

Ag softball hopes to continue success

By Danny Myers
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M softball team, which finished last season as the No. 2 team in the nation, begins its 1986-87 campaign today at the Fall Maverick Invitational in Arlington's Randol Mill Park.

A&M, playing in a four-team pool today, will face Oklahoma City University at 4 p.m., Baylor University at 5:30, and Ranger Junior College at 8:45.

The other pool in the tourney is made up the University of Texas at Arlington, Southwest Texas State, Northeast Louisiana and the University of Oklahoma. The standings after Friday's pool play will determine the seedings for Saturday's single-elimination tournament.

A&M lost to California State-Ful-

erton, 3-0, in the championship game of the College Softball World Series in May. This year's team returns All-America second baseman Judy Trussell, two-time All-America pitcher Shawn Andaya and short-stop Liz Mizera, who had a .371 batting average and led the NCAA with 18 home runs last season.

Head Coach Bob Brock said his team is quick.

"It's probably one of the fastest teams in the nation — faster than we've ever had," Brock said.

But the Aggies' biggest problem this season is experience, he said.

A&M loses four starters from last season: All-America third baseman Cindy Cooper, first baseman Mary Schwind, right fielder Debbie Rollman and outfielder Cindy Foster.

Brock said the open spots on the

roster will be filled with freshmen, but he's not concerned about the abundance of youth.

"We've been able to recruit some of the top players in the nation because of our past record," he said.

"When (a team) keeps winning all the time and you end up on the team, you seem to end up a little better ball player — with the combination of a lot of hard work."

Another change the Aggies face this year is that the pitching mound has been moved back from 40 to 43 feet.

"It looks like it might add a little bit more offense and it looks like it might enhance the running game a little more, too," Brock said.

"I'm excited about the new challenge."

Even though the Aggies have a



Softball Coach Bob Brock

young team (two seniors, two juniors, five sophomores and four freshmen), Brock is still looking for a good year.

"We've got a lot of quality players

on the team now," he said.

"Everybody on the team plays at least two positions, sometimes three."

"I'm very comfortable with their ability to fill in (at other positions)."

A&M could play as many as six games in the two-day tournament, yet only has been working out as a team since Sept. 1.

"That's OK," Brock said. "That's the way we play this game."

"It's not unusual in a tournament. That's why we're lucky to have two pitchers the caliber we've got (Andaya and sophomore Julie Carpenter)."

"The more (the players) work, the more they like it, so it works out pretty well."

"They'll be in good condition. We've been working hard," Brock said.

A&M women golfers head for Oklahoma

The Texas A&M women's team, coming off a disappointing sixth-place finish last year, begins play this morning at the Kickingbird Golf Course in Edmond, Okla.

The 12-team tournament, co-hosted by Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, is being played at the Kickingbird Golf Course in Edmond, Okla., through Sunday.

Despite the team's poor showing at last week's SMU Classic in Dallas, A&M Coach Kim Kinnear is hoping her team will repeat its 1985 form when it plays in the Southwest Conference tournament, the Aggies slumped to a fourth-place finish.

Traveling with the team this weekend are senior freshman, juniors Kelli Murphy, Hollie Frizzell and sophomore Mariana Oyanguren and freshman Penuela.

Frizzell led A&M in the SMU Classic with a round total of 235, good for the tournament.

Other SWC schools at the tournament include SMU and Texas Tech, as well as teams from Florida State and San Jose State.

Yanks' Mattingly pursues second batting title

NEW YORK (AP) — After winning a batting title in 1984 and a most valuable player award in 1985, first baseman Don Mattingly of the New York Yankees seems only mildly interested in topping this year's American League hitting list — or any of the other six categories he ranks among the top five.

"We're still got a long way to go," Mattingly said. "I don't look at the boxscores much. I usually don't know what (Boston's Wade) Boggs did unless someone tells me."

Mattingly, last year's AL MVP, has hit safely in 17 consecutive games and raised his

average from .335 to .350, bringing him within a point of the Red Sox' third baseman, who led the American League in hitting before Thursday's games.

In the streak, the 25-year-old left-handed hitter was 33-for-70 with three home runs, 13 runs batted in and 16 doubles, while scoring 19 runs.

"I won the batting title in 1984 (with a .343 average) and I had a good year last year," Mattingly said. "This is as good as I've felt at the plate as far as knowing myself and what

I'm doing, I feel very relaxed. I feel like I'm approaching the pitchers the right way looking for the right pitches. I'm seeing the ball as good as I have in a long time."

His 214 hits, .568 slugging percentage and 48 doubles ranked him first in those categories, while he was fifth in RBI (102), third in runs scored (106), and fifth in on-base percentage (.592).

No Yankees' player has had as many hits since Joe DiMaggio had 215 in 1937, and this

is the third straight season Mattingly has accumulated more than 100 RBI.

With New York far behind East Division-leading Boston, the batting race between Mattingly and Boggs was commanding much attention.

"It's on your mind, because you come to the park and you're asked questions about it," Mattingly said. "But I don't think about it in a major way. You're never really in a batting race with another player. You're in it with yourself and the pitcher. You're trying to beat the pitcher."

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Since World War II, Texas A&M University has been represented in Congress by someone with a close, personal relationship with A&M.

There was Congressman "Tiger" Teague, A&M '32. Then there was Congressman Phil Gramm, an A&M professor.

Now there's Congressman Joe Barton, A&M '72. **It's helped A&M to have one of its own representing the 6th District in Congress.**

Working with A&M officials to bring companies to the Texas A&M Research Park has been a priority for Joe Barton, a member of the Science and Technology Committee.

This could help make A&M an international center for scientific research and bring hundreds of millions in grants to A&M.

While Joe's been in Congress, A&M was selected as the only Texas university to receive a special Federal grant to purchase half a million dollars' worth of scientific equipment for energy research.

Joe's worked with Texas A&M's Forest Service on getting pine beetle research funds and with the Oceanography Department for grant monies.

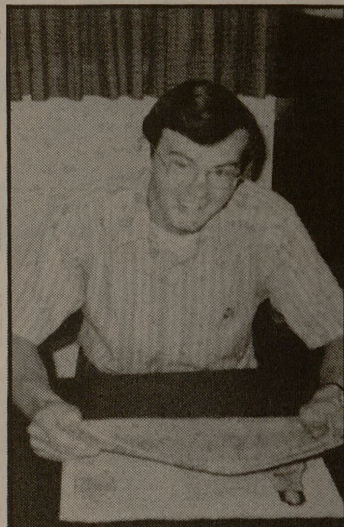
Joe introduced a "Space Grant Bill" that would strengthen A&M's research into space colonization and industrial potential.

It's Worked for Brazos County.

To make certain he's available to the people in Brazos County, Joe Barton opened a District Office here.

He's held 5 town meetings here, made 47 speeches in Brazos County, and worked closely with local officials and A&M to get our fair share of Federal programs.

Joe worked to improve Easterwood Airport, so important to the economic growth of this area. Easterwood has received \$1.7 million from the Federal Aviation Administration to extend the runway.



Joe attended Fish Camp, was a member of SCONA, and helped build Aggie Bonfires.

He won a four-year Gifford Hill Opportunity Award Scholarship, was voted Outstanding Senior Industrial Engineering Student and worked his way through A&M to make ends meet.

RE-ELECT CONGRESSMAN
JOE BARTON



Joe Barton is the only Aggie in the race for Congress and one of only two Aggies in the House of Representatives.

And the Department of Housing and Urban Development made a \$754,000 grant to the City of College Station for local programs. Brazos County received \$148,661,682 in Federal dollars last year.

It's worked for Texas and America. It will work for the future, too.

Congressman Joe Barton is a respected new conservative leader in the House of Representatives, working to strengthen our nation's economy, create jobs, and control government spending. He was a floor leader in the battle to pass Gramm-Rudman. He's co-sponsor of the Balanced Budget and of the Voluntary School Prayer Constitutional Amendments.

He's the only Texan on the important Interior Committee where his work won Texas schools an immediate \$424 million and hundreds of millions more in the future from offshore royalties.

Joe is chairman of the Republican Task Force on Energy and the Environment and he was awarded "The Watchdog of the Treasury" award for his fiscal responsibility and conservative voting record.

Let's keep Joe Barton in Congress because . . . **Joe Barton listens to us in Texas. He works for us in Washington. Let's re-elect Congressman Joe Barton.**

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