gs Top 20 teams come calling for Ag tourney

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS Assistant Sports Editor

The pitching will have to be as trong as usual. The hitting and base running will have to be better than usual. That is if the Texas A&M softball team expects to win the Ag-gie Invitational this weekend. "We have to hit," said A&M center

fielder Iva Jackson on what the Ags would have to do to win the tourna-ment. "One word — hit."

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ment. "One word — ht." Chimed in catcher Gay McNutt laughing, "Score more runs than they do — cross home plate." The No. 3 Aggies (21-6) will play host to a strong field of teams, in-cluding No. 8 New Mexico, No. 11 Utah and No. 17 Baylor at South-word Athletic Complex

wood Athletic Complex. "When you get right down to it,

this is a strong tournament," said A&M Coach Bob Brock. "The three ranked teams are tough. Louisiana Tech is strong even though they've been hit by injuries. Southwest Missouri is always tough. Northeast Louisiana is an ability team. They are getting better every year."

To win the tournament with the most wins will be tough. To win all nine games will be tougher.

"It will take a heck of a team to go 90 in three days," said A&M Coach Bob Brock. "I feel real good about our chances of winning. We're at home and we're well rested."

With the pitchers the Aggies have, it's no wonder Brock is confident of his team's chances.

Perhaps the best pitcher in the nation, Shawn Andaya, will be on the wound several times for the Ags over the weekend. She has already struck out 17 batters in one game and has posted an 8-3 record with a .390 ERÁ

A&M's Yvette Lopez, 8-2 on the year, just might be the second best pitcher in the nation behind An-

Karen Athanacio can't be forgotten although she has seen more time at first base than on the pitching mound of late. The left-handed freshman is 3-1 with her only loss a 1-0 loss at the hands of No. 15 Cal-Berkely on the road.

"We haven't pitched Karen that nuch," Brock said. "She's looked real good at first. I have also been using her for as a designated hitter. She's come in and done a good job

Catcher Gay McNutt, who per-haps knows the three pitchers better

Softball Top 20

1. Cal-State Fullerton

- 2. UCLA 3. Texas A&M
- 4. Cal-Poly Pomona
- 5. Northwestern
- 6. Pacific
- 7. Fresno State
- 8. New Mexico
- 9. Missouri
- 10. Nicholls State
- 11. Utah
- 12. Oklahoma
- 13. Nebraska
- 14. Arizona State
- 15. Cal-Berkley
- 16. Creighton
- 17. Baylor
- 18. Oklahoma State
- 19. Indiana
- 20. South Carolina

than anyone, said they will give the Ags an added advantage "They have a lot to do with our nning," McNutt said. "We have

winning, three of the best pitchers in the na-

Of course, having a freshman shortstop by the name of Liz Mizera won't hurt either.

Mizera won both games of a dou-Houston State with homeruns, which accounted for every A&M run. Mizera is batting .390 with nine homeruns, and has won several homeruns and has won several games for the Ags with her hitting. The homeruns by Mizera enabled

the Ags to move into the tournament

on a four-game win streak. Hitting has been the Ags' biggest



A&M Softball Coach Bob Brock (far right) huddles his players around him to talk strategy during Tuesday's double-

The perfect prima donna team is

had to do with being tired (on a 10day road trip over spring break). Some of it had to do with shots not

The home field advantage should

Mary Schwind. "We didn't have time to rest. "The home field will be a big ad-vantage. You always play better in

your own surroundings. True, the Ags will be at home for this particular tourney, but they've got Omaha, Neb. and a second

NCAA national championship on their minds.

"More than anything else, I would like to win one more title before I leave," Jackson said. "There's no absolute guarantee! Any team can lose and any team can win at any time. We're just hoping we're the team that wins

Especially in this weekend's Aggie Invitational.

header with Sam Houston State. Brock's No. 3 Ags will talk even more strategy this weekend in the Aggie Invitational.

Aggie Tournament Pairings

Friday, March 29

11 a.m. — (Field #1) A&M vs. Northeast Louisiana 1 p.m. — (Field #1) South Florida vs. A&M 6 p.m. — (Field #1) A&M vs. Southwest Missouri

Saturday, March 30

9 a.m. — (Field #2) New Mexico vs. A&M 11 a.m. — (Field #2) Stanford vs. A&M 3 p.m. — (Field #2) A&M vs. Louisiana Tech

Sunday, March 31

9 a.m. — (Field #3) A&M vs. Baylor 11 a.m. — (Field #3) Florida vs. A&M 3 p.m. — (Field #1) Utah vs. A&M





* Highest ranking Soviet official ever to defect

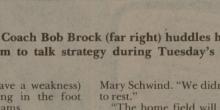
weakness (if they have a weakness) this season, following in the foot steps of past A&M teams. "We have a really strong team," Jackson said. "Our team is not perfect, but that's what we strive for.

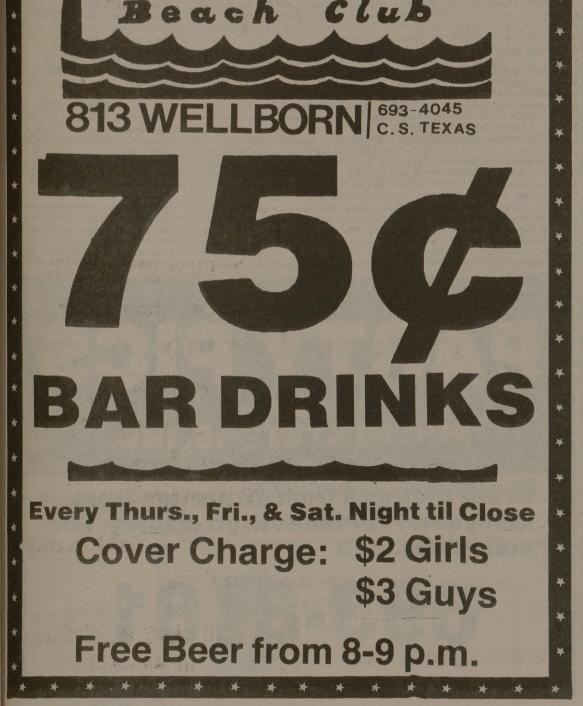
what any team wants. 'The reason we weren't hitting

falling. Some were long, deep, deep fly balls. And sometimes we just got robbed.

cure most of the Ags' hitting prob-

lems. "A lot of our hitting problems were mental," said first baseman





* Under-Secretary to the UN

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