

The Battalion Sports

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Aggies outlast Bruins, Titans to win national championship

by John Wagner

Sports Editor
It's becoming a tradition. A frustrating one, to be sure, but they probably wouldn't have any other way. After all, it works out in the end.

The Texas A&M women's softball team started off the 83 NCAA College World Series the same way they began 82's AIAW championship tourney. They lost.

But for the second year in a row, the Aggies swept through the rest of the field to claim the national championship, this time defeating Cal State-Fullerton 2-0 in 12 innings.

Earlier Sunday the Aggies defeated UCLA 1-0 in 14 innings to reach the championship game.

Four-time All-America pitcher Lori Stoll pitched all 26 innings Sunday — a softball marathon. Coach Bob Brock was forced to rely on Stoll's arm because of Shan McDonald's nagging shoulder injury. And Stoll responded, shutting out two of the top teams in the country for 26 innings and allowing a combined 10 hits. She struck out 25.

The Aggies' most glaring weakness — hitting — almost caught up with them in the CWS. Texas A&M finished the season with a team batting average of .230, and Brock had worked all year trying to improve that aspect of his club. Poor hitting — along with inexperience at several key positions — was his big worry.

But Stoll, with her two shutouts, made sure her teammates didn't have to score big to win. And Brock's worries about his defense proved to be unnecessary — Texas A&M placed five players, including Stoll, on the all-tournament team.

Gay McNutt, Pattie Holthaus, Iva Jackson and freshman Cindy Cooper joined Stoll in the all-tourney selections.

But it took senior shortstop Carrie Austgen — who was passed over in the all-tourney selections in favor of UCLA's Dot Richardson — to save the title game for the Aggies. Her diving stop of an almost-certain base hit in the bottom of the 12th inning stopped a Fullerton rally and protected the Aggies' lead.

Texas A&M collected only three hits off Titan pitcher Susan LeFebre, two of them in the 12th. Cooper led off the inning with a single to right field, and moved to third when right fielder Vera Bahr misplayed the ball. Holthaus then reached first when she hit a shot that bounced off LeFebre's leg. Cooper stayed at third.

Jackson then walked to load the bases, and designated hitter Josie Carter hit to second base. Pam Newton couldn't hold onto the ball, and allowed Cooper to score. Newton then committed a throwing error attempting to catch Cooper at the plate, and Holthaus scored.

In the bottom of the 12th, however, the Titans put pressure on Stoll. Jan Pierini opened

for Fullerton with a single, bringing up LeFebre. She hit a shot past Stoll that appeared to be a base hit, but Austgen came up with her big play to trap the ball behind second. Austgen tagged second base to force Pierini.

The Aggies opened the CWS Wednesday with a 2-0 loss to South Carolina. After the loss, Texas A&M was forced to win five straight games to stay alive in the double elimination tournament.

The Aggies now own the distinction of having won the last AIAW championship and the first NCAA title in which all teams are involved.

Texas A&M finished the season with a record of 40-11. Stoll finished with a record of 30-7.



Aggie outfielder Cindy Foster carries the NCAA national championship trophy Monday after arriving at Easterwood Airport. A&M defeated Cal State 2-0 to win the title Sunday.

staff photo by Peter Rocha

USFL

Blitz uses rookie QB Koegel to roll past Wranglers, 36-11

United Press International
CHICAGO — Rookie quarterback Tim Koegel got along fine, with a little help from friends, to win his first professional football starting assignment.

Koegel, a Notre Dame graduate, stepped into a starting role Monday night's 36-11 Chicago

Blitz U.S. Football League victory over the Arizona Wranglers. The man he replaced, veteran Greg Landry, sat with his broken ankle in the press box, where he analyzed what there was of the Arizona defense and helped Koegel call plays.

"Tim did a great job of studying the game plan and execut-

ing," said Landry, who was knocked out for the season in the fourth quarter of last week's game against New Jersey. "He was exceptionally cool."

"I had absolutely no pressure on me," Koegel said. "I didn't come even close to getting sacked."

He gave much of the credit to Landry and the coaching crew.

"It was easier for them to see what I was doing wrong," Koegel said. "I called about 25 percent of my own plays."

Wranglers' Coach Doug Shively said disgustedly, "We were totally inept tonight."

Arizona didn't make a first down after the first quarter and a reserve quarterback was forced late in the final period to

shovel the ball out of the end zone for a safety to prevent a bad snap from center from turning into a touchdown.

The Wranglers had only 108 net yards of offense to Chicago's 466 yards. They were successful on one of 12 third down attempts. Their quarterbacks were sacked five times.

In Arizona's 30-29 victory over the Blitz March 12, Shively said, "We took away their momentum in the fourth quarter. Tonight we gave them 14 points in the span of three minutes, which demolished us."

The Wranglers actually gave the Blitz 18 points in 3:04 of the second quarter, going from an 8-3 lead to the short end of a 21-8 deficit. The outburst fea-

tured a 36-yard TD pass from Koegel to Trumaine Johnson, a 40-yard punt return for a touchdown by Lenny Willis, and a 36-yard field goal by Frank Corral, who hit on four field goals during the game.

The victory, coupled with Michigan's 43-7 victory over Tampa Bay, boosted the Blitz, 9-4, into a tie with Tampa for the lead in the Central Division. Tampa visits Chicago on June 12.

The Wranglers, holding down the cellar in the Pacific Division, dropped to 4-9, but Shively said the team still is in contention for the division crown.

"We'll have to win all of our remaining games," he said.



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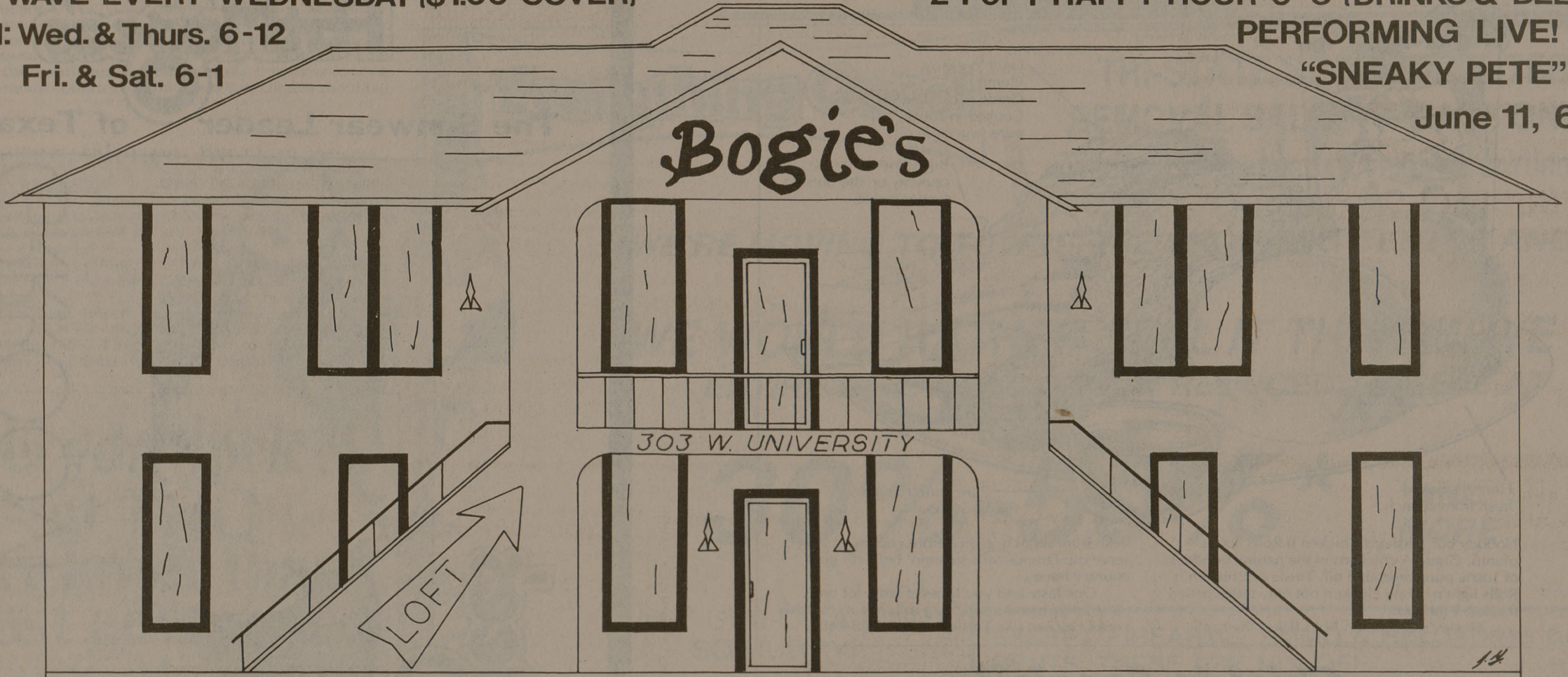
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