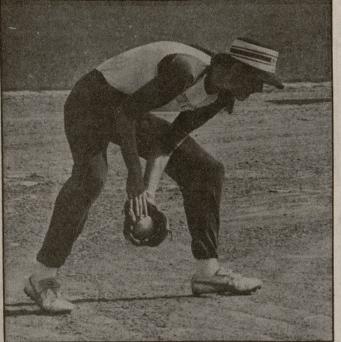
Page 16 THE BATTALION

Aggie softball team gears up for regional pla



Nancy Sullivan, senior co-captain

Astros lose in 11, "Position-by-position our infield matches up with any in the country with Shannon Murray, Carrie Austgen, Nancy Sullivan and Maria Resendez. All fall to Cubs 2-1

Rvan worked seven innings.

went 5 2-3 innings, yielding five

nings to run his string of consecu-

tive batters retired to 20. He has

United Press International CHICAGO — Ken Reitz's two-out single to left in the 11th inning scored Steve Dillard from second allowing six hits and the unearned run. Chicago starter Bill Caudill base Wednesday to give Chicago a hits 2-1 victory over the Houston Astros, snapping the Cubs' three-Dick Tidrow, the third Cubs' pitcher, worked 2 1-3 perfect ingame losing streak

Dillard opened the 11th with a walk off loser Frank LaCorte, 1-1. Tim Blackwell sacrificed Dillard to second and Jim Tracy struck out as a pinch hitter for winning pitcher Lee Smith, 1-2. Reitz followed with his game-winning single.

The Cubs opened the scoring in the fourth inning after Bill Buckner singled and moved to second on Astro starter Nolan Ryan's errant pickoff attempt. Leon Durham then knocked in Buckner with a single to right.

The Astros tied it in the sixth inning when Gary Wood walked, stole second and scored on Terry Puhl's two-out single to right.

By RITCHIE PRIDDY

Head coach Bill Galloway takes his nationally second-ranked softball team to Shawnee, Okla. this "They both weekend for the Southwest AIAW Regional tournament where it is seeded as the number one team.

The 44-9 Aggies completed their regular spring season last weekend by sweeping the Baylor Bears. The second win in that series was the 200th victory for Galloway.

The team also competes in a fall season and together with the spring finished the year with a record of 70-10.

It is the second consecutive 70-plus win season for the Aggies, which is a record no other team has matched.

Last year Galloway carried his team to 72 wins and 16 losses and finished as the number three team in the country. The year before the team finished in the number five spot nationally.

Going into the playoffs with just one goal in mind – to win the World Series — Galloway takes one of his most talented teams into action.

"Overall this has been an outstanding season. We have accomplished many goals over the year. We won more regular season games than ever before (70) and no other team in the AIAW has ever done that two years in a row," Galloway said, reflecting on the

Galloway said that this year's team is offensively 'right up on par" with those of years past but defensively is a superior team, having set several school records by giving up fewer runs, hits, etc.

'Defensively, it's the best team I've ever had," he "We've made more big plays, more standout said. individual plays this year than last year.

four are having a good season.

"In the outfield, Mel Pritchard (leftfielder) has had a good year. She's our most consistent hitter. Mary Lou Youngblood continues to play consistent for us and Patty Holthaus and Karen Guerrero (rightfield) both add a lot of speed to the lineup. They both cover a lot of ground," he said.

"Rhonda Reese (catcher) is a real experienced ballplayer. She takes control of the game and does that as well as anybody

Shan McDonald (21-5) and Lori Stoll (23-4) carry the team with some of the strongest and certainly some of the best pitching in the country.

With a pitching combination which has a com-

bined 44-9 record, there's not much anybody can say

They both complement each other. Both have different styles but they win. Lori overshadows Shan with more strikeouts (224 to 109) but Shan has more finesse," Galloway said.

If the team wins the region and advances to the World Series May 21-24 in Norman, Okla. it would be the third year in a row. Only two other teams have ever done that, UCLA and Northern Colorado.

Galloway couldn't be prouder of his team, unless of course, it wins the World Series, which doesn't seem too far out of reach for the women.

Asked what the secret was to his three-year phe-nomenonal win-loss record Galloway replied: "A lot of teams depend on raw talent for their success, but the key to our success is that we are a team - we perform as a team. We depend on everybody to do a ob and they do it whether they start or sit on the bench. Everybody pulls for everybody else — that's a mark of success.

"We've been lucky so far. But, with luck we also have to be good enough to get in the position we are in. There's been a lot of pressure on us and that's a compliment to the athletes we have. They are dedicated and have paid the price. They deserve a lot of credit - Their record speaks for itself."

When one needs an example of the price to be paid to be winners, he needn't look any farther than the Texas Aggie softball team.

Carrying the players through many grueling workouts throughout the year, including a rigorous weight training program, Galloway has earned the reputation as one of the toughest coaches around, and there's not a player on the team that would disagree

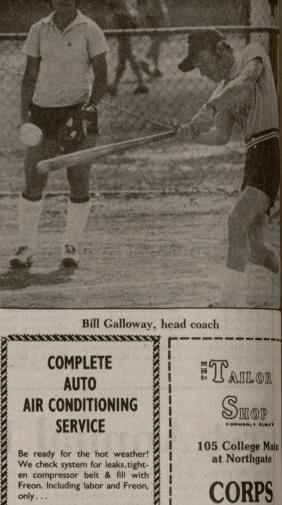
"He makes it demanding, very challenging. If we can win it all it will be worth it. We sacrifice a lot, but it means more that way," senior co-captain and shortstop Nancy Sullivan said.

There's a lot of hard work and it has its ups and · downs. He makes the players demand more of them-selves and thats good," sophomore pitcher Shan McDonald said.

Galloway is proud of his team and he has every reason to be. The players are dedicated and their win-loss record proves that. But, dedication alone hasn't got the team where it is now. Each player has an abundance of talent and Galloway knows how to bring that out and use it to the fullest. The Aggies will play the winner of the McNeese

State and Louisiana Tech Friday in the first round.

VALERIE MARTIN'S



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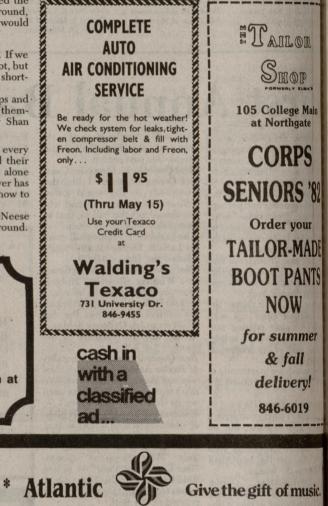
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