

OU takes broom to Aggie softball

By Micala Proesch
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M softball team played well this weekend against the University of Oklahoma, but it was not good enough, as the Aggies were swept by the Sooners.

OU took the series opener 6-1 on Saturday, capitalizing on one big inning to bury the Aggies.

A&M outthit the Sooners, yet they could not manage to get their runners around the bases, as the Aggies left 11 players stranded on the base paths to suffer their first loss at home this season.

The No. 22 Aggies felt more of the same

frustration on Sunday, when they again out-hit the No. 9 Sooners, but still fell short, 2-1. A&M had chances in both the sixth and the seventh innings to take the lead, but the Aggies failed to come through in the clutch and deliver the big hits.

In the seventh inning, the Aggies had runners on first and second with no outs when junior center fielder Cheryl Fowler popped up a bunt into a double play. Freshman right fielder Adrian Gregory came through with a single through the left side and junior catcher Selena Collins lined to second to end the game.

"It was frustrating because we've got runners at first and second with nobody

out, which is exactly the situation we want to be in," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "You've got to be able to execute, that's the name of the game. You need to be able to do those small things to make something happen."

Those small things eluded the Aggies this weekend, who left a total of 20 runners stranded on base against the Sooners. They failed to capitalize on opportunities to take the lead and let Oklahoma beat them even though they were matched play for play.

"It is very frustrating when you out-hit your opponents in two games and still do

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

A&M senior catcher Selena Collins tags out Oklahoma's Erin Evans on Saturday in the Aggies' 6-1 loss at OU at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Zack gets best finish ever for A&M at NCAAs

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

AUSTIN — Texas A&M senior Meghan Zack scored a 69.10 on her fifth and final dive to capture second place in the NCAA platform diving championship at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center in Austin. Her final dive had a difficulty rating of 3.4, making it her most difficult dive of the competition.

"She went for broke on her final dive and sure picked a great time to do a pretty good one," said A&M diving coach Kevin Wright.

Zack started in sixth place after the afternoon's preliminaries. A costly mistake by University of Indiana senior Sarah Reiling, the leader after the preliminaries, and University of Southern California freshman Blythe Bartley all alone in the top spot after the second round. Zack found herself in a four-way race for second with University of Texas freshman Nicole Pohorenc, Illinois sophomore Cassandra Cardinell, and Southern California sophomore Nicci Fusaro.

After Zack nailed her final dive, it was up to the rest of the pack to chase her.

"I knew I had a high degree of difficulty dive," Zack said. "I knew I had to hit it to make the top four."

Pohorenc was the last contender to dive. Her dive was successful, but her degree of difficulty was too low to top Zack. Pohorenc fell 5.90 points short of Zack's total.

"This was a perfect way to be done [with my career]," Zack said. "With [three] conference [championships] and then this, in a way it makes me want to keep diving, but I hope that this is a good way to say goodbye."

"Texas A&M has really supported diving tremendously," Wright said. "I'm really happy that Meghan could represent herself and A&M in a positive light. This was a perfect way to end it for her."

Sophomore Katie Williams captured 14th place for the Aggies in the event, while junior Callie Petroff finished 21st.

In the team standings, Auburn University outscored Southeastern Conference rival University of Georgia

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Aggies romp over Sooners

Ballouli, Wong lead Ags to 11-2 win Sunday, series victory over OU

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

When senior right fielder Neal Stephenson told junior pitcher Khalid Ballouli that A&M's bats would come through with runs against the University of Oklahoma Sooners on Sunday, Ballouli had no reason to doubt him. After all, Stephenson already had two home runs, four RBIs and five hits in eight at bats in the first two games of the series.

Stephenson proved to be true to his word, starting the Aggies' scoring in his first at bat of the game Sunday.

Stephenson's RBI single started a three-inning outburst for A&M (20-10, 7-5 Big 12), and helped the Aggies build an early nine-run lead, as the Aggies claimed an 11-2 win over the Sooners.

That lead allowed Ballouli, the ace of A&M's rotation, to pitch pressure-free.

"Any pitcher would love an eight-run lead by the second inning," Ballouli said. "With an eight run lead, not everything is riding on every pitch. When you have a lead like that, you just go out there and throw a lot of fastballs and let your defense work for you. We did that today."

Ballouli earned the win against the Sooners (16-7, 4-2) in the rubber game of the series, improving his record to 4-1, giving up four hits in seven innings.

"KB ate up a lot of innings for us," said A&M baseball head coach Mark Johnson. "He was hitting his spots, and that gave us a chance. Then the hitting took over."

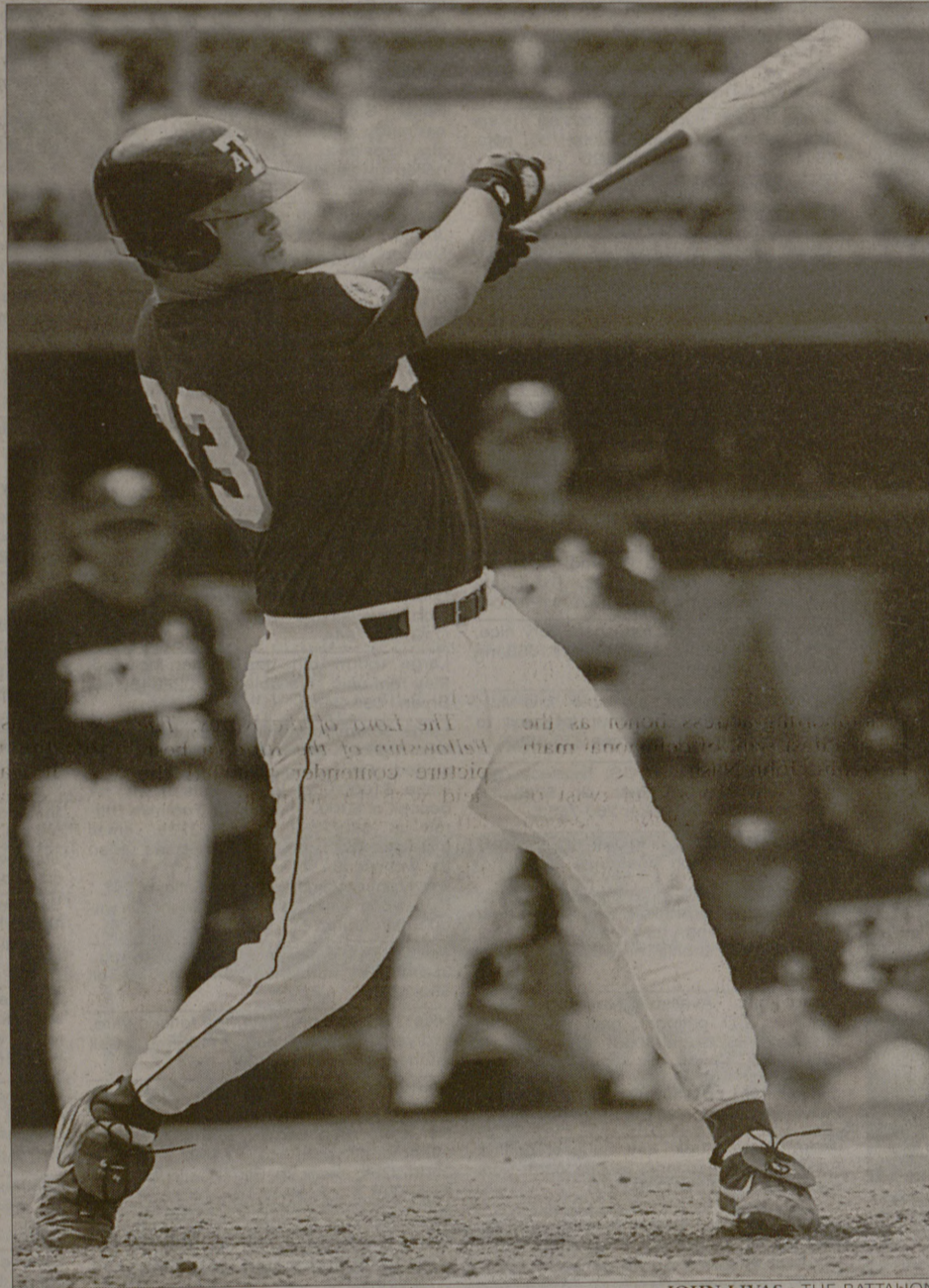
Junior first baseman Travis Wong led the Aggie hitting parade, ripping a grand slam over the left center field wall off Oklahoma pitcher Evan Gruesel during the Aggies' seven-run second inning.

Wong's home run was his sixth of the season and upped his RBI total to 23 on the season, second-most on the team.

Wong's home run was the highlight of the inning for the Aggies, who also collected eight hits in the frame.

Sophomore second baseman Erik Schindewolf started the inning with a double to left field, and junior center fielder Eric Reed's two-run single three batters later chased Gruesel from the game.

OU's second pitcher, Buddy Blair, did not fare much better. Sophomore shortstop Matt Alexander greeted Blair



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M junior first baseman Travis Wong hits a grand slam to cap off a seven-run, second inning in the Aggies' 11-2 victory over the Oklahoma Sooners on Sunday.

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Men's tennis team sweeps doubleheader

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's tennis team extended its winning streak to eight-straight matches on Friday with a sweep of a doubleheader against the University of Texas-San Antonio and No. 35 University of Tulsa at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center.

The No. 10 Aggies (13-2, 1-0) finished with a 7-0 victory over UTSA (9-5) in the afternoon match-up despite being run to a third set on three different courts by an improved UTSA team.

No. 36 junior Ryan Newport, senior Keith From and senior Alex Barragan all finished off third set

victories to clinch the shutout for the Aggies.

"I think the first match really helped us to knock some rust off of our shoes," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "It had been 11 days since our last match, and we found a way to win against a good UTSA team."

The Tulsa (13-6) match began with a battle as the teams split the first two doubles matches that were decided before a court three tie-breaker was won by A&M's duo of From and freshman Ante Matijevec, 9-8 (5). A&M won the doubles point and took a 1-0 lead.

Victorious in both doubles matches of the day was the No. 26 tandem of Newport and freshman

Lester Cook.

"The doubles point was very close with Tulsa," Cass said. "We're still learning things in doubles and we're having to scrape and claw a little to get these wins, but I'm proud we found a way to win it."

The Aggies would go on to win four of the six singles matches and claim the contest 5-2, with the only losses coming to sophomore Khaled El Dorry and No. 92 Matijevec.

The setback marked El Dorry's first loss of the dual match season and broke his nine-match winning streak.

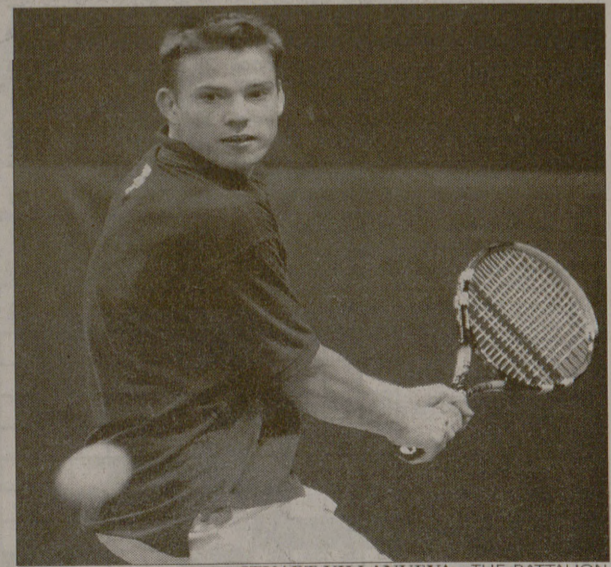
Senior Jarin Skube, ranked No. 88 in the nation, joined Newport, No. 104 Cook, and From in the win column.

"Tulsa is a very good team,"

Skube said. "We wanted to shut them down early in singles to show them that we were not going to back down, and I think our whole team really gave a great effort in stopping them."

Cass was also impressed with what he saw against Tulsa.

"Tulsa is a good team and I think they are going to keep heading up in the rankings and could easily be a Top 25 team before the season is out," Cass said. "I think Keith (From) probably had his best match of the year, and I think Ryan (Newport), Jarin (Skube), and Lester (Cook) also played great matches. I think for those guys to come out and play the way they did is encouraging."



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

A&M junior Ryan Newport hits a backhand in his match on Friday as the Ags beat Tulsa at the Varsity Tennis Center.

Ags continue torrid pace with victory over Tulsa

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

The Tulsa women's tennis team came into College Station already having a tough week and left feeling much of the same. The Texas A&M women's tennis team extended its winning streak to six as it sent the Golden Hurricane back to Oklahoma with their second loss in a row at the Varsity Tennis Center on Friday.

The No. 20 Aggies (14-2) began the match with a 1-0 lead before play

even began after Tulsa (9-6) was forced to play without its No. 6 singles seed because two players on the team left school last week to follow a religious cult.

"We've had a long week," said Tulsa head coach Paige McMurray. "We were missing a couple of players, but I thought the team came out tonight and showed a lot of competitiveness against a good Texas A&M team."

The Golden Hurricane was also forced to play doubles without their No. 3 doubles team, which made get-

ting the doubles point easier for the Aggies who swept the other two matches to take an early 2-0 lead going into singles play.

Seniors Martina Nedorostova and Olivia Karlikova led the way for the Aggies in singles.

Nedorostova beat Tulsa's Zoe Buhagiar in a match that was dominated by the Aggie senior, 6-1, 6-0. Nedorostova could do little wrong as she sailed through the match.

Karlikova, on the other hand, made things interesting. After having two

match point opportunities in the second set, Tulsa's Aleksandra Durska rallied to force a third set. Since the team match had been decided 4-2, both coaches agreed to play a 10-point tiebreaker rather than a third set.

Karlikova dropped the first three points of the tiebreaker and looked as though she had run out of gas. But after winning four straight points, the senior from Slovakia made her stand, winning the tiebreaker, 10-8, giving her the win,

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION
Senior Martina Nedorostova hits a backhand against Tulsa on Friday.