

So Close You Could Taste It...

How close were the Aggies to the best teams they played last year, the teams that played in the College World Series? Texas A&M ended the season ranked 11th but were just a few plays away from making a run in the College World Series. Here is a look at the numbers and they magnify the terrific job that Rob Childress and the Aggies did in 2007.

	Totals	Unearned	Totals	Unearned	Ks	Ks
Game	R-H-E	Runs	R-H-E	Runs	Ags	Opp
Ariz St	4-6-1	1*	5-10-0	0	6	5
Rice	4-6-2	0	2-4-0	0	8	10
OSU	5-10-1	1	2-5-1	0	10	8
OSU	5-11-0	0	6-12-0	0	4	9
Rice	10-15-5	6	9-11-2	2	16	7
Rice	2-6-3	1	3-8-0	0	14	5
Rice	2-6-1	1	5-11-0	0	10	8
Total	32-60-13	10	32-61-3	2	68	52

Texas A&M played seven games against three teams (#4 Arizona State, #1 Oregon State and #3 Rice) that advanced to the College World Series. The Aggies went 3-4 in those games with each and every game decided by three runs or less. The combined line scores for A&M were 32 runs on 60 hits with 13 errors; the combined line scores for the opponents were 32 runs on 61 hits with three errors. Only two of the runs scored by the Aggies were unearned but nine of the runs A&M allowed were unearned and that doesn't include the fifth and winning run against Arizona State that was scored, * by rule, a stolen bases even through an errant throw from second on the double steal allowed the run to score.

Texas A&M was every bit their equal in hitting and pitching. The difference came defensively, Texas A&M gave away those 10 runs. Twice, against Arizona State and Rice in the first game of the super regional, they lost a one run game while giving up an unearned run. Lets face it, if those three teams did not play their BEST baseball against the Aggies in these games, Texas A&M would be looking at 7-0 or 6-1 record and would have been in Omaha.

Rob Childress said he doesn't want to just wait for the College World Series to happen after building the team for a few years. He knew and the players knew that they could compete with anyone last season. This year is shaping up the same way and it looks to me like another year poised for a deep playoff run.