

Sports

Andaya, Lady Aggies are national champs

A&M roars back to beat UCLA twice to grab softball title

From Staff and Wire Reports

OMAHA, Neb. — After three years of frustration, Shawn Andaya finally got what she deserved — a national championship for her and the Texas A&M softball team.

A&M, 54-8, shook off a second-place rut in the Softball College World Series as Andaya pitched two victories over UCLA with a near-perfect performance here last Sunday.

Andaya, a senior from Lodi, Calif., pitched a perfect game for a 1-0 victory in Sunday's first game, in which the Lady Aggies needed a win to force a second game for the championship.

Texas A&M finished second on its last two trips to the series, losing to Cal State-Fullerton last year and to UCLA in 1984.

Andaya was the losing pitcher both times in the championship game.

Ags' Livingstone evolves from fence-slugger into record-shattering SWC third baseman

AUSTIN (AP) — The chain-link fence surrounding the backyard of Bill Livingstone's home in Dallas had seen better days. His son used it so often as his personal batting cage that the warped fence stood, barely, as testimony to Scott Livingstone's hitting prowess.

As a 7-year-old, Scott would toss the ball into the air and swing for the fences.

Since their son graduated from Lake Highlands High School, the Livingstones have moved to a new home. With a brick wall in back.

Scott Livingstone demonstrated this year that he's learned his lessons every bit as well as his father. He overcame a disappointing sophomore season at Texas A&M in 1986 to hit .430 this year.

He was named the Southwest Conference Player of the Year in an annual poll of players by the Austin American-Statesman.

Livingstone's .430 average puts him third in the A&M record book and within striking distance of Mike McClure's .443 average set in 1965.

The Aggie junior led the SWC this season in home runs with 18 and

If UCLA thought they'd have a better chance against a different pitcher in the second game, it was wrong.

Andaya was back on the mound, this time allowing only two hits as Texas A&M posted a 4-1 victory for the national title.

Andaya drove in half of the runs in the second game.

"What an effort by Shawn," Texas A&M Coach Bob Brock said.

"What can you say? I'm just glad she got it all before her career was over."

Brock said he mentioned the team's second-place finishes before the games on Sunday.

"I told the girls that I didn't know if they had thought about it," he said, "but I was awfully tired of being No. 2."

Andaya, 36-6, was also tired, but for a different reason. She pitched

all six of A&M's games in this year's tournament.

"I was tired, but I wanted it so bad," she said. "You just have to get past the point of thinking about it."

Andaya pitched 48 innings in four days, allowing 23 hits and just one earned run. She struck out 49.

She went the distance in both games Sunday despite pulling the quadricep muscle in her left leg beating out a bunt for a single in the sixth inning of the first game.

"Shawn throws a lot from her heart," Brock said. "She's so mentally tough.

"You could go over right now and you might be able to get her to pitch a third game for you."

A&M was beaten by UCLA 1-0 in the first meeting between the two teams in the Series last Saturday, but the Lady Aggies rallied back with a

4-0 win over Nebraska to stay alive and face the Bruins again.

Overall, the Lady Aggies finished with a 5-1 Series record. They blanked Central Michigan 3-0 in the first round of the series, and then squeaked past long-time rival Cal State Fullerton 2-1 in a 13-inning contest that was scoreless until the 11th inning when A&M's Zina Ochoa scored on a single by Carrie Heightley.

The win avenged last year's two 3-0 losses to the Titans in the World Series.

Other stars for the Lady Aggies included freshman Julie Smith, who had a field day against Nebraska, getting four hits in as many times at bat to set a Series record. Smith also scored two runs, which is another record.

"Julie Smith ignited us all year," Brock said, "and she was at her best (against Nebraska)."

went to college instead, feeling he needed the time to develop into a complete player.

He has hit better against left-handed pitchers (.448) than against righthanded pitchers (.421), an uncommon statistic for a left-handed hitter.

Livingstone labels himself an "unpredictable" hitter who never uses the same approach twice. His teammates claim his wrists are so quick he'll hit one pitch out of the catcher's mitt and the next way in front of the plate.

"The uniqueness about Scott is he has a very quiet swing," Johnson said. "He doesn't use a lot of body movement or have a big windup. He just drives through the ball with his hands."

Livingstone still has a certificate for leading a youth league with a .604 average. He was such an exceptional athlete — his body fat has been measured at 5.3 percent — that he also played quarterback in high school. In baseball, he pitched and played three other positions.

Out of high school, he was a sixth-round choice of Toronto, but he

"didn't feel like I played like I could have," Livingstone said. "Coming off my freshman year, I thought, 'No problem.' Then I got a slap in the face my sophomore year."

Before the 1986 season he was projected as the eighth pick in the first round of the June draft. When the New York Yankees chose him in the 26th round, he knew it was time to roll up his sleeves.

"What's disappointing to him isn't always disappointing to everybody else," Johnson said. "When he hits .320, he doesn't think it's a good year. He expects to do well. He has a high confidence level, and when he doesn't do it, it drives him up a wall."

Aggies' bid for Series cut short by Cowboys

From Staff and Wire Reports

STARKVILLE, Miss. — The Texas A&M baseball team came ever-so-close to a coveted berth in the NCAA College World Series.

But Oklahoma State's Pat Hope pitched to two batters in the bottom of the ninth inning to halt an A&M rally and give the Cowboys an 11-9 win Monday in the championship game of the Mideast Regional.

Hope's appearance on the mound came less than 24 hours after he had pitched a complete game against the Aggies Sunday night, leading the Cowboys to a 7-4 win and sending the tournament into a game 11 showdown.

Throughout the tournament, A&M, definitely the surprise team of the Regional, looked unstoppable. The Aggies opened the Regional last Thursday with a 13-3 shellacking of Purdue, and then followed that with a 7-4 pasting of the host team Mississippi State, a team that shut-out A&M twice during the regular season.

The Aggies then faced OSU three straight times, winning the first contest by a score of 4-1. After that, the Cowboys took control and swept the Aggies.

Hope entered Monday's game with one out and the tying run at the plate, and after giving up a single to Don Wren, forced Ever Magallanes to pop up, giving the Cowboys the win and a berth in next week's World Series at Omaha, Neb.

In both the seventh and eighth innings Monday, the Aggies loaded the bases, but a strong Ok-

lahoma State defense didn't allow anyone to score.

"I'm pleased our guys kept fighting. They could have given up, but we hit the ball hard and that's all you can ask," A&M Coach Mark Johnson said. "When you hit the ball, sometimes it goes and sometimes it doesn't. Oklahoma State put the ball in play, and you have to give them a lot of credit."

Texas A&M took the lead briefly in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Aggies scored three runs during a two-out rally.

Scott Livingstone and John Byington both reached on singles, then Chuck Knoblauch singled home Livingstone, and Byington scored on a double by Terry Taylor.

In the second inning, the Cowboys scored four runs, chasing Texas A&M starter Darryl Fry, 8-5, from the mound.

Benny Castillo started the inning with a double, Ray Ortiz reached with a single, and a single by Adam Smith scored Castillo.

Anthony Blackmun walked to load the bases and a single by Ventura drove home Ortiz and Smith.

Oklahoma State added three runs in the third inning, a single run in the sixth on a home run by Monty Fariss, and rounded out the scoring with a pair of runs in the seventh.

With the bases loaded in the fifth, Texas A&M's Livingstone hit into a double play that scored Maury Martin and left Wren at third base. Byington then hit a two-run homer to left field.

Brazos County United Way to sponsor Junior Olympics

Registration for the Brazos County United Way's Junior Olympics will be held June 1-2 at Oakwood Middle School in College Station.

The Olympics will be held June 3-4 at the A&M Consolidated High School track.

Registration times are from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. both days. Fees are \$20 per child

and \$40 per family. A copy of a birth certificate is needed at registration.

The Olympics will be held in two phases: one for children between the ages of 8-13, and one for children between the ages of 14-17.

Additional information can be obtained from Director James Giese at 696-7292 or 693-0544.

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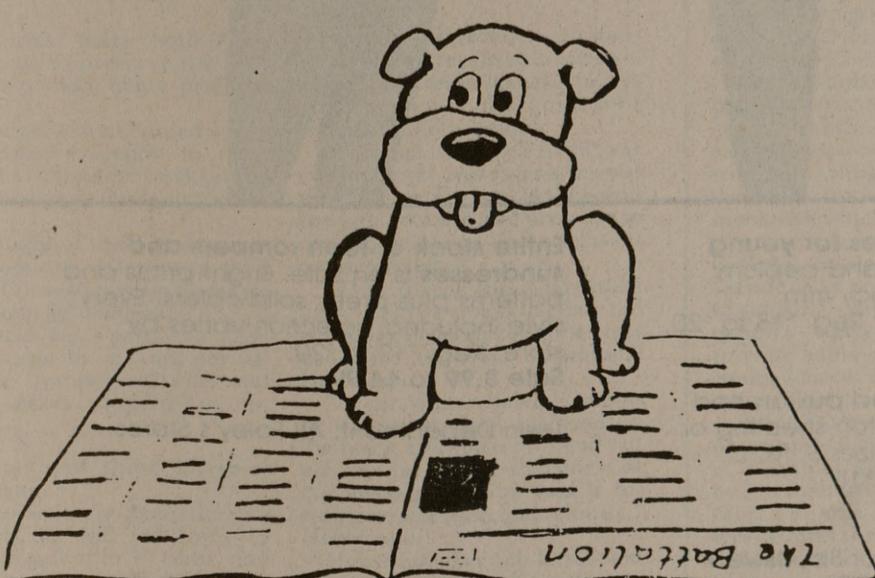
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