

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Branyon leads Maroon over White

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

yard fade pass to the corner of the end zone. Junior place-kicker Todd Pegram nailed the extra point, putting the Maroon up 7-0.

The Maroon team added seven more points almost two minutes later on a 21-yard pass by Branyon to senior wide receiver Terrence Thomas.

Freshman quarterback Stephen McGee and senior running back Keith Joseph led the White team on 80- and 64-yard scoring drives in the second and fourth quarters, respectively, to even up the score at 14. McGee, who was given play signals by injured junior quarterback Reggie McNeal during the game, finished the day with four completions in 13 pass attempts for 35 yards. McGee said McNeal has given him lots of advice in the 15 practices this spring.

"He's helped me out in a lot



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore quarterback Ty Branyon prepares to throw a fourth quarter touchdown pass to junior wide receiver L'Tydrink Riley during the Maroon and White scrimmage Saturday at Kyle Field. The touchdown would give the Maroon team a 21-17 win. Branyon led the Maroon team by completing 11 passes for 119 yards and three touchdowns.

of areas that coaches sometimes can't," McGee said. "He gives me the quarterback view of how the plays work out on the field."

With the score tied at 14 and just 1:26 left in the fourth quarter, the White team attempted a

risky 56-yard field goal to take the lead. With strong winds at his back, freshman kicker Layne Neumann sent the ball perfectly through the middle of the uprights.

"That caught every coach's

eye to go out there and bang out a 56-yarder in that kind of situation," Franchione said. "It has to be the biggest surprise of the day. It makes us sit up

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Offense leads Aggies to sweep of Texas Tech

Texas A&M senior pitcher Jessica Kapchinski's streak of 53 consecutive innings without allowing an earned run was snapped Saturday at Texas Tech's Rocky Johnson Field as the Lady Raiders scored in the bottom of the sixth inning.

The run didn't help much as A&M (27-16, 10-1 Big 12) still run-ruled Tech (19-29, 1-10), 11-1. The Aggies completed the two-game sweep Sunday with a 12-5 win.

Sophomore right fielder Rocky Spencer led the Aggies to an early 5-0 lead Sunday by hitting two home runs in her first two at-bats. In the first inning, she hit a solo shot. Spencer hit a three-run bomb in the second.

Tech was able to score four runs in the bottom of the third off A&M senior pitcher Lindsey Wilhelmson to bring the Lady Raiders within one run. Kapchinski entered for Wilhelmson and quickly turned the tide, allowing only one run over the final five innings.

A&M used 11 hits to score 12 runs in the largest offensive output for the Aggies this season. Led by Spencer's five hits in seven at-bats with five RBIs, the Aggies scored 23 times over the weekend on 24 hits.

"I thought that our kids really swung the bat well," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "It was an overall great team effort with our hitting throughout the lineup and different people stepping up getting big RBIs for us."

A&M will travel to Stillwater, Okla., Wednesday to face Oklahoma State University in a doubleheader with the first game starting at 5 p.m.

A&M men's tennis defeats Texas in Austin, 5-2

In an important match in the battle for second place in the Big 12 conference, the No. 21 Texas A&M men's tennis team defeated No. 30 University of Texas, 5-2, on Saturday at the Penick-Allison Tennis Center in Austin.

The Longhorns (14-10, 5-2 Big 12) jumped to an early 2-0 advantage by sweeping the doubles point and winning at court No. 3 in singles. The Aggies (19-8, 5-1) then responded by winning five-straight matches in route to victory. The win was only the second ever for the Aggies in Austin.

A&M is now in sole possession of second place as it heads into Saturday's season finale with No. 29 Oklahoma State at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center.

Dawson leads Aggie archers at Texas Shootout

Texas A&M junior Amber Dawson earned a bronze medal after placing third in the compound division at the 2004 Texas Shootout Sunday at A&M's Penberthy Intramural Fields.

Dawson, the top-seeded archer in the tournament, cruised through three rounds before facing 2002 silver medalist Jamie Van Natta in the semifinals. Van Natta, who lost to Dawson in the gold medal match in 2002, beat Dawson, 110-100.

Van Natta once again faltered in the gold medal match as she lost to high school shooter Erika Anshutz, 109-102.

Dawson was the only Aggie to advance past the second round in either the compound or the recurve competitions. A&M senior and world champion Mary Zorn fell in her first match after receiving a bye through the first round. Zorn lost to high school junior Aprilyn Witt, 154-153.

A&M will not compete again until May 14 when they begin the three-day Outdoor Nationals in Mays Landing, N.J.

A&M loses decisive game to Big 12 foe OU

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Parents' Weekend ended on a sour note for some Sunday, as the No. 13 Texas A&M baseball team lost to No. 18 University of Oklahoma, 9-5.

The win gave the Sooners (25-13, 12-3 Big 12) the overall series win after defeating the Aggies (31-11, 7-8 Big 12), 8-7, Saturday keeping them one game behind top-ranked University of Texas for first place in the Big 12.

The Aggies were plagued by unstable pitchers who gave up two home runs, walked nine batters, beamed three more and allowed baserunners on wild pitches or errors.

"We're a real frustrated team right now, and I'm a real frustrated coach," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "I was really disappointed that we got discouraged so easily."

The first inning would be tough on both teams' starting pitchers. A&M senior Justin Moore let six batters come to the plate in his two-thirds inning of work, walking two, hitting one with a pitch and allowing two runs to score. Sooner junior Daniel McCutchen also faced six batters in one-third of an inning, allowing the first three consecutive batters to reach base on a walk, hit-by-pitch and an error. McCutchen gave up a grand slam home run to the next batter he faced, A&M senior outfielder Cory Patton.

"We have some good pitchers out there, but this is the second Sunday in a row where we've struggled on the mound," Johnson said. "We've got to get some guys to step up right now because their confidence level is down."

The fourth inning would be the breakout inning for the Sooners, scoring six runs against the Aggies.

A&M sophomore pitcher Dan Donaldson, who came in for Moore

in the first inning, walked Sooner junior third baseman Brennan Herrera and freshman outfielder Ryan Mottern to start off the inning. On an attempt to keep Mottern close to first base, Donaldson overthrew A&M sophomore first baseman Coby Mavroulis, sending the ball into right field. Herrera scored from second base and Mottern moved up to third base on the error.

To make matters worse for the Aggies, Donaldson hit freshman catcher Josh Stinson in the back on the next pitch.

A&M junior pitcher Kyle Marlatt replaced Donaldson on the mound and experienced problems as well, giving up a grand slam to sophomore shortstop Ryan Rohlinger three batters later, pushing the Sooner lead to 8-4.

The Aggie offense was shut down after the first inning by Sooner senior pitcher Mike Swindell.

Swindell lasted six innings, struck out four and retired the Aggies' order three times during his stint in the game.

"I won't take as much credit as the defense should," Swindell said. "That's been one of our strong parts all year long. Fortunately I was able to last that long and help stabilize the game."

Johnson said the game's woes weren't all due to pitching problems — the offense struggled as well. The Aggie hitters stuck out twice and grounded out twice with runners in scoring position, leaving a total of 10 runners on base.

"The other side of it is that (game problems) are contagious," Johnson said. "The hitters didn't do as good as they could have and left a lot of batters on base."

A&M will take Monday off before travelling to Arlington, Texas, to face the University of Texas-Arlington Tuesday at 6 p.m.

A&M lady netters shut out Kansas State



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior Roberta Spencer hits a forehand during her doubles match Saturday at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center. A&M beat the Wildcats, 7-0.

By Jon Gilbert
THE BATTALION

With so much at stake the next week, the No. 16 Texas A&M women's tennis team may have been looking ahead. Yet, they still knocked off Kansas State University on Saturday, 7-0, setting up a showdown with No. 12 University of Texas for supremacy in the Big 12 on Tuesday.

The Aggies (17-6, 9-0 Big 12) had a fight, but in the end came away with a 7-0 shutout of the Wildcats (5-13, 1-9) on a windy afternoon at the George P. Mitchell Center. The match lasted almost four hours as four singles matches went down to the wire. A&M came out of every one with a win, a tribute to the players' determination and mental toughness, according to A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke.

"Having to win when you're not playing well is a booster for your team," Kleinecke said. "We would like to have easier matches, but the reality of it is that some aren't going to be like that. So, when you can come together and get a win like that it's huge."

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