

sports

Galloway believes he has real gems on the diamond

By KATHLEEN McELROY
Sports Staff

In the pre-season prospectus, the Texas A&M University women's softball coach says, "We don't wish to be just good, we want to be the best!"

Now most coaches — no matter what sport — would have a hard time living up to that line. But softball coach Bill Galloway has no problem. His team is currently ranked fourth in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women softball poll and realistically does have a chance to be the best in the nation.

The team was ranked second last week on the AIAW poll, but the Aggies dropped when they only won two of four games at the Texas Women's University softball tournament last weekend.

"We didn't do as well as we had hoped to," Galloway said, but Texas A&M has done well for the spring season — so far the Aggies are 18-7 after finishing the fall with a 27-7 record.

And until the TWU tournament, the pitching staff had posted six straight shutouts, a school record. "Our pitching staff is our main strength," Galloway continued. "It's one of the areas I wanted to remedy when I got here."

Galloway came to Texas A&M two years ago and immediately started recruiting top players — of the 14 women on the team, only six are from the Houston area. Galloway searches nation-wide for his players.

"I have a lot of connections in the country," he said, "and certain areas are just extremely strong. So you naturally look in those areas."

Surprisingly, one of the Aggies' top players, Shan McDonald, is originally from Canada.

Galloway said a good softball pitching staff has an earned run average of about .75 — Texas A&M's staff ERA is .020. He added freshman pitcher Lori Stoll, from Lee's Summit, Mo., is an AIAW All-America candidate.

The Aggies are now also getting some good, consistent hitting to go with the pitching.

"It's not bad the last few games,"



Glorian Motal, a member of the fourth-ranked Texas A&M Women's softball team, takes a swing during a recent practice. Staff photo by Lynn Blanco

Galloway said. "We've been hitting real well. We're doing a much better job than last fall."

The team batting average is .215 which Galloway said doesn't seem that good, but he added, "We probably are as strong as any team."

Last year the Aggies finished 58-20, and placed fifth in the national post-season tournament. This year the team faces stiff regional competition from TWU, last year's national champions. But Galloway and his Aggies — who host the Southwest regionals this May — aren't scared.

"They're as good as anybody in the country," he said. "But we are too."

Ruggers take third in Midwest tourney

Playing in dismal weather, the Texas A&M rugby team was unable to capture the Mid-West Intercollegiate Invitational Rugby Tournament title, as the defending champs finished third in the weekend meet.

When play began on the University of Missouri campus in Rolla, the Aggies looked tough, defeating Southwestern Missouri State University 16-15 and Luther College 9-8.

But during the semifinal match against the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the Texas A&M squad

came up shorthanded, and was edged out 8-6.

The Aggies came back against Central Missouri State University, gaining the third place trophy by a score of 6-0 off a try by Buster Druesen. Ross Morgan kicked the conversion.

Noted for their outstanding play during the tournament were backs Mike Frenzel and Bill Ballew, scrum half Ross Morgan, and prop Bill Taute.

Unfortunately for the team, first side player Joe Bob Hunger chipped

a vertebra during a game and will be out for at least six weeks.

The Texas A&M ruggers' record now stands at 6-3 for the season.

The team's next match will be April 12 at the Texas Rugby Union Championships. Texas A&M is the only college in the senior division of the Union.

Matches in Austin April 19 and in College Station April 26 against Stephen F. Austin will round out the season for the extramural club.

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Golfers tee it up in Houston

Coming off a tie for sixth place in the Morris Williams golf tournament in Austin last weekend, the Texas A&M golf team will be participating in the Collegiate All-American meet through Saturday in Houston.

Houston won the Williams meet with a 866 total, followed by Oklahoma State with 872, Oral Roberts with 878, Wichita State and TCU 883. The Aggies and the University of Texas finished with 885.

There were 23 teams entered in the competition. Texas A&M's David Ogrin lipped

out his final putt and finished one shot behind Houston's Fred Couples in the individual race.

Couples shot a 212 for the 72 holes, while Ogrin completed the contest with a 213. Ogrin had rounds of 67, 75 and 71.

Other Aggies participating in the tournament and their scores are: Richard Cromwell, 223; Brad Jones, 223; Steve Bowman, 226; Jay Kent, 231.

The same five players will represent Texas A&M in the 72-hole meet this week.

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