



Photo by ANTHONY CASPER

Texas A&M third baseman Cindy Cooper shows her teammates her mighty swing during Tuesday's game against Baylor. Cooper has a .349 average with four home runs.

'Super Cooper' helping A&M achieve perfection

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Off the field such phrases as "a ton," "super" and "great" flow out of Cindy Cooper's mouth. On the field, the Texas A&M softball player yells, "Hey buddy, what do you say A&M?" and "Come on, it's not over yet!"

The A&M third baseman is the Aggie softball team's cheerleader and spokesperson. She gets fired up about everything.

"Most of the time, I look at being here as a job," Cooper said. "I am getting my education paid for, but at the same time I have a job to do on the softball field. But, it is an enjoyable job — pleasurable to me."

Unlike most of the A&M players, Cooper was born in Texas, in Tyler. Like most of the players, she came to A&M from another state.

"I was born in Tyler, but we moved to Bartlesville, Okla. when I was 4," said the 5-foot-7 junior. "All my relatives still live here. I have a grandmother in Gainesville. That had a lot to do with my coming here."

Cooper said her athletic ability is all inherited.

"Both of my parents are athletic," she said. "My mom has a lot of just natural athletic ability. My dad played basketball in college."

"The first goal we have is to get to nationals. The ultimate goal is to win it. With the people we have, we won't have much trouble in attacking the national tournament."

— A&M softball player
Cindy Cooper

When Cooper turned 8, she used her new found skill in Little League softball.

"I remember it was 8 because you had to be 10 to be an All-Star. Usually only 9-year-olds could start in little league, so I had to wait two years to be an All-Star instead of one."

Cooper began her career as a shortstop, but her Sooner High School coach moved her to third base her freshman year.

"I was really mad at him about that," Cooper said. "I really hated the position. Now whenever I go back home, I see that man and he says, 'See, Cindy, if I hadn't moved

you, you'd still be playing short."

All four years of high school brought success to Cooper and her team.

"We were state champions my junior year and runner-up my senior year," she said. "Every year we went to state (playoffs)."

That success brought Cooper scholarship offers from far and near.

"I didn't get a ton," Cooper said. "All the Big Eight schools offered me a scholarship. Several junior colleges offered me a scholarship for basketball. I contemplated playing basketball."

"I wouldn't be anywhere else," she said. "There is nowhere else I would rather be playing. I really don't think I could be happy playing a

totally satisfied with her decision.

See Super Cooper, page 11

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