

# Lady Aggie pitchers blank Bobcats 2-0, 5-0

By Hal L. Hammons  
Sports Writer

The one-two pitching punch of the Texas A&M softball team proved devastating to Southwest Texas State as the Lady Aggies easily swept a double-header Tuesday at the Penberthy Intramural Complex.

The first game saw A&M pitcher Julie Carpenter throw a no-hitter to blank the Bobcats 2-0. Shawn Andaya followed suit in the second game with a two-hitter of her own in which she struck out a season-high 14 batters to give A&M a 5-0 win.

The Lady Aggies, still ranked No. 2 in the nation, raised their record to 35-6 on the season, while SWTSU fell to 13-14. Carpenter's season record is now 13-2, and Andaya stands at 22-4.

A&M Coach Bob Brock said he was pleased with the outing, especially with the pitching and defense.

He also had words of high praise for sophomore Carrie Heightley. Ordinarily a catcher, Heightley played both games in the outfield.

Brock said it was strange "having one of the finest catchers in the NCAA playing outfield." Heightley went 2-for-4 over the two games with one RBI, two steals and two runs scored.

Carpenter's performance was not overpowering, but her results were impressive. Only twice did Bobcat batters hit balls into the outfield, and both were for outs. The sophomore only walked two batters.

In the sixth inning, the crowd gave up hope for the no-hitter as a hard shot up the middle bounced off Carpenter's glove, allowing center fielder Lori Andrews to reach first. However, the play was ruled an error, and the Bobcats never threatened again.

Carpenter said she wished she could say the game was an especially good effort, but it really wasn't. She gave a lot of credit to the defensive effort of her teammates.

The Lady Aggies started wasting baserunners in the second inning of the first game with no score. Andaya, at first base for the opener, led off with a double. Catcher Erika Eriksson singled and center fielder Erin Newkirk reached base on an error to load the bases with nobody out.

But Heightley struck out, Car-

penter flew out, and left fielder Tory Parks grounded out to end the inning.

In the third, second baseman Renee Blaha singled and stole second with one out and the middle of the lineup at bat. Again A&M failed to score as shortstop Liz Mizera and Andaya both popped up to the shortstop.

It looked like more of the same in the fourth. Eriksson singled to open the inning. After Newkirk flied out, Heightley doubled to move Eriksson to third. Zina Ochoa came in to run for Eriksson and promptly got caught off-base and was caught in a rundown for the second out when Carpenter grounded to the shortstop.

But Parks made up for her earlier out with a single that scored Heightley for the game's first run. Carpenter advanced to third and Parks stole second, and a wild pitch scored Carpenter, but third baseman Judy Trussell grounded out to end the inning.

The second game looked like a mirror image of the first. Blaha opened with a walk, and Trussell and Andaya both singled to load the bases with no outs. But first baseman Kelly Biggs struck out, and Mizera flied to center with Blaha too far down the baseline to tag up on the fly. Newkirk popped up to end the inning.

With one out in the second, Ochoa and Heightley walked. Blaha grounded to shortstop, who threw to third to force Ochoa for the second out. Trussell singled and took second on the errant throw to first. Heightley scored and Blaha moved to third. However, the rally died as Andaya lined out to third.

The offense finally came around in the sixth with A&M ahead 2-0. Catcher Karen Robertson singled and Ochoa walked with no outs. A wild pitch moved along Ochoa and Parks, who had come in to run for Robertson. Heightley singled to score Parks and then stole second.

After Blaha walked and Trussell popped out, Andaya singled to center, where the ball was bobbled, allowing Andaya to advance to second and scoring Heightley. But again, the Lady Aggies failed to make the most of a golden opportunity as Blaha and Andaya both died on the basepaths.



Photo by Doug La Rue

A&M center fielder Erin Newkirk is forced out at second base by Southwest Texas State's Dana Perez. The No. 2 ranked Lady Aggies used the strong pitching efforts of Julie Carpenter and Shawn Andaya to sweep the Bobcats 2-0 and 5-0. Carpenter is now 13-2 and Andaya 22-4. A&M raised its season record to 35-6 and next will take on Sam Houston State in Huntsville April 16.

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