

Sports

Freshman pitcher finds success quickly

Martinez named top TAIAW player

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff
Coach Bob Brock says Lisa Martinez isn't perfect.

But during the past season, the freshman pitcher for the Texas A&M women's softball team came as close to perfection as is humanly possible.

After winning 13 games against no defeats and helping first-year coach Brock and the Aggies to a 36-3 fall record and the state title, Martinez has been named TAIAW Player of the Year. To add to her spotless record, Martinez compiled a team-high 133 strikeouts in 92 innings, giving up only five earned runs to post a 0.38 ERA.

Martinez' strikeout total was the second highest in the team's history, with teammate Lori Stoll's 138 in the spring of 1980 the top mark.

Nominated by the coaches at the state tournament held in Conroe in October, Martinez outdistanced two of her teammates and one player from the University of Texas at Arlington in the final vote. Cindy Spradling, a senior outfielder with UTA, came in second behind Martinez, while Aggie shortstop Carrie Austgen and third baseman Eya Resendez finished third and fourth in the voting.

Brock, the TAIAW sports director, said Martinez overcame adversity and tough competition from Lori Stoll and Shan McDonald, the aces of the Aggie pitching staff for the past two years, to perform well during her first college season. Martinez played first base and leftfield on top of her pitching chores, totaling 76 putouts, 159 assists and one error for a .996 fielding percentage.

"I think that when Lisa came here, she had everything she'd need to be good," Brock said. "She's adjusted very well to college life as a freshman."

"I think it was an awfully outstanding performance for a college freshman. If she improves on that, she's going to win many awards. She could possibly be nominated for All-American if she has a good spring, and if the team continues its present success. If we have a good spring and get into the playoffs, people are going to know who she is."

Assistant coach Sue Lilley said Martinez' achievements during the fall season contributed to the Aggies' total team effort.

"She represented Texas A&M very well, in every aspect — academically and on the field," Lilley said.

The award, one not usually

given to freshmen, came as a surprise to Martinez.

"I didn't realize I had done that well during the season," Martinez said. "Even with the statistics, I didn't think my season had been that great."

"I thought winning the award was great, because I'm only a freshman. It was the last thing I expected to get."

Although Brock switched his rotation at different times during the season, Martinez usually pitched every third game, while Stoll and McDonald held down the other two slots. The two Aggie juniors also had good seasons, as Stoll finished 10-2 with a 0.17 ERA and McDonald ended the year 13-1 with a 0.08 ERA.

Martinez, who pitched the Aggies to a one-hit, 3-0 victory over the Sam Houston State Lady Bearkats in the state championship game, said she was glad to fit into the rotation as well as she did.

"I didn't expect to be pitching that much," Martinez said. "I'm only glad that I did pitch quite a bit."

Martinez, at 5-6, 135 pounds, doesn't look threatening — until she takes the mound. One of Martinez' advantages is the speed and accuracy of her pitches.

The freshman petroleum engineering major doesn't classify her fall performance as exceptional, but she said she's pleased with the outcome of the Aggies' season.

"Certain games, you'll pitch and think you're doing the worst

job in the world, but you're just doing well enough to get by," Martinez said. "There's always room for improvement, but I'll do the best I can during the spring."

Winning awards and receiving recognition aren't new to Martinez, who played her high school softball in Stockton, Calif., before moving to Oklahoma in February. During three years of varsity softball at a college preparatory high school in California, as well as a great deal of playing time in summer leagues, Martinez won several honors.

Among other accomplishments during her first season with the Aggies, Martinez had nine shutouts — eight in a row at one point — and she pitched 67 straight scoreless innings. Martinez also threw two no-hitters, gave up 17

hits in 92 innings, walked 11 and didn't throw any wild pitches.

Martinez' offensive statistics, although impressive, weren't nearly as much a topic of conversation among Texas A&M opponents as her pitching credentials. She ranked seventh on the team with a .272 average, and had 25 hits, including one home run, three triples and four doubles.

Martinez, recruited by former Texas A&M coach Bill Galloway, said she thinks the Aggies have an excellent chance to win a national title in the spring.

"We have the capability to win nationals," Martinez said. "Our defense is good, and our offense is good when it works. We didn't do as well as we could have in the fall, but we hope to improve in the spring."



Photo by Brian Tate

Texas A&M pitcher Lisa Martinez shows determination and concentration as she throws a pitch early in the season against St. Mary's in the Aggie Invitational tournament, which the Aggies won by defeating Sam Houston State. The freshman has been named TAIAW Player of the Year for her fall season accomplishments, which included a 13-0 record and a 0.38 ERA.

Stephen F. Austin chops up Aggie Ladies 76-55; road trip continues

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

NACOGDOCHES — It wasn't easy, but the Stephen F. Austin Lady Lumberjacks held off a determined Texas A&M women's basketball team to win 76-55 Tuesday night in Nacogdoches.

The Aggies, now 3-2 for the season, stayed close to the 15th-ranked Lady Lumberjacks throughout the first half, as the hosts led only 39-32 at halftime. However, a second-half spurt by Stephen F. Austin gave the hosts a large lead late in the game, and the Aggie gladies had no time to mount a comeback.

Tammy Mayo scored 27 points and Kim Rodman added 13 to lead the Lady Lumberjacks to their first victory of the season against a top-ranked opponent. For the Aggie Ladies, senior point guard Kelley Sullivan scored 15 points, hitting seven of 11 from the field, while forward

Kelly Krauskopf finished with 10 points.

Sullivan now leads the Aggies in scoring, averaging 12.6 points a game. Janet Duckham and Ann Trinka each had six rebounds to lead the Aggie Ladies, who were outbounded 43-32 by the Lady Lumberjacks.

Stephen F. Austin outshot the Aggie Ladies by hitting 34 of its 73 shots for 46 percent. Texas A&M hit only 24 of 58 shots for 41 percent. Texas A&M made seven of its 10 free throws, and the Lady Lumberjacks connected on eight of 10.

Aggie coach Cherri Rapp said she was proud of the determination and effort showed by her team while playing such a highly-rated squad.

"We played a real good game for the first 30 minutes," Rapp said. "Stephen F. Austin outscored us 15 to 1 midway through the

second half, and we could never regain our composure.

"It helped us to realize that we could keep up with a team as good as Stephen F. Austin. We've gotten better every game, and if we keep that up, we'll be alright."

Rapp said the Lady Lumberjack spurt in the second half was the turning point in the game. Stephen F. Austin led the Aggie Ladies only 57-48 at the 10:02 mark, but the Lady Lumberjacks held Texas A&M to only one point during the next six minutes to jump to a 72-49 lead.

"I'm pleased with them," Rapp said. "We've got a long way to go, but we'll be alright if we keep working hard."

Rapp added that the younger players on the Aggies' squad played well against the Lady Lumberjacks.

Assistant Coach Cindy Gough said that the Stephen F. Austin offense kept Texas A&M off balance at first, but that the Aggies were able to compete on an even

basis until the roof caved in during the second half.

"Their whole offense is based on a run-and-gun," Gough said. "We were a little shaky at first, but then after we settled down, we played better. We were just a little hesitant because we've got such a young team."

"We did lose, but I'm sure they (the Aggie Ladies) got some confidence from staying with them for a while. But when they get going, they're hard to stop."

Texas A&M, which now has lost two in a row after winning its first three games, plays at the University of Oklahoma Thursday night at 7:30. The Aggie Ladies play Oklahoma State University Saturday in Stillwater, Okla., before traveling to the Dallas Classic Dec. 18-19.

In the Dallas tournament, Texas A&M opens against Wayland Baptist University Dec. 18, while the Aggie Ladies' opponent Dec. 19 will be McNeese State University.

Mavericks record historic victory

United Press International
DALLAS — Utah was listless and Dallas was scalding Tuesday night so the Mavericks indulged themselves to that rarest of happening — at least for them — a blowout away victory.

In fact, the Mavericks turned in a downright historical.

Playing perhaps their most complete 48 minutes of basketball in but one game, the Mavericks recorded their most one-sided victory, as they led up their most points ever at home and won in their own arena for the third straight time, something they had never done before.

It was a 128-103 victory over the uninspired Jazz. It was also only the fourth victory for Dallas this season, but the Mavericks' fourth victory in 1981 came 12 games earlier than their fourth victory in 1980.

Dallas shot 75 percent in the first quarter, 80 percent in the second period and 62 percent overall. The Mavericks even reached the 100-point mark in the third quarter and at one point in the

game led by 34 — by far the biggest lead in their 101-game history.

"I think this is the first time we have won like this at home," said Dallas coach Dick Motta. "We've had big leads before but we've never won big. It felt good for a change."

"The youngsters are making fewer and fewer mistakes."

Dallas out-rebounded Utah, 47-37, and at one point in the game the Mavericks' centers had out-rebounded the Jazz centers, 16-2.

"They killed us on the boards and that's all there is to it," said Utah coach Tom Nissalke. "We're very weak in the middle."

Dallas had lost seven of eight previous meetings with Utah, usually because Adrian Dantley scored 40 points. Dantley had 34 Tuesday night and Darrell Griffith added 21.

Mark Aguirre, who guarded Dantley for part of the evening, finished with 24, but seven Dallas players scored in double figures.

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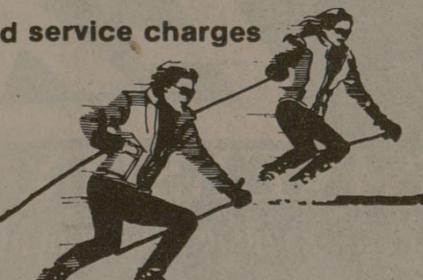


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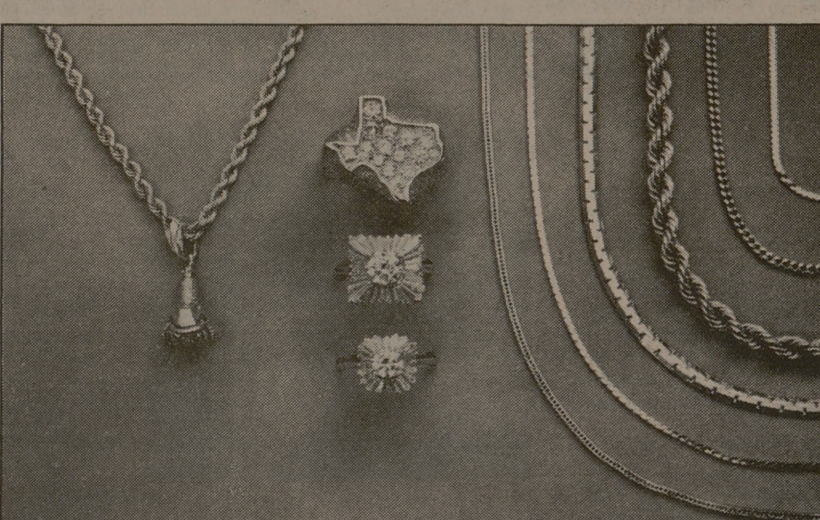


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