



Puttin' it over the plate

Texas A&M softball pitcher, freshman Lori Stoll warms up before one of the games in Saturday's Texas A&M Invitational softball tournament. The Aggie Ladies finished third in their tournament. Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Aggie Ladies have busy weekend

By CAROLYN BLOSSER
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's women's softball team won five games and lost one to finish third in its 12-team tourney last weekend at Bee Creek Park. A&M's season record is now 8-2.

The Aggies finished first in their pool in Friday's play, defeating Texas Wesleyan, St. Mary's and Oklahoma University. Saturday morning the Aggies again faced Oklahoma, who Aggie coach Bill Galloway considers to be one of the top 15 teams in the country.

The Ags beat Oklahoma 5-0, only to be upset 3-0 in their next game against Sam Houston State. A&M then defeated Stephen F. Austin 7-3 for third place.

Texas Woman's University, ranked No. 1 in the country, won the tournament and Sam Houston State finished second.

One of the brightest features of the tournament was A&M's pitching. Treshan McDonald, a 5-11 sophomore transfer from Scarborough, Canada, pitched a perfect game against Texas Wesleyan. Lori Stoll, a freshman from Missouri, pitched a one-hitter against Oklahoma and struck out nine against S.F.A.

"Overall I was pleased with our performance," Galloway said. "We probably scored more runs and got more hits than anyone in the tournament. I think we're keeping pace with last year."

Next weekend A&M will travel to Denton for the Texas Woman's Invitational Tournament. Play begins at 10 a.m. Friday.

The women's cross-country team will host the Texas A&M Invitational meet Friday at 6 p.m. at the Texas A&M golf course. The 3.1 mile race will start and finish at green No. 1.

Eleven schools will be competing. The meet record of 17:32 was set in 1977 by Oklahoma State University's Karen Bridges.

Running for the Aggies will be Adelaide Bratten, Sandra Brown, Cathy Coker, Barbara Collinsworth, Keress Hawkins, and Annie Muniz.

This will be the first meet for new coach Bill Nix who was hired this summer. Nix comes from Iowa State, an area enriched with top track talent in the country. Judging from his rigorous training schedule, he seems determined to bring A&M up to that top national level.

Members of A&M's cross country team have been running between 10 and 15 miles a day, seven days a week. They also lift weights five days a week. Nix says they take a rest every fourteenth day.

He says he's more interested in team effort than in individual standings. "I'm not concerned with winning," he said. "I want them to be highly competitive in every situation."

Playoff tickets?

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Houston Astros are accepting mail orders for tickets to possible National League playoff games in the Astrodome.

The two games matching the Astros against the National League East winner would be played Oct. 2 and 3. To purchase tickets, fans should send a certified check or money order, a self-addressed, stamped envelope and requests for two or four tickets to: Houston Astros, Championship Series, P.O. Box 20999, Houston, Texas 77025.

Each playoff ticket is \$8. Each order should include \$2 for handling, the club said.

Hunter will retire

Catfish just a farmer

United Press International
NEW YORK — By occupation, Jim "Catfish" Hunter is a major-league ballplayer. By inclination, though, he's more a North Carolina farmer.

In other words, when he makes a deal with you, it's a deal. You don't have to call in a small army of lawyers or get it notarized. His word is good.

Back on New Year's Eve in 1974, Hunter agreed to a five-year contract with the New York Yankees that came to something like \$2.8 million counting everything that went with it. He was 28 at the time, had just come off a spectacular 25-12 season with the Oakland A's and won his free agency from them following a contractual disagreement with Charlie Finley.

When he joined the Yankees, he told them beforehand he intended to fulfill his contract, pitch for them five years, and then go back home to Hertford, N.C., and spend the rest of his life farming and being with his family.

Catfish Hunter keeps his word. In two more weeks, when the season is over, he will be all finished with professional baseball. To show Hunter the way they feel about him, the Yankees gave him a day at Yankee Stadium Sunday.

Among other things, they gave him a TV console, a set of expensive luggage, a camera, a shotgun and a pickup truck. Despite their economic problems, the Chrysler Corporation presented him with a brand new automobile, and Bill Fugazy, who runs a travel agency bearing his name, tossed in a vacation to Hawaii for Hunter and his family, all of whom were on hand.

Leave it to the fertile mind of Yankee owner George Steinbrenner to come up with something entirely different, however.

What do you give the man who has everything? Steinbrenner gave Hunter an elephant to help him with his farming chores. Yup, a real live elephant.

The beast was led in from the right field bullpen, positioning himself behind home plate only a few feet away from Hunter, who looked a bit nervous about it and stayed at a safe distance.

Perhaps a more appropriate departing gift might have been a bus because as good a pitcher as he has been in his 15 big league seasons, winning 224 games while losing 163 and recording 20 or more victories five straight seasons from 1971 through 1975, Hunter seldom was better than he was while traveling on the Yankees' bus.

Between them, he and left fielder Lou Piniella could always keep the club loose, needling, joking, carrying on a running dialogue all the time.

"I'm gonna miss him in many ways, but especially on those bus rides," Piniella said Sunday. "He'd like to get on me about the way I run. 'How am I supposed to pitch?' he'd always say to me. 'I need a speedster in left field.' Then I'd say to him, 'when you pitch, I never catch any balls. They all go in the stands. You want me to sit in the stands with a crab net or a jai lai cesta?' Otherwise, I'm worthless."

That was all in the spirit of good-natured agitation both understood, but before presenting Hunter with a

TV console on behalf of his teammates as well as himself, Piniella talked seriously about the retiring 33-year-old right-hander.

"Without him, we couldn't have won last year," he said. "He won the last game of the World Series for us, which was perfectly fitting. This year he didn't have the kind of a year that an athlete of his stature would like to retire on."

He has been overlooked at times for other pitchers, but he never complained or lost his desire to help the club. He never lost his sense of values, either. The years he has been here, he has been a positive influence. We're gonna miss him. He exemplifies everything the Yankees are.

The one thing you hear over and over again about Catfish Hunter from all the Yankees is that he never complained.

"He's good people," was the way Luis Tiant put it. "You win over 200 games like he did, that's a special kind of player. Even when he didn't have too much, he'd still go out and beat you. He don't feel good, he still plays. That's what you call a professional, a real superstar."

This year was easily Hunter's poorest in the big leagues. Not nearly as fast as he once was, he has been hammered hard frequently and the result is his present 2-9 record along with a 5.29 ERA.

But Martin, like the rest of the Yankees, loves the guy and wants to give him at least one more start so he can go out on a winning note. "He deserves that," said the Yankee manager. "As far as I'm concerned, he could be one of my coaches if he wanted."

Niekro knuckles 19th; Astros win

United Press International
SAN DIEGO — Joe Niekro tossed a six-hitter for his fifth shutout of the season and Cesar Cedeno's sacrifice fly in the ninth inning Monday night scored Rafael Landestoy to give the Houston Astros a 1-0 victory over the San Diego Padres.

Landestoy opened the ninth by slicing a triple off loser Bob Ovwchinko, 5-11, that kicked up the chalk down the right field foul line. Cedeno then lofted a fly ball to Dave Winfield in medium right and Landestoy slid home just ahead of the throw.

Niekro, 19-10, notched his fifth victory without a loss over the Padres this season and boosted his career record against San Diego to 13-4. A one-time Padre, Niekro has

17 career shutouts and the complete game was his 11th in '35 starts.

Niekro's ERA dipped to 2.96 as he posted the 17th shutout this season by the Astros' staff, tops in the National League.

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UPI college poll

United Press International
NEW YORK — The United Press International Board of Coaches' top 20 college football ratings, with first-place votes and won-loss records in parentheses (Second week):

1. So. Calif. (33) (2-0) 579
2. Alabama (5) (1-0) 538
3. Oklahoma (1-0) 470
4. Texas (1) (0-0) 394
5. Notre Dame (1-0) 392
6. Penn St. (1-0) 355
7. Nebraska (1-0) 347
8. Michigan St. (2-0) 286
9. Houston (2-0) 247
10. Washington (2-0) 188
11. Missouri (2-0) 143
12. Michigan (1-1) 123
13. Pittsburgh (1-0) 119
14. Florida State (2-0) 115
15. Ohio St. (2-0) 90
16. Arkansas (1-0) 69
17. LSU (1-0) 35
18. UCLA (1-1) 33
19. Brigham Young (2-0) 19
20. N. Carolina St. (2-0) 18

Note: By agreement with the American Football Coaches Association, teams on probation by the NCAA are ineligible for top 20 and national championship consideration by the UPI Board of Coaches. Those teams currently on probation are: Oklahoma State, Auburn and Memphis State.

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