

McDonald still fighting shoulder injury

by Joe Tindel Jr.
Battalion Staff
It's been several weeks since Shan McDonald injured her shoulder against Cal State-

Fullerton. But the injury still is keeping McDonald's pitching performance below 100 percent.
Thus, Aggie softball coach

Bob Brock is waiting for the official word on half of Texas A&M's respected pitching duo. McDonald underwent tests in Houston on Monday and Tues-

day in an attempt to isolate the problem with the shoulder, Brock said. And it's possible he could know today whether or not he'll have to ask Lori Stoll again to carry more than her usual share of the pitching chores.

McDonald has seen about 15 innings of action during the Aggies' recent stretch on the road. Brock said she performed well against Sam Houston State a week ago, but needed relief in the fifth inning.

Brock will be looking for answers today or some other time before this weekend's Nebraska Invitational Tournament — answers to the questions of whether McDonald will be able to pitch this weekend, and if not, how long she will need to rest.

The coach said even if it means her not throwing for a week or two, he'll try to get McDonald back up to full power. But he said he's at least making plans for her to play this weekend.

If tests prove McDonald should take some time off, the pressure of loneliness on the mound will befall Stoll, the Aggies' all-America pitcher. But

Brock said he has complete faith in the veteran should worse come to worst.

"I don't think a lot of teams are feeling sorry for us when Lori has to come in and pitch all the games," Brock said Tuesday. "I think she's very, very good under pressure, she works hard and she knows how to pace herself when she knows that she may have to pitch back-to-back double-headers.

"As a matter of fact, if you watch her, it's almost as if she gets stronger when she knows she has to pitch more."

Stoll already has put in extra time. She pitched 26 innings in a double-header against Cal State-Fullerton — during last weekend's Diamond Invitational — and then started against New Mexico the very next day.

The Aggies, now 30-8 this spring, are still in the middle of a series of road trips that will end May 1 with a double-header against Sam Houston. On May 4, Texas A&M will return home to host Sam Houston. The NCAA Regional tournament begins May 12 and the national tournament May 26.



Softball pitcher Shan McDonald is still nursing a sore shoulder she injured during the team's road trip through California in March.

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Late home run downs Rangers

BALTIMORE — Neither wind nor snow stopped Baltimore Orioles outfielder John Lowenstein from hitting a knuckleball tossed at him by Texas pitcher Charlie Hough.

"I could see the ball between the flakes and tried to hit it as hard as I could," said Lowenstein, whose lead-off home run in the eighth inning led Baltimore to a 4-2 victory over the Rangers. "As soon as I hit it I knew it was out.

"But the knuckleball complicates the situation. A lot of times you swing where you think it will be and when you do it's there."

Lowenstein's blast over the right field fence snapped a 2-1 and gave relief pitcher Sammy Stewart, 2-1, the victory over Hough, 1-1.

"I can't recall playing in conditions much more miserable than this," said Lowenstein, who also singled across a run in the third inning.

Rookie third baseman Leo Hernandez also swung at the time, drilling his second home run of the season with two out in the eighth inning to give Stewart an insurance run.

"Everybody was expecting extra innings," said Stewart, who struck out four and allowed only one hit during the last two innings. "I had plenty of rest and they (the Rangers) were helping me out with the slider."

Hough, who had trouble controlling his knuckleball in mph winds that gusted to 35 mph, also pitched through rain flurries over the last three innings.

"Both home runs were hit off knuckleballs," said Hough. "and both pitches were up a lot. You can't control the knuckleball as well in windy conditions. I've never pitched in weather like this before."

Hough's bases-loaded walk to Jim Dwyer in the first inning gave Baltimore a short-lived lead which two Orioles helped erase during a two-run Ranger third inning.

Oriole shortstop Cal Ripken's second double of the game and Lowenstein's two-out single tied it 2-2 in the third inning. Hough struck out Rich Dauer to end the threat.

Dwyer extended his two-season batting streak to 12 consecutive games, eight of those this season.

A pair of singles by Jim Sundberg and George Wright double were the only Texas hits.

"Two of our strongest pitchers fired hard stuff under the conditions," said Oriole pitching coach Ray Miller. "Dauer hurt his finger after the fourth inning, but it is nothing serious. I expect him to be ready in two days."

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