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Softball team begins quest to be be One

Texas A&M women take on Baylor tonight

By RICHARD OLIVER and ANN DUFFY
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M University women's softball team opens what promises to be an exciting 1980-81 season tonight with a doubleheader against Baylor in Waco.

The Aggies return all but two players from a team that compiled a 72-16 record last season and finished third in the nation.

A&M coach Bill Galloway has put

together the fastest and most experienced team in the seven-year history of Aggie varsity softball, adding more players to an already excellent squad.

The Aggies will be led once again by all-America pitcher Lori Stoll, who was voted to the all-tourney team at last spring's women's softball world series in Norman, Okla. Stoll and fellow pitching ace Shan McDonald accounted for 63 of the Texas A&M wins, with Stoll taking 35 and McDonald 28.

Offensively, senior Rhonda Reese and sophomore Carrie Austgen will return. Reese, a catcher, is the all-time leading hitter for A&M with a .340 lifetime batting average. She hit .337 and drove in 34 runs last year.

Austgen, at second base, contributed a fine .327 average in 1979-80, and led the team in runs scored, doubles, triples and a school-record 23 stolen bases.

Other returning Aggies include Maria Resendez, third base (.265); Mary Lou Wargo, center field (.273 with 24 RBIs); Karen Guerrero, right field (.250); Melody Pritchard, left field (.248); Shannon Murray, first base (.233) and Nancy Sullivan, shortstop (.231).

Galloway has also reinforced his bench, adding utility players Patti Holthaus from Gunthrie, Okla., and Vicky Kraus, from St. Louis.

Two others expected to provide help are speedsters Pam Whigham of Houston and Rosemary Ruffino of Bryan.

Texas A&M set a number of school marks last season including best fielding percentage (.949), most hits (330), most wins (72), most consecutive victories (23), best national finish (third), most shutouts (32), and fewest runs and hits allowed.

The Aggies, after losing once in the national tournament in May, advanced all the way to the finals of the loser's bracket at the tournament before bowing out, 1-0, to eventual national champion Utah State. In 1979, the Aggies finished fifth nationally.

A&M now ranked 19th in UPI poll

- 1) Ohio State
- 2) Alabama
- 3) Oklahoma
- 4) Pittsburgh
- 5) Southern California
- 6) Texas
- 7) Nebraska
- 8) Notre Dame
- 9) Houston
- 10) Michigan
- 11) Florida State
- 12) Penn State
- 13) North Carolina
- 14) Stanford
- 15) Georgia
- 16) Arkansas
- 17) Missouri
- 18) Washington
- 19) Texas A&M
- 20) South Carolina



Women's softball pitcher Lori Stoll, who racked up 35 wins in 1979-80, will be back again this season as Texas A&M faces Baylor this evening in a doubleheader in Waco.

Georgia head says he rather not face A&M

United Press International
ATHENS, Ga. — Georgia coach Vince Dooley, who doesn't mind using the crying towel when he thinks it might help his team, said Tuesday he'd rather play another school than Texas A&M University in the Bull-

dogs' home opener Saturday. Dooley, whose 15th-ranked team edged Tennessee last week, told a news conference from the start that the first three games were "extremely difficult."

"And this game against Texas A&M will be much tougher than Tennessee because of two things — quality and size," Dooley said.

The coach said 19th-ranked A&M "has momentum now just don't need to be playing this time."

He also said Mosley's style resembles those of Orleans Saints quarterback Manning and former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach during his college career.

"He's a very fluid runner in addition to his running ability," said Mosley.

Dooley said Texas A&M won four of its last five games in 1979, is a "very experienced" offense and defense and "battle."

He noted that his team has a number of injuries in Saturday's game he described as "one of the hardest hitting opening games in his memory."

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