

SPORTS

# A&M hosts Baylor in softball season finale

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Photo by WAYNE GRABEIN

Baylor hopes to keep Texas A&M looking at pitches when the teams square off in the Aggies' final double-header of the season at 4 p.m. at A&M Field. Freshman Karen Athanacio

was the one left looking on this pitch in the Aggie Invitational on March 31. However, just like the other three times, the Bears were the ones left standing when all was said and done.

If the No. 3 Texas A&M softball team hadn't played Baylor this year, its record would read 30-8 instead of the present 34-8.

After four meetings with the Bears, in three different locals, Baylor is yet to pull off an upset. In fact, they've yet to score a run on the Ags.

However, it's not over 'til it's over and the Bears aren't through with the Ags just yet. At 4 p.m. Tuesday at the A&M Field, the Bears will get two final shots at the Ags.

"I look for the typical type Baylor team," said A&M Coach Bob Brock. "They're a good team. I understand they've had a lot of injuries, but they may be totally well when they come down here."

"You can never take Baylor lightly. They'll sneak in your backyard and beat you. We're 4-0 on them, but that's no reason to take them lightly. Every game is a new one."

If the Bears expect to stop their losing trend against the Ags, they'll have to stop more than just one player.

Normally strong pitcher Shawn Andaya (15-3, .449 ERA) faltered against New Mexico a week ago and senior Yvette Lopez (13-4, .833 ERA) was called on to relieve Andaya for the first time ever. Lopez responded by pitching 17 strong innings (that's over four games in two days).

"I don't know who was more surprised with that move (pulling Andaya for Lopez), the pitching coach, Shawn, Yvette or me," Brock laughed. "but I did it. I think that was a move that helped the whole team. Yvette with all the injuries she had last year, has done a remarkable job this year."

Another bright spot for Brock is freshman pitcher/first baseman Karen Athanacio.

"Karen has come in and done a good job," Brock said. "She has gotten some big hits and some big RBIs."

Other underrated players who don't get their due respect are senior outfielder Ann Hadley, right fielder Deb Rollman and left fielder Cindy Foster.

Hadley's claim to fame is throwing out runners at home. Against New Mexico, Hadley nailed a runner on a beautiful throw to the plate — that's with an old shoulder injury.

Rollman is "Miss Consistent." She has yet to make an error this season, and lately she's had a hot bat.

"Debbie has really come on lately," Brock said. "Her .313 average is the highest she's ever batted. Her lifetime average is something like .158, so that's a big difference."

Foster's also without an error and is hitting .302.

## Softball team on verge of first Ag dynasty

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They are the Dallas Cowboys, Boston Celtics and New York Yankees' dynasty teams all rolled into one.

Awesome.

For the current A&M team, they are No. 3 in the nation, have a 34-8 record against Top 20 competition and have only five players leaving after this season. The five seniors will report for their last home duty Tuesday at 4 p.m. After that final bow at home, all that remains is a final NCAA championship ring.

"It will be the last opportunity to see the trio that has been here for the last three years — that's Gay McNutt, Josie Carter and Iva Jackson," said A&M Coach Bob Brock. "And, it will be the last time to see Yvette (Lopez) pitch and the last time to see Ann (Hadley) playing in the outfield."

It'll be goodbye to some, but hello to others.

Freshmen Karen Athanacio, Liz Mizera, Zina Ochoa, Rita Shea and Tara Szymczak are here to stay for three more years.

Remarkable should be included in Mizera's name. She is hitting .395 with 15 home runs.

"Her home runs come so often, it's like no big deal now," said third

baseman Cindy Cooper.

But, Cooper's one to be talking. She's hit four herself to go with her .349 average.

As a team, the Ags are hitting .331. Thirteen of 16 players are batting over .300. What's more, there's pitching to go with that.

The team ERA is .568, having given up only 23 earned runs in 283 innings. Sophomore Shawn Andaya is 15-3, Lopez is 13-4 and Athanacio is 6-1.

Every softball team in the nation sets its sights on beating the Aggies.

"They save everything they have for the Aggies," Brock said. "Every game has to be that final world series game — no matter who we're playing."

## A&M inks two women cager talents for '85

Texas A&M Head Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey is turning the Aggies around the corner toward respectability.

After signing four outstanding prospects to scholarships, she went out and got two others. The new signees both come from Odessa Junior College, the JUCO National Champions last year.

Tamara Jackson, a 5-foot-11 post, who attended Waco Richfield, inked a pact with the Ags as did her teammate Rosalind Brown. Brown is a 5-7 point guard from Slaton.

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