

ports

TAMU softball team now ranked second

by RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M University softball team has been ranked No. 2 in the nation in the April 19-26 National Coach's poll.

The poll comes on the eve of the SWIAW Division 1 and Regional Softball Tournament, which will be held today through Saturday at Bee Creek Park in College Station.

The winner of the tournament is automatically guaranteed a spot in the National Championship Tournament in Norman, Okla., later this month.

Texas A&M enters the tourney with a 37-7 1980 record in District 1 (4 for the entire year) and a 19-win streak.

The Aggie's first round game will be against the winner of the North Louisiana-West Texas State game. Texas A&M plays their first game tonight at 7 p.m.

Coach Bill Galloway is optimistic about the first few rounds. "Well, it looks pretty good for us," he said. "The first game should be a close one."

The first two teams (Northeast Louisiana and West Texas State) are losing records. The second should be a tough ball game. Nothing can happen in this situation. It'll boil down to the strongest pitcher.

The Aggies win in the first round, will face either Oklahoma University, McNeese State, or Louisiana State University Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Texas Women's University is ranked first in the nation in Division 1 and is seeded first in the tournament. Texas A&M is second. We won four out of five from this spring," Galloway said. "I think normally be optimistic (if the teams should meet TWU in the final) but we have two starters out. Shortstop (Nancy Sullivan) and pitcher (Karen Guerrero) are

in her right shoulder when she collided with a catcher at home plate during a tournament two weeks ago.

Texas A&M's pitching staff racked up 20 shutouts during the spring, a school record, behind the talented arms of freshman Lori Stoll and Shan McDonald.

Stoll ended the regular season with an 18-2 record, 145 innings pitched, 15 runs allowed (eight earned), 58 hits allowed, 124 strikeouts, 22 walks and an earned run average of 0.35.

McDonald was 16-5, with 144 innings, 28 runs given up (12 earned), 73 hits allowed, 96 strikeouts, 13 walks and an ERA of 0.50.

So, the pitching is no problem. The hitting, however, is a different matter. The Aggies as a team batted a mere .210.

"It'll definitely come down to pitching," Galloway said. "Definitely, one run is probably going to be the deciding factor. It'll all depend on the pitchers."

Galloway said Oklahoma State University may be the "sleeper" in the tourney.

"OSU is the team to watch. They played a good schedule this year, and they have a great pitcher. When she's armed, she's hard to beat. They might just sneak in there," he said. Competing for the Division 1 championship in the tournament will be TWU, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin, The University of Texas-Arlington, OSU, the University of Oklahoma, McNeese State, West Texas State, Northeast Louisiana, and Texas A&M.

The Division 2 tourney will pit top-seeded Central State of Oklahoma, second-seeded Texas Wesleyan, Northwestern Louisiana, and Northeastern Oklahoma.

The finals of the double-elimination tournament will be played at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday.

Other first-round action today includes: Sam Houston vs. Stephen F. Austin, 2 p.m.; McNeese State vs. LSU, 3:30 p.m.; and West Texas State vs. Northeast Louisiana, 3:30 p.m. Texas Women's University,

UT-A, OSU, Oklahoma University, and Texas A&M receive first-round byes.

In the Division 2 tourney Wednesday: Northwestern Louisiana faces Baylor at 2 p.m., and Central Oklahoma, Northeastern Oklahoma, and Texas Wesleyan College get first-round byes.

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R 7:00 9:30

CINEMA II
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A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
PG 7:15 9:45

MANOR EAST 3
MANOR EAST MALL
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Apocalypse Now
R 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:45

SERIAL
R 2:45 5:00 7:25 9:45

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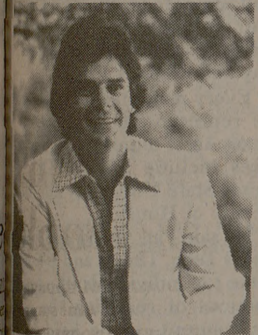
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L.'s drawing more; Astros leading the way

United Press International
NEW YORK — Through games of Monday, April 27, National League attendance was ahead of the record-breaking pace of 1979 when a total of 178,419 fans attended NL games. Total attendance for 93 dates this

year is 2,094,686, an increase of 61,249 over the same period in 1979. The Houston Astros, averaging almost 30,000 per game in the Astrodome, show the largest increase over last season.



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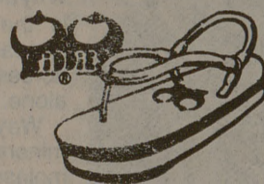
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