

TAMU softball team wins regional title

by RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M University women's softball team defeated Oklahoma State University in the finals of the Southwest Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women regional championships, 3-0, Friday to assure themselves the No. 1 position nationally and a spot in the national championships May 22-25 in Norman, Okla.

Shan McDonald, now 18-5, gave up four hits to the Cowgirls, and struck out three in posting the victory. The Aggies are now 67-14 for the year, and 40-7 for the spring season.

A surprising facet in the tournament, held at Bee Creek Park in College Station, was the collapse of the nation's top-seeded team, Texas Women's University. They were defeated in the second round and in the loser's bracket of the double elimina-

tion competition, and failed to make the finals.

Texas A&M, on the other hand, waded through the tournament undefeated, beating Northeast Louisiana, Oklahoma University and OSU twice. The Aggies defeated OSU earlier Friday, 3-0, forcing the Cowgirls to the loser's bracket, where they proceeded to beat Oklahoma University, 5-4, and earn a berth against the Aggies in the finals.

Baylor won the Division 2 championship, knocking off Texas Women's College, 8-4.

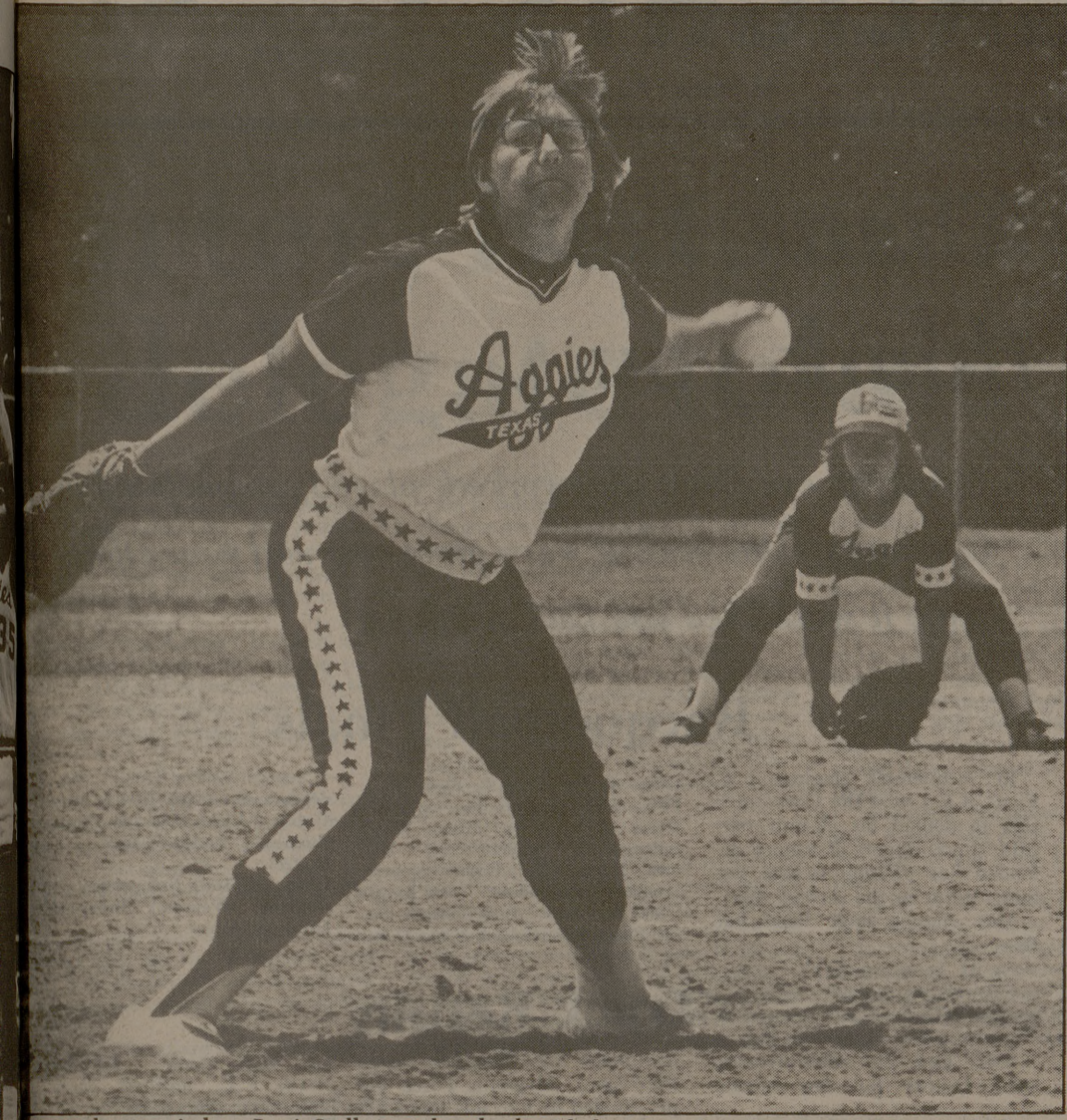
Prior to the tournament, Aggie coach Bill Galloway said he regarded OSU as the "team to beat" in the tournament, and said to keep an eye on them. He was right.

In the hard-fought final victory, Texas A&M racked up seven hits and one stolen base, led by shortstop Carrie Austgen, who was two-for-four, and Irene Mauch, who was one-for-one with two walks and a single.

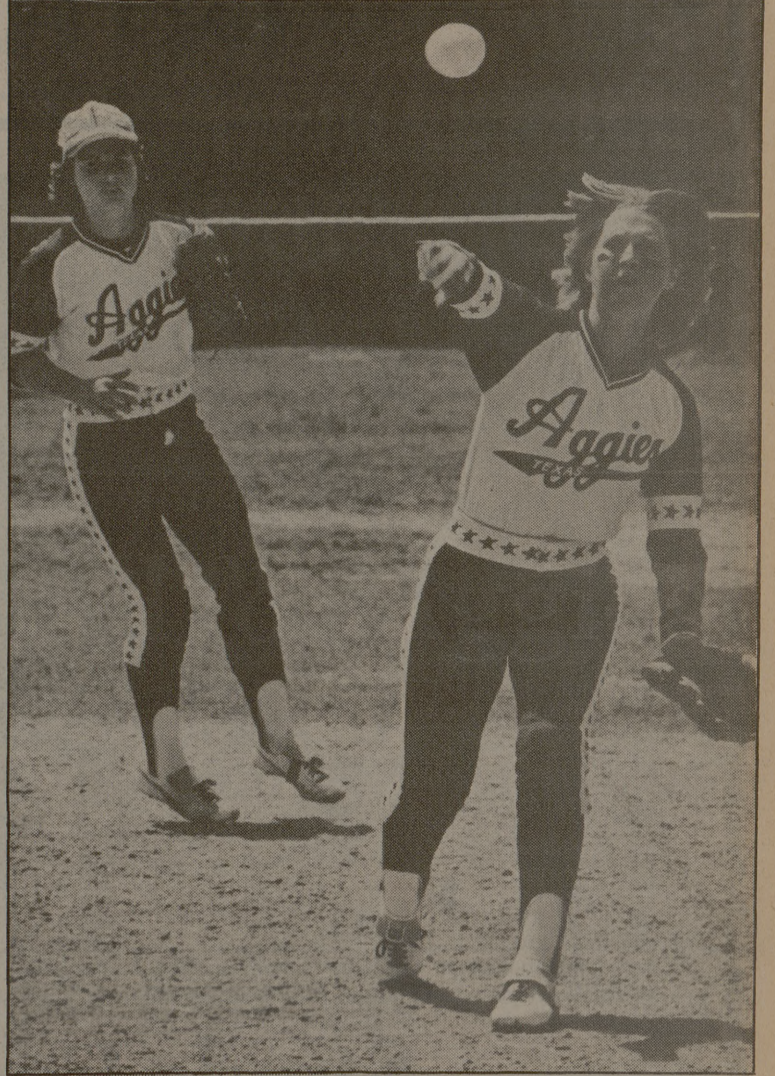
In Texas A&M's semi-final victory over OSU, Lori Stoll stuck out seven and allowed four hits for a 1-0 victory, raising her record to 20-2. OSU finished its season as the Big Eight Champions, with a 42-22 record.

In four games in the tournament, the Aggies only allowed seven runs and pulled off a triple play against Northeast Louisiana in their second-round game.

The Aggies entered the Division 1 regionals ranked second in the nation behind Texas Women's University. After the failure of TWU to make the finals, however, coupled with Texas A&M's championship victory, the Aggies are expected to be ranked first in the final coach's poll due out this week.



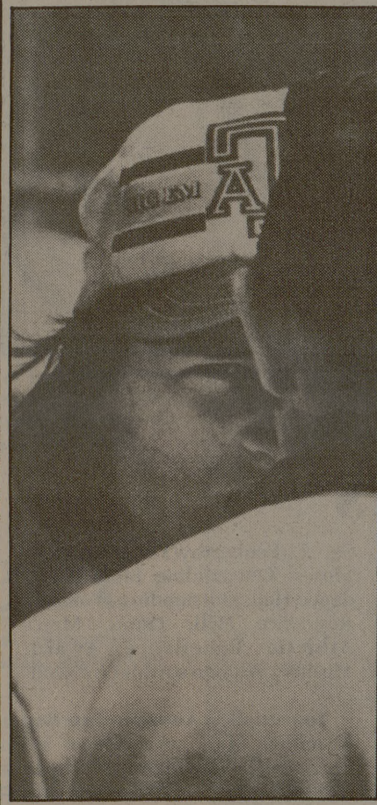
Freshman pitcher Lori Stoll stretches back with the power that gives her a blazing fastball.



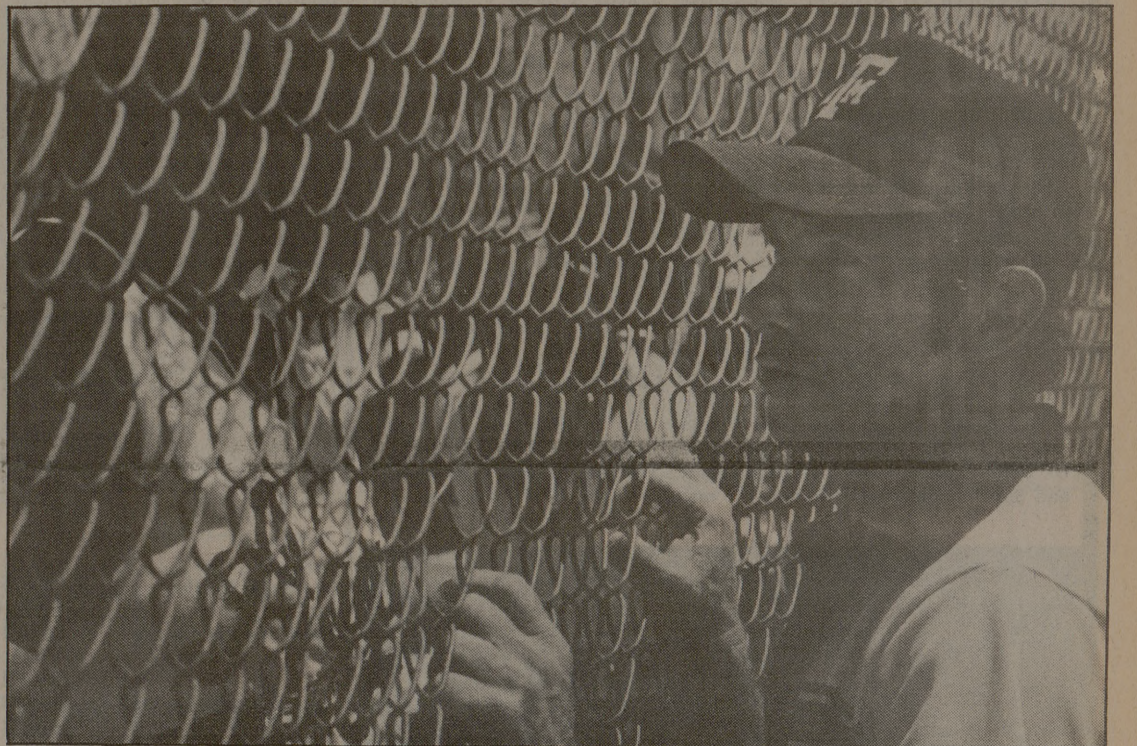
Sophomore second baseman Shannon Murray, backed up by shortstop Carrie Austgen, throws to first base for an out.



Pitcher Shan McDonald slides into home in an unsuccessful steal against Oklahoma State.



Freshman Carrie Austgen has an eye-to-eye talk with coach Bill Galloway, above. Galloway gives some instructions between innings to co-captain Nancy Sullivan, right.



Photos by
Lee Roy
Leschper Jr.

Softball team heads successful weekend for Aggies

Here's a review of the weekend's Aggie sports highlights:

Baseball — The University of Texas swept the TCU Horned Frogs over the weekend, assuring themselves first place in the final Southwest Conference baseball standings. The final standings have the Longhorns in first place, 1½ games ahead of Texas A&M University, 3½ ahead of Arkansas, and 5 ahead of Texas Tech.

Softball — The nationally second-ranked Texas A&M women's softball team swept through the Division 1 IIAW regional softball championships to win the tournament and assure themselves the top-seeded

spot in the national competition May 22-23 in Norman, Okla.

The Aggies are now an incredible 67-14 on the year and 40-7 this spring, for winning percentage of .851.

Golf — The Aggies tied for eighth place in the Southern Intercollegiate Invitational over the weekend in Athens, Ga. Oral Roberts University won the event with an 865, followed by Georgia Southern and Centenary.

The Aggies finished with an 881 total. Steve Bowman led the Aggies with a 217.

The Aggies now must sweat out the next few days waiting to see if they will be invited to the NCAA

tournament, which will be held May 28-31 in Columbus, Ohio. Invitations for the tournament go out Monday.

Track — The Lite Invitational track meet in Houston over the weekend produced some stiff competition for the Aggies, but Leslie Kerr streaked to two first places to lead a respectable showing for Texas A&M.

The meet had several national and international track stars, but Kerr won the 400-meter race in 45.4 seconds, and anchored the Aggie 1,600-meter relay team to a first place win with a 45.5 anchor leg.

Pole vaulter Randy Hall took fourth place at the meet with a 17-6

vault. Chuck Perry jumped 7-2 to place third in the high jump and Tim Scott was fifth in the discus at 192-1.

Texas A&M's 400-meter relay finished second behind Houston, with the Cougars running a 39.04 and the Aggies a 39.33.

Meanwhile, the other half of the Aggie track team was competing across town in another meet at the Houston Baptist track.

Richard Lamb won the javelin with a 216-3 toss and Bart Daniel

won the 400-meter hurdles in 51.6 to lead the Aggies.

Other Aggie highlights: Rick Thomas was fourth in the 110-meter hurdles at 14.2 seconds. Jerry Strong was fourth in the pole vault, clearing 16-0.

The women's track team also competed in the Lite Invitational, and set two school records in the process.

Sandra Brown set one with a 9:47.24 fifth-place finish in the 3,000-meter run. The 400-meter relay team set the other mark with a 47.91 third-place showing.

second in the shot at 58-5½, and Rick Thomas was fourth in the 110-meter hurdles at 14.2 seconds.

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The Aggies also had a second-place showing in the 1,600-meter relay, running a 3:50.18. The sprint medley relay team finished fourth with a 1:49.75 showing, and Lori Scott was sixth in the 3,000 meters in 10:01.99.

The Aggie men's squad, minus Hall and Kerr, will compete in a quadrangular meet in Austin Thursday. Also, the SWC outdoor championships will be in Waco May 16-17.

Tennis team eliminated early in state tournament

By MIKE BURRICHTER

Four members of the Texas A&M women's tennis team tuned up for the upcoming Regional Team Tournament by competing in the State Individual Tournament at Odessa this weekend.

Coach Hollis Hands took her top players, Kathleen Sissom, Judy Willard, Liliana Fernandez and Ter-Neutze to the tournament, which started Thursday and ended Sunday. However, the Ags didn't fare that well and were finished by Thursday.

Willard won her first singles match while the others lost their first-round matches. Willard, playing in the No. 2-seed bracket, beat Melissa Zoelle of UH, 6-3, 6-4, before bowing out in her next match.

The doubles teams of Willard-Fernandez and Sissom-Neutze fared a little better, with both teams winning their first matches before exiting after the second round.

Although it was a short tournament for the Aggies, Hands was

pleased with the women's performances, attributing the team's quick exit to the draw.

"In a tournament like this, the luck of the draw determines the winners," she said. "If you get lucky and end up in a good draw, you can win five or six matches before losing. That just didn't happen to us."

Hands was particularly impressed with the play of Fernandez, the team's No. 3 seed, who lost to Kim Wilson of Trinity 7-5, 6-2 in the first round. Hands said Fernandez, a freshman from Bogota, Colombia, played "fantastic."

Hands said with more work, Fernandez, who did not practice very much in Colombia should win a lot more matches.

"She had a little bit of trouble adjusting here," Hands said. "She practiced twice a week back home and we work out 3½ hours a day here."

The women, by merit of their sixth-place finish in the state tournament two weeks ago, will compete in the Regional Team Tournament in

Baton Rouge, La., May 16-18.

Hands, whose team finished the regular season with a 14-14 dual match record, said her players should be much improved by next year.

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