

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Monday, June 7, 2004

## Aggies look 'super'

### A&M one step closer to College World Series

HOUSTON (AP) — Justin Ruggiano waited until the brink of defeat to ruin Rice's opportunity to defend its national title.

Ruggiano knocked the defending College World Series champs out of the NCAA tournament with a grand slam off Philip Humber in the eighth inning to send Texas A&M past Rice 7-5 Sunday.

"I was swinging for the first pitch fastball," Ruggiano said. "Luckily he gave it to me."

The Aggies (42-20) advance to a best-of-three super regional next weekend against LSU.

The Owls (46-14) lost to Texas Southern 4-3 on Friday night, sending them

to the loser's bracket. They beat Texas A&M 3-1 earlier Sunday to face the rematch.

But the Owls couldn't pull out another victory, making it the first time in four years that Rice had not advanced out of its own NCAA regional at Reckling Park.

"It was a great baseball game," Rice head coach Wayne Graham said. "Texas A&M definitely deserved to win it."

Kyle Nicholson (3-0) got the victory in relief. Humber (13-4) took the loss in relief, giving up five hits and four earned runs in 2 1-3 innings.

Rice (46-14) took a 5-3 lead in the top of the eighth when Matt Cavanaugh and Paul Janish scored on a sin-

gle by Adam Rogers.

But Craig Stinson, John Infante and Travis Bartek all singled for the Aggies to load the bases in the bottom of the eighth. Ruggiano then hit his first pitch from Humber for the grand slam that proved to be the difference.

Rice starter Josh Baker got off to a fast start, retiring the first 10 batters that he faced and the Owls took an early lead when Rogers scored on a sacrifice fly by Clay Reichenbach.

Cliff Pennington, named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, got Texas A&M's first run when he walked and then scored on Austin Boggs' single in the fourth.

"Today was awesome,"

Pennington said. "It feels nice."

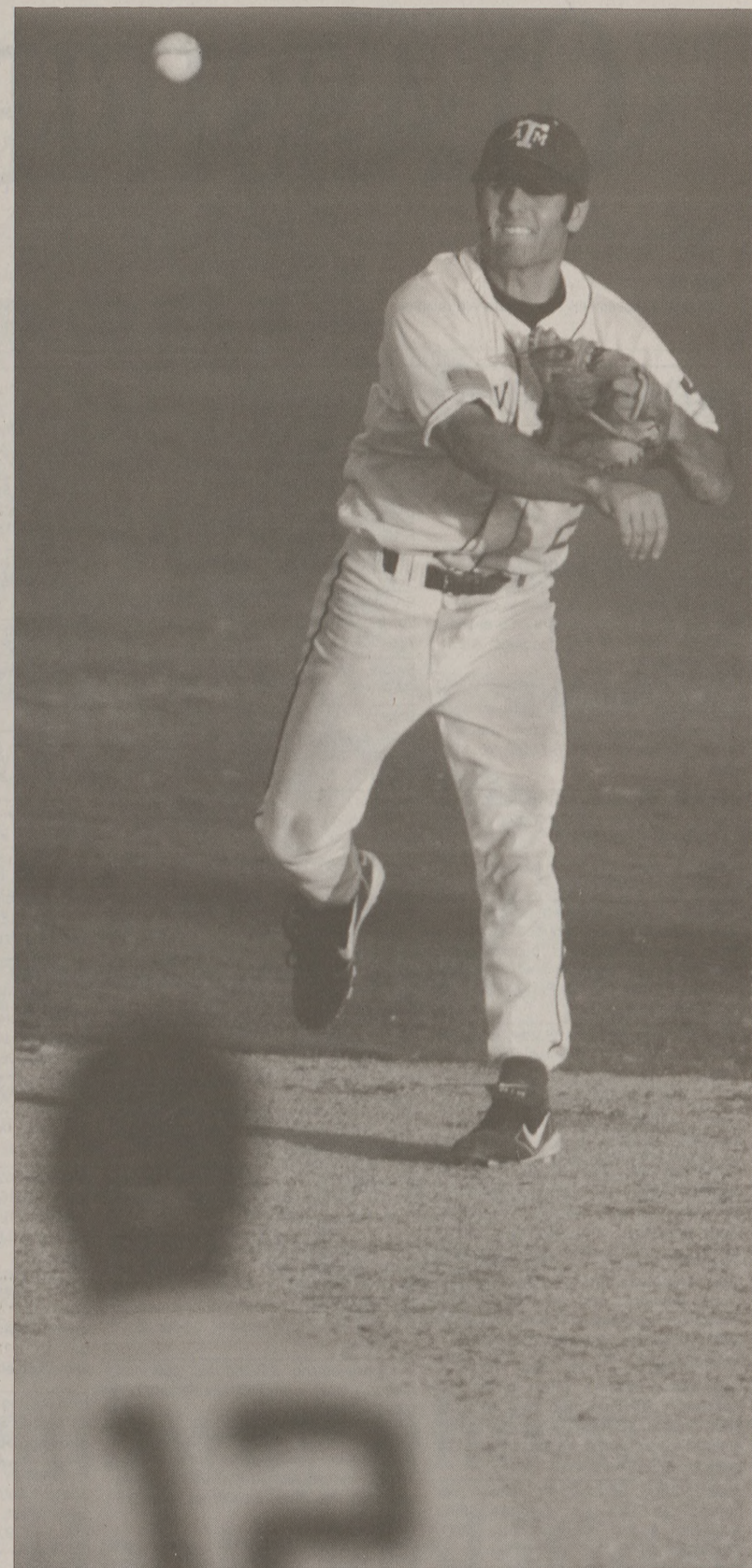
Boggs was forced to leave the game in the sixth inning when he collapsed from dehydration while facing a 2-2 count. Pinch hitter Matt Alexander stepped in and doubled to score Pennington and give the Aggies a 2-1 lead.

"Matt will remember that for a long time and I will to," A&M head coach Mark Johnson said. "It was a big hit."

Coby Mavroulis' sacrifice fly later that inning scored Cory Patton to give the Aggies a 3-1 lead.

Rice's Clay Reichenbach

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BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

A&M secondbaseman Eric Schindewolf makes a throw to first baseman Coby Mavroulis against the Rice Owls. Schindewolf finished Sunday's second game 1-4 at the plate in the 7-5 win.



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Sophomore shortstop Cliff Pennington fields a ground ball Friday night against Lamar University. Pennington earned honors as the tournament's most outstanding player Sunday. Pennington went 8-13 with four RBI's and eight runs scored this weekend.

### NCAA Baseball Super Regional Pairings

Texas vs. Vanderbilt

Florida State vs. Arkansas

Long Beach State vs. Arizona

Georgia vs. Georgia Tech

South Carolina vs. Winner of East Carolina Regional

Tulane vs. Cal State Fullerton

Texas A&M vs. Louisiana State

Florida vs. Miami

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 June 14<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 10:00 a.m.      Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 3:00 p.m.  
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 Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 2:00 p.m.

### UNIVERSITY SUMMER PERFORMANCE

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### PERFORMANCE

### "Celebration & Reflection" SERIES

7:30 pm, Monday, June 7, 2004, Rudder Theatre

Opening chamber music concert performed by TMF artist / faculty, including the Marian Anderson String Quartet, saxophonist Karen Wylie and cellist Vagram Saradjian. Works by David Ashley White, Ludwig van Beethoven, Coleridge Taylor Perkins, Dmitri Shostakovich.

### Texas Music Festival June 2004

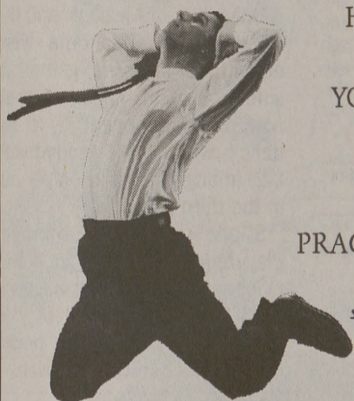
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