

# Lady Ags struggle in home tourney Softballers hurt by injuries, errors in 3-3 outing

By Hal L. Hammons  
Assistant Sports Editor

If it was bad, it happened to the Texas A&M softball team this weekend.

A rash of injuries, errors and missed opportunities led the Lady Aggies to a 3-3 record in the Lady Aggie Invitational.

A&M lost to tournament-champion Illinois State 2-1 in Sunday's first-round game. The Lady Aggies followed with a 2-0 loss to third-place Louisiana Tech in an eight-inning second game.

Saturday the Lady Aggies split two games, losing to Sam Houston State 3-2 in extra innings that afternoon, and then beating No. 9 South Carolina 3-0 in the nightcap. Friday's games saw A&M beat McNeese State 9-1 and No. 17 Oklahoma State 3-2.

It was a weekend for the underdogs. Fourth-ranked A&M placed fifth in its own tournament, while No. 9 South Carolina finished sixth out of seven teams. OSU placed second, while unranked SHSU placed fourth.

A&M started the tournament with massive injury problems. Center

fielder Erin Newkirk has an injured ankle. Second baseman Julie Smith has a fractured fibula. Top utility player Renee Blaha has an injured arm.

But no. That wasn't bad enough. Shortstop and leading hitter Liz Mizera sprained her wrist midway through the first game Sunday. Then her backup and backup pitcher Catherine Stedman injured her knee in a collision at second base in the extra inning of Sunday's second game.

A&M finished the tournament with nine healthy players on the roster. Stedman was on deck when the final out was made, and she was going to have to stand at the plate and wait for a walk if she came up to bat.

The results of the injuries were massive position changing and errors that accompanied them.

Regular third baseman Rhonda Halbert wound up playing three positions. Catcher Carrie Heightley played the final two outs at third. Regular right fielder Tory Parks played the last game at second base. Second and third were each played

by three different players in the course of the tournament.

The errors came at the worst possible time — the final inning of the last game.

With Jennifer Smith on first, Heightley fielded a grounder by Barbara Carter at third and threw to first, but no one was covering the base. Smith moved to third, and Carter advanced to second. An error on Parks on the next play brought the runners home, and A&M was not able to score in the bottom half.

A&M had its chances to score. With one out in the sixth Halbert walked, Heightley bunted for a single, and Halbert took third on an error on the throw. Heightley stole second, and Barbara Kajs popped up. Stedman walked to load the bases, but Erika Eriksson popped out to end the inning.

The team blew a similar opportunity in the Illinois State game. After giving up two early runs, A&M loaded the bases with two out in the bottom of the third. Eriksson grounded into a fielder's choice to kill the rally.

In Saturday's loss to Sam Houston State, A&M had the bases loaded

with one out in the bottom of seventh with the score tied at 2-2, reached on an error, Ochoa singled and Parks reached on a fielder's choice that forced Kajs. The Ladykats decided to walk Liz Mizera intentionally, putting the winning run on third.

Ochoa tried to take home on a wild pitch to Stedman and was forced at the plate. Stedman walked intentionally after the play.

On the first pitch to Heightley, SHSU catcher Cheryl Stoltz bluffed, pick-off to first. The first baseman second baseman and right fielder faked attempts at the ball, and Parks bought the fake. She broke for home where she was tagged out easily. She send the game to an extra inning.

The Ladykats scored in the top of the eighth on back-to-back doubles and held on for the win.

The Lady Aggies came back in the second game to score all three of their runs in the bottom of the fifth. Ochoa, Parks and Mizera singled, open the inning, and two South Carolina errors brought them home.

# Lakers snap Mavs' streak with 108-97 rout

DALLAS (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers not only snapped the Dallas Mavericks' club record 11-game winning streak on Sunday but also delivered a message in the convincing 108-97 victory.

The Lakers gave the Mavericks something to ponder for the upcoming NBA Western Conference playoffs.

"We answered the challenge. We wanted to play good defense and take the crowd out of the situation," said Earvin (Magic) Johnson, who had his eighth triple-double of the year.

"They were number one in rebounding coming in and that was a challenge to us."

The Lakers outrebounced Dallas, 52-40. Lakers' Coach Pat Riley said Los

Angeles had targeted the Mavericks. "Dallas had been running roughshod over people and that got our attention," he said.

"We've not played anywhere near this level for the past few weeks. So Dallas really brought it out in us."

The Mavericks made no excuses for the blowout.

"The Lakers are really good in the clutch time," said guard Derek Harper.

"They are the greatest, the world champions. I don't think we really got a message. They are great and were clicking on all cylinders."

Dallas Coach John MacLeod said, "We just need to file this one away as a learning experience. The Lakers made us pay today."

"Maybe the Lakers did us a big fa-

vor. Maybe we won't have a false sense of confidence going into the playoffs," Mavs' owner Donald Carter said.

Byron Scott scored 28 points, James Worthy had 23, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar added 20 for the Lakers.

It was the Lakers' seventh victory without a loss against division leaders.

James Worthy scored 23 and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar added 20 points for the Lakers. Earvin (Magic) Johnson had his eighth triple double of the season with 14 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds.

Mark Aguirre paced Dallas with 27 points, Derek Harper scored 15, and Rolando Blackman added 14.

The defending world champion who have the best record in the NBA at 47-10, took Dallas out of the game early behind the hot-shooting Scott.

The Lakers, who had won 15 consecutive games earlier in the year, outscored the Mavericks 33-19 in the second period to take a commanding 60-42 halftime lead.

It was the most Dallas had trailed at the intermission in a game this season.

Scott had 18 points in the first half and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had 11 in the Mavericks fell far behind in nationally televised game by shooting only 36 per cent from the field.

Dallas, which has now lost three of its games to the Lakers this year, cut the deficit to seven points in the third period but could not get closer.

# Basketball player dies after suffering seizures

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Jeff Taggart, a Canisius College basketball player who suffered a seizure as he sat on the bench Saturday during a game against Niagara, died of cardiac arrest just as he entered a local hospital's emergency room, according to the team physician.

But questions about delays in getting Taggart onto a stretcher and out of Memorial Auditorium and about what caused the fatal heart attack surfaced Sunday as the small Catholic school attempted to cope with the tragedy.

Dr. John Gabbey said confusion led to a several-minute delay between when ambulance personnel arrived at the court and when they got to the Canisius bench and began removing the stricken player from the building.

"They (ambulance personnel) came around to the far end of the court with the stretcher," Gabbey said.

"There was some confusion in there on their part that they were waiting at the end of the court thinking we were going to bring Jeff Taggart down to them."

"When they realized that we weren't and that they were needed, they came down the court and we put him on the stretcher," he said. Gabbey, who had been working on Taggart for several minutes before the stretcher came, estimated "three to three-and-a-half minutes were lost in some of this confusion and traveling."

However, he added, "I don't think that would have made a significant difference in the outcome of the situation."

A dispatcher at Gold Cross Ambulance Service, which took Taggart from Memorial Auditorium to Sheehan Emergency Hospital about two miles away, said manager James Martinez.

Dr. Sung-ook Baik, the Erie County Medical Examiner, said an autopsy Sunday revealed Taggart had "an enlarged heart."

"He had some heart problems," Baik said. "I don't know what the underlying cause of the heart problems were."

He said his investigation is continuing and that it will be at least several weeks before toxicology tests are completed and more information is available.

Gabbey described in detail the treatment provided to Taggart, a junior from suburban Lackawanna.

Taggart, who started the game, was substituted for after playing about the first eight minutes of the game.

The decision was a coaching one, Gabbey said, and Taggart was fine when he sat down on the bench.

Within minutes, however, Gabbey, who sits behind the Canisius bench, noticed team trainer Pete Koehneke attending to Taggart and immediately went to the bench.

"When I arrived his body was rigid and he had random jerky motions of the head, neck and upper extremities," Gabbey said, adding that those symptoms are consistent with a seizure.

"He was breathing, he had a pulse and his airway was clear," he said. "He continued to breathe on his own and continued to have a pulse the entire time he was on the bench. He did not show signs of oxygen deficiency."

Gabbey said all athletes at Canisius are given an extensive preseason physical before actual workouts begin.

# Crenshaw comes back to win Open

MIAMI (AP) — Ben Crenshaw came from four strokes back with a bogey-free 66 and scored a one-shot victory Sunday in the Doral Open Golf Tournament.

Crenshaw, with wife Julie and infant daughter Katherine in his gallery, nailed down the 14th victory of his 15-year career with an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

But with Mark McCumber and Chip Beck playing behind him, he didn't know it was the winner. He could only prowl nervously while they followed him to the 18th, each needing a birdie to tie and force a playoff.

McCumber, twice a winner of this title, left a long birdie putt short. And Beck, who scored the first victory of his 10-season career in Los Angeles last week, was wide on his long attempt to tie.

The victory, secured on a 274 total, 14 shots under par on the rain-dampened Blue Monster course at the Doral Country Club, was worth \$180,000 from the total purse of \$1 million and pushed Crenshaw's earnings for the year to \$233,248.

McCumber and Beck tied for second at 275.

McCumber, afflicted with what he called "a touch of flu," had a 68 in the warm weather that produced showers early in the day. Beck had a 69.

Bobby Wadkins, who led through the first three rounds in the quest for the first title in a 14-season career, hit into the water, made double bogey on the fourth hole and was not a factor again. He also made double bogey on the 10th and finished with a 76 that left him far back at 280.

And Jack Nicklaus, the 48-

year-old Golden Bear who was within striking distance through the first three days of play, simply couldn't get it going.

A part-time player since scoring his sixth Masters triumph in 1986, Nicklaus had a frustrating 75 and was at 283.

He won \$7,914 for the tie for 24th and remained just short of becoming the first man to achieve \$5 million in career earnings. He now has \$4,984,804.

Ray Floyd, who chipped in on the 16th hole, was fourth alone at 278 after a 68.

John Mahaffey, PGA champion Larry Nelson and Joey Sindelar were another stroke back at 277.

Mahaffey birdied the last hole for a 67. Nelson and Sindelar each shot 68.

At least a dozen players were in contention at one time or another, and five led or shared the lead before Crenshaw went ahead alone with a birdie on the 15th.

That put him at 13 under par. But McCumber and Beck each caught him with birdies on the 17th.


"I didn't really know, but after 15 years out here you kind of learn crowd reactions. I knew somebody had tied me, Crenshaw said.

So he needed a birdie on the 18th.

And he got it, hitting his approach about 18 feet below the cup and rapping it in.

"A pretty sight," he said. The tournament was sponsored by Ryder System.

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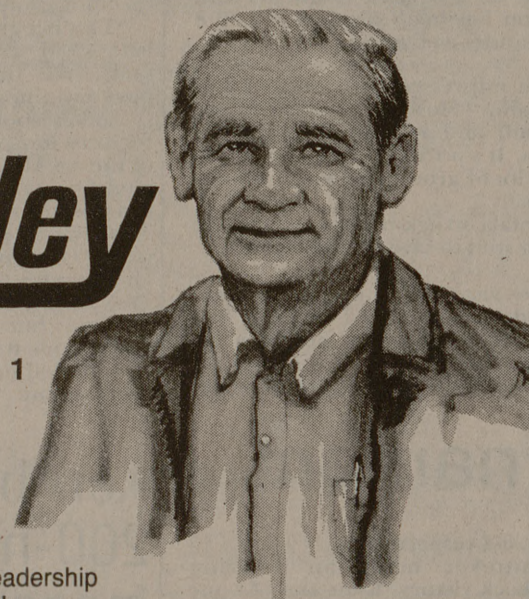
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