

# Softball

## Aggies gunning for national championship

by John Wagner

**Battalion Staff**  
"I think we're headed in the right direction."

It may be a classic case of understatement, but that's as far as Texas A&M women's softball coach Bob Brock will go in predicting how his team will do when the spring season begins Tuesday.

The Aggies went 36-3 during the fall season and won the Texas state championship. Every member of that championship team returns for the spring season, so when Brock says his team has the potential to go farther than last year's fourth-place finish in the College World Series, he's not just whistling the War Hymn.

"As long as our pitching stays the way it is and we get our breaks here and there, we're headed to where we want to be, and that's the regional championships and the national championships," Brock said.

The Aggies are anchored by a pitching staff of Lisa Martinez, Lori Stoll and Shan McDonald. Combined, the three finished the fall season with an ERA of 0.21 and gave up only 13 runs. Five of those runs were unearned.

Martinez was named TIAAW Player of the Year last semester after compiling a 13-0 record. The freshman from Bethany, Okla. had an ERA of 0.38, threw two no-hitters and led the team in strikeouts with 133.

Stoll was 10-2 on the season with an ERA of 0.17 and McDonald was 13-1 with an ERA of 0.08.

Offensively, the Aggies were led by Iva Jackson, who hit .355, and Josie Carter, who batted .312. Six players hit over .300, and the Aggies had a team batting average of .287.

The Aggies also stole 54 bases in the fall. They were caught only four times.

Melody Pritchard will be back to give the Aggies depth in the outfield, Brock said. The first-year coach said Pritchard was ineligible in the fall, and that her return should help the Aggies both offensively and defensively.

"We had a tremendous offen-

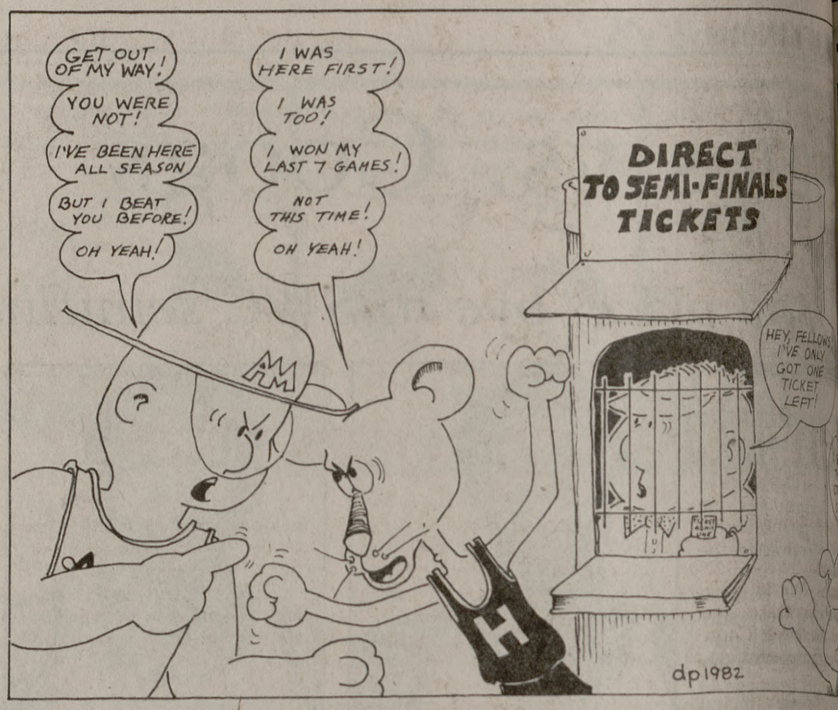
sive season in RBI output last semester, and I think Melody is going to add more to that. We also have four of the best outfielders in the United States with her coming back," Brock said.

The Aggies are scheduled to play some of the top teams in the country, including defending national champion Utah State University. The University of Minnesota and the University of South Carolina are two of the teams Brock is looking forward to playing.

"The tougher the competition, the better you can get," he said.

"We're going to get a good chance to play a lot of these teams before the regional and national tournaments. Usually, we just meet them in the national tournament, but (this year) we're going to have a good shot at playing them before we get there."

The Aggies open the season Tuesday with a double-header against the Baylor Bears at Travis Field in Bryan. The first game starts at 5:30 p.m. and the second at 7. Brock said the Aggies switched from Bee Creek Park in College Station, where they played last year, to Travis Field because it is better suited to fast-pitch softball.



## A&M to host Northeast Louisiana this weekend

by Frank L. Christlieb

**Sports Editor**  
Texas A&M assistant baseball coach Jim Sampson says the Aggies' double-header sweep Tuesday over St. Mary's University has shown that team may have the offensive power it needs for a successful year.

"One day doesn't make a season," Sampson said Thursday, "but we were pleased with our showing with the bat. We felt like we could be a pretty good hitting ballclub before the season."

Texas A&M has a 2-0 record after the double-header sweep, as the Aggies won the first game 11-0 behind the two-hit pitching of Rick Luecken. David Flores won the second game 9-3.

The Aggies host Northeast

Louisiana University in double-headers today at 1 and Saturday at noon. Northeast Louisiana, a member of the Trans-America Conference, had a 33-22 record in 1981.

In today's double-header, starting at 1 p.m., the Aggies' Steve Davis and Robert Slavens will start. Luecken and Flores will pitch Saturday's games, which begin at noon.

Sampson said the Texas A&M coaches were particularly pleased with the play of third baseman Grant Priess, who had two walks, a double, a single and a home run in the Aggies' victories.

"We had high expectations for Priess last year, but he never really lived up to them," Sampson said. "He had a great day



Grant Priess

Tuesday, and if he continues to play at that level, he should have a great year for himself. Priess finished the fall season with a .276 average in 44 of the Aggies' 50 games. He had 20 RBI and 10 runs during the season.

Designated hitter Smith hit two home runs in 1981, and encouraged Haney had one.

"The girls are very fun to watch. Here are some of the national players for Northeast Louisiana: — Mark Capshaw, — John Debb...

Leading Northeast Louisiana pitcher is Kirk K... had a 4-1 record and 11... last season.

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