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Finish 2nd in State

Fem softballers fall to TWU, 8-

By MARY RUSSO
Staff Sports Writer

The state championship was within the reach of the women softballers, but it seemed that all the mistakes they'd forgotten how to make suddenly came back.

The pitching fell apart, the outfield couldn't make catches that in other conditions they'd never miss. And the infield was diving and reaching and coming up with empty gloves.

The play was so unlike what the women had done in every other game that weekend, no one, not even the players, could believe what was happening.

Texas Women's University players took advantage of the situation the fullest extent. In the first three innings, TWU took eight runs from the Aggies.

It was work between the third baseman Mary Mock and first baseman Terri Sandvik that topped the game.

In their second game, now that the Ags were in the championship bracket, the women faced the University of Houston.

The U of H was out for blood. They had lost the only game in their last tournament play to the Aggies and were sure it was time for revenge.

A&M proved them wrong. It looked like the Cougars had the Ags on the run with a 3-0 score. But the Ags got the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth and the girls took off.

By the top of the seventh U of H had had their fill of Aggie surprises and took the end with each batter falling to an infielder's throw to first base.

Probably the most exciting game of the series for the state trophy was the Lamar game. It was on an upset that Lamar had made it into the semi-finals. The Lamar women were fired up enough to know the Aggies had fallen into a beginning of the game slow-down.

The Ags didn't do it though, and held tight to a 0-0 game. At one point the women had a good position to make the winning score, but two runners were both caught off-base.

It came down to an eighth inning situation. The Ags got one girl around, held off the Lamar come on and took the game 1-0.

For the second year of play, the Ags with probably the youngest team in the state, composed of sophomores and freshmen largely, took a second. Perhaps next year will come for the women softballers, next year.

But, the Aggies, no matter how shook they looked at the end of the third inning, snapped back in proper form for the rest of the game.

TWU would put three batters up, and A&M would put three batters down. It was too late for the women to make up the lost ground though, because TWU was holding the Aggies to little offensive play.

The women Ags had to settle for second place in state due to the lack of "getting into the game" at the very beginning.

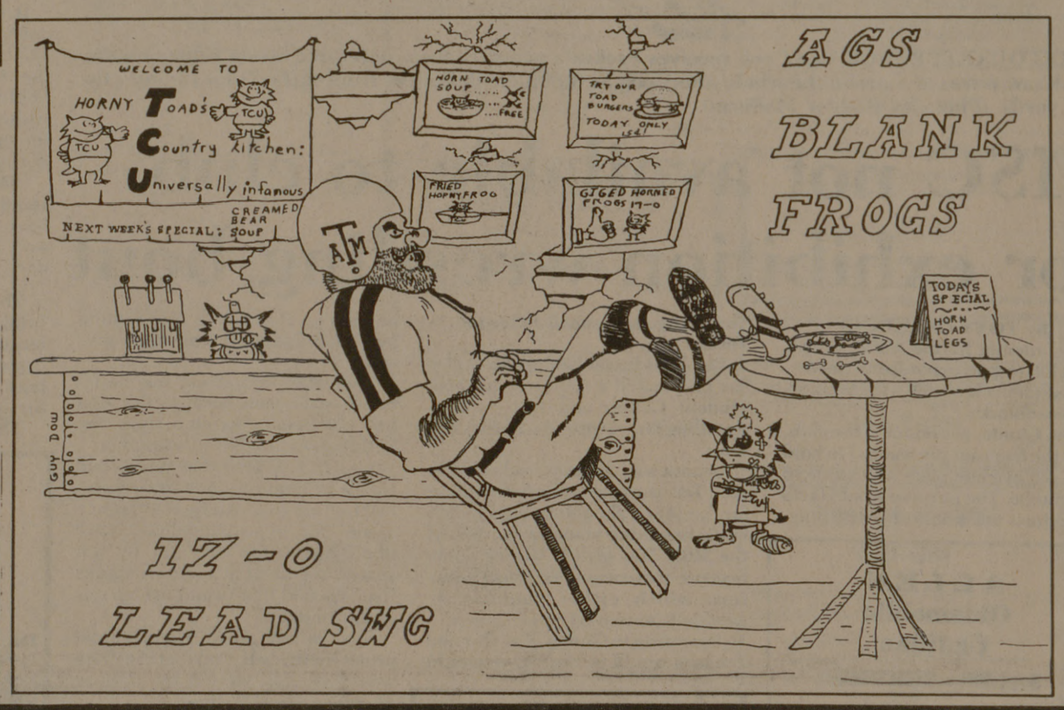
This problem had plagued the women all year. At first it had been poor teamwork, it moved into their hitting and unfortunately came back to haunt them at this time.

The rest of the tournament showed why A&M deserved to go to the finals.

In play against Weyland Baptist, the women held Weyland 0-1.

The A&M run came in the top of the fourth. In this position, A&M didn't allow a runner past second base for the rest of the game.

PITCHER ROBIN OAKLEY makes a throw to first baseman Terri Sandvik in Friday's game against Weyland Baptist College. A&M won the game 1-0. (Photo by Mary Russo)



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