Ag softball consistency comparable to dynasty

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS Assistant Sports Editor

When you think of professional seball, you think of the New York nkees. Professional football — the llas Cowboys. College basketball the UCLA Bruins. Professional asketball—the Boston Celtics.

When you think about college of thall, the Texas A&M Aggies me to mind immediately. Just like the aforementioned, the gies have achieved acclaim

rough winning — consistently.

The Aggies have won two national npionships and finished second the past three years. The 1985

on should be even better. "Our outlook is very good," said &M Coach Bob Brock. "I am ex-ted about this team. I think we're oing to be as good or better than the teams we've had in the past. We are depth, speed and offensive inch. I don't see any weaknesses th these players.

"Our pitching will also be a lot bet-r. We've added a lefty since last

Karen Athanacio, a freshman m San Mateo, Calif., is the left ander added to this year's squad. nanacio was unbeaten this fall (5and may also contribute at first

ra, a shortstop from Garden rove, Calif. and Zina Ochoa, an uffielder, are freshmen who will nout immediately Mizera hit three home runs in the 8-game fall schedule. Ochoa will be

In addition to Athanacio, Liz Mi-

Aggies' leadoff hitter "Plus we have some freshmen who

ill do a good job in backup roles," ock said. "It seemed like we never adenough players last year."

The other additions to last year's cam are outfielder Jane Mesek, in-ielder Roshele Friudenberg,

atcher Rita Shea and third baseman ara Szymzack. These newcomers will be added to

the II returning lettermen, includ-ing three All-Americans. Patti Holthaus, Rose Ruffino and Linda Lancaster are the only players

ot returning from last year's squad. Catcher Gay McNutt, outfielder Jose Carter and pitcher Shawn Andaya are the returning All-Americans.

- Fever

tion

- Muscle Aches

- Sore Throat



Ag All-American Jose Carter

"(Outfielder Iva) Jackson, Carter and McNutt have been with me since I've been here," Brock said. "You can't put a price on that kind of ex-perience. With the experienced players added to the contributing freshmen and sophomores, we seem to perpetuate ourselves.

'We're really realaxed and hard working. We have quit worrying about who's on the other team, and

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we have started worrying about what the Aggies are doing.

Brock said the new players quickly get in the winning tradition.

get in the winning tradition.

"The old players tell them 'we want you to be on a national championship team," Brock said.

"We're a together team. You'll hear me talk about all those 'together' words like 'us' and 'we.' We have a team filled with the best athletes from the area they came from Fach. from the area they came from. Each player has something to do and she understands her role on the team."

Pitching is the Aggies biggest strength and the main reason is sim-

Andaya. "I don't want to call Shawn our ace, but she's probably the pitcher who pitched most of our games," Brock said. "She will pitch most of our tough opponents. She was All-American last year and she appears stronger this year.

Andaya was 40-10 in her freshman year, 7-1 in the fall, and 33-9 in

Yvette Lopez, a senior pitcher, was 22-9 in her first season with the Aggies, including a 5-0 fall mark.

Brock said the Aggies need to

keep working on hitting, but the biggest battle would not be against their

opponents but against themselves.
"There are things we need to work on to stay on top," Brock said.
"We have to continually work on our hitting skills. We will do a lot of live

'The one thing that bothers me is that we're strong enough that we're our own enemy. We can't get com-

placent and beat ourselves. At times last year the Aggies did have to battle complacency, Brock

"It had to do with injuries and depth, things like that," Brock said.

Brock said the Aggies should be back in the College World Series if they play as well as they can.

here's no team in the nation we can't beat," he said. "If we play like we're capable of playing, we should be back in the World Series. If we don't make it, we want to know we did our best to try and get there.

The schedule could take its toll on A&M, if the players aren't mentally prepared.

See A&M Softball, page 14

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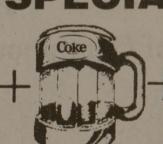
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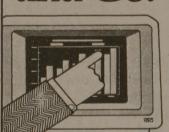
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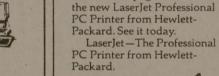


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