

# Everybody plays a part in A&M's sweep

By Charean Williams  
Assistant Sports Editor

For the past few years, the Texas A&M softball team always had that one big hitter who could be counted on to come through in the clutch to squeeze out a last-inning win.

Last year, it was freshman Liz Mizera with her golden bat and home run swing.

## Softball

Mizera is still around, knocking the cover off the ball, but for the Aggies, times have changed.

Fourth-ranked A&M had seven different players bang out hits as it stopped No. 5 Louisiana Tech 2-0 and 2-1 Sunday afternoon at the A&M softball complex.

"I'm happy with the way the team executed," A&M Coach Bob Brock said. "Somebody different did it every time. This team reminds me of the '83 (national championship) team. They seem to be able to come through when it counts."

In the first game, the Aggies got five hits by five different players, but it was first baseman Mary Schwind who had the most important hit.

In the fourth inning, Schwind followed a Cindy Cooper walk and Mizera single with a RBI single for the only run the Aggies would need.

"My hitting is coming along," said Schwind, who is hitting .252. "That one was just a routine hit."

Outfielder Erin Newkirk helped provide an insurance run with a triple past center fielder Barbara Carter.

On the next pitch, A&M second baseman Judy Trussell got a RBI single up the middle for the final 2-0 count.

And the Aggies did it off the Bulldogs' top pitcher, Stacey Johnson, 27-6.

On the Aggies' side, pitcher Shawn Andaya gave up a few more hits than usual and ran into a few stumbling blocks, but the end result was the same — another win.

Andaya only gave up three hits, walked two and struck out seven. She found herself in trouble in the fifth and sixth innings, but some All-America plays by Cooper at third helped Andaya out of trouble.

"I've never been as fired up as I was for those two games," said Cooper, who was vocal throughout the double-header. "I was jumping in the air every time we made a play."

However, when the second game started so did trouble.

"You tend to relax somewhat after you beat one of their top pitchers in the first game," Brock said. "That's exactly what we did. We thought the second game would be easy."

Pitcher Julie Carpenter walked



A&M shortstop Liz Mizera, left, makes the easy play at second, forcing out Louisiana Tech's Laneigh Anderson (7). The No. 4 Aggies,

Bulldog left fielder Maria Peralta to start the second game. Then she got behind 2-0 to right fielder Chris Sherman, sending Brock to the mound for a conference.

But again it was Cooper saving the day with her quick arm.

In the second inning, Carpenter gave up a single and had a wild pitch but again got out of the inning without any damage.

The Bulldogs finally got to the freshman in the third, scoring the first run of the game.

"Julie was having a little trouble with her change up," Brock said. "That's her best pitch, and they were hitting it. That got her in some trouble."

Carpenter settled down, giving up only three hits in the next four innings.

However, the Aggies were finding

little success against pitcher Kelly Campbell.

Campbell had a perfect game until A&M outfielder Zina Ochoa singled with two outs in the sixth.

Entering the bottom of the seventh down 1-0, A&M was staring defeat squarely in the eye.

But with one out, Cooper singled to left center field. Mizera followed with a sharp grounder to third that was bobbled by Laurie Moir.

Schwind followed and hit a ball that appeared to be going over the left field fence for the game winner.

But the ball bounced off the top of the fence for a double, scoring Cooper for the tying run. Tory Parks, who was pinch running for Mizera, tried to go home and was thrown out.

"I almost feel asleep," Brock said. "I knew Mary's hit was going out. I hollered at Tory that she was on her

own. But I'll take full the blame for that one. We just both got caught up in watching Mary's fly ball."

So the Ags thankfully got into extra innings against the Bulldogs. However, it looked like it might be over quickly as Carpenter gave up a walk and single to start the eighth.

Andaya then took over for Carpenter, who allowed six hits and struck out two.

"Hey, being a freshman and only giving up one run in eight innings against the fifth best team in the nation is awesome," A&M left fielder Cindy Foster said. "Julie kept us in the game and got us into extra innings."

Andaya's first pitch hit the backstop, moving the runners up. But she struck out two and got an easy pop up to avoid disaster.

An inning later, the scenario was almost the same as the seventh, giv-

ing Andaya, 17-4, her second win of the day.

Cooper singled with one out. Mizera hit another sharp shot down the third base line and Moir again misplayed the ball, sending Cooper to third.

Schwind's hot bat got her a free pass to first and Foster became the hero with a sharp grounder to second which scored Cooper to end the game.

"I knew it was a base hit," Foster said. "The first pitch she gave me was an outside drop that missed. I was looking for it again. I knew if I just made contact, Cindy would be going in head first."

The Ags will host Texas-Arlington today in a double-header beginning at 5 p.m. at the A&M softball complex.

Photo by John Makely

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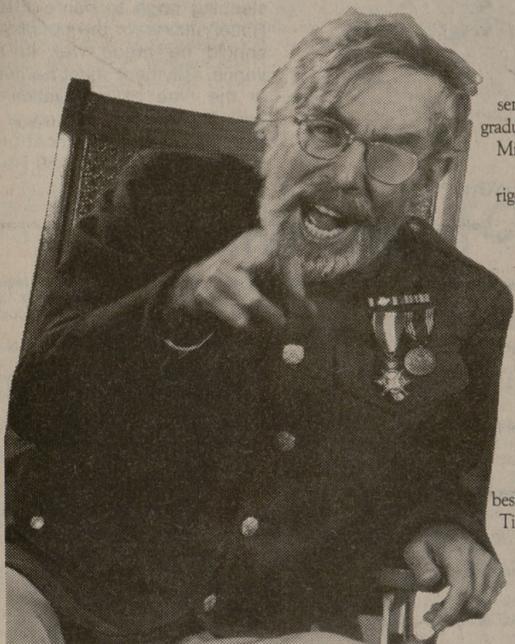
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