

SPORTS

Ags worthy of night-hood against 'Kats

Ag golfers get look at SWC rivals

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a night for pitchers. And a night for Liz Mizera.

The Texas A&M softball team, ranked No. 3 in the nation, couldn't have won either game against Sam Houston State Tuesday night without a freshman shortstop — Mizera. She might look small, but she carries a big stick.

As the wind began to blow harder and harder at A&M Field, the hits seemed to come less and less.

"The wind helps me," said Aggie pitcher Yvette Lopez. "The wind catches the seams and makes (the ball) move. It gets hard to hit."

For most of the hitters, the ball was definitely hard to hit. The Ags could come up with only six hits in the first game, the Bearkats only two. The second game wasn't much different — nine for A&M and two for SHSU.

But Mizera somehow found a way to hit the ball.

The first game was in extra innings, the eighth inning to be exact, and the game looked as gloomy as the weather for the Ags. Mizera came to bat with a runner on second. She slammed the pitch of SHSU's JoAnne Graham into left field. The ball glanced off the glove of left fielder Sherri McNamara and as the ball rolled out of her reach, so had the game for the 'Kats.

The Ags posted a 2-0 win behind the strength of Mizera's hitting.

The first runs allowed by Graham, who was 10-0 before Mizera's destruction, snapped a 12-game Bearkat win streak.

"It's the bench that does it," Mizera joked. "I just tried to hit the ball. I was just trying to connect."

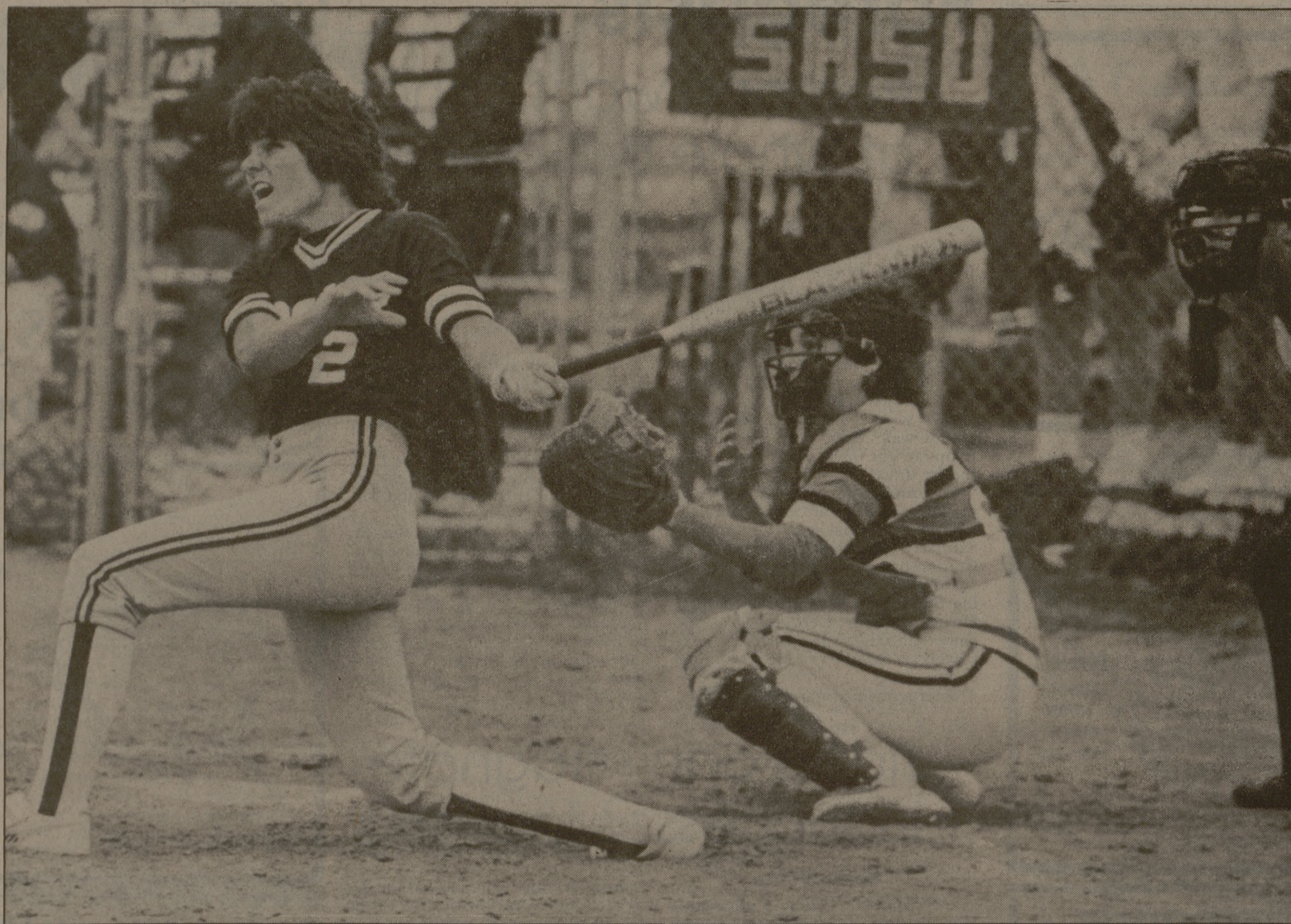
The second game was an exact replica of the first. You could have just replayed the videotape.

This time, Mizera saved her heroics until the third inning. Her homerun shot carried into the intramural fields.

It was a shot even Hank Aaron would have stood at the plate to watch glide over the fence.

Thanks to Mizera, the Ags had a 1-0 win and a double-header sweep.

"Liz is doing a good job of hit-



Texas A&M third baseman Cindy Cooper (2) finishes her swing as she watches the ball. The Ags shut out Sam Houston

2-0 and 1-0 Tuesday behind Liz Mizera's two homeruns. A&M will compete in the Aggie Invitational this weekend.

Photo by PETER ROCHA

ting," said A&M Coach Bob Brock of his .390 hitter. "She has nine home runs and has won five or six games for us with her hitting."

Of course, if the Aggie pitchers hadn't come through as usual, Mizera would have been the only bright spot.

Pitching ace Shawn Andaya improved her record to 8-3 and kept her ERA at .390 with 12 first game strikeouts. Lopez took care of the second game, improving to 8-2.

The day must have been meant for the Ags. Lopez struckout a Bearkat on three straight changeups.

"I don't think I've ever seen a pitcher throw three straight changeups," Lopez laughed. "I just missed the last sign."

With the way the ball bounced, the wins were meant for the Ags.

"We hit the ball well enough to score 10 runs tonight," Brock said.

"The ball did some crazy things out there. Everytime we got some people on, the wind would catch the ball or they would make a diving catch — just weird stuff."

Still the Ags' hitting attack must come around before the Cal-State Fullertons and the UCLAs do.

By PETE HERNDON
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's golf team will be in Houston Wednesday through Saturday for the 31st Annual All-America Intercollegiate Invitational Tournament at Bear Creek Golf World.

In last year's tournament, A&M's Philip Parkin took the overall individual title with a four round total of 276. This year, however, the Aggies will be without Parkin, who left A&M to join the European pro circuit.

With every Southwest Conference team except Arkansas competing, the All-America Intercollegiate could be a good indication of what to expect at the SWC Championships in April.

Not surprisingly, this year's tournament field is expected to chase Houston, the defending NCAA national champs, for the team title. The Cougars haven't lost a tournament thus far this season.

A&M Coach Bob Ellis said this week's tourney is important for A&M because some of his golfers have not played up to their potential as of late.

A&M's Jorge Coghlin, an honorable mention All-American last season, hasn't had a good spring and is listed as A&M's No. 4 player going into the All-America Intercollegiate. Flint Nelson, the No. 3 man for the Ags, finished third in the Pan American Tournament during the first week of February, but Ellis said Nelson hasn't played well since.

"We play in a tough conference (SWC teams Houston, Arkansas, Texas and A&M were all ranked in the nation's Top 20 at the beginning of the spring)," Ellis said. "But that's the way we want it. If everybody plays well and stays together, we can compete with just about anyone."

Ellis said the bright spot for the Aggies this spring has been Paul Mayo. Mayo has played consistently well in his last three tournament outings and has moved into the Aggies No. 1 slot in the lineup.

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