sessions
Open to the Public and Free of Charge

10:30 – 11:45 am - Panel I

"Identities in Conflict: Does the EU Foster a European Identity, or Reinforce a Nationalist Perspective Among European Youth?"
International Center World Room, Room 1017

10:30 – 11:45 am - Panel II

"Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Food Safety Issues"
Presidential Conference Center, Rooms 1011, 1011A

1:30 – 2:30 pm - Panel III

"International Criminal Court"
Presidential Conference Center, Rooms 1011, 1011A

2:45 – 4:00 pm - Panel IV

"Global Security Issues"
Presidential Conference Center, Rooms 1011, 1011A

4:15 – 5:00 pm - Concluding Remarks

Robert A. Bradtke, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Presidential Conference Center, Rooms 1011, 1011A

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