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**Hickey**

(Continued from page 7)

This may sound like small potatoes compared to the image students have of athletes, but A&M is way ahead of many schools in women's athletics.

"We are probably the number two school in the SWC with Texas Tech a close third," Hickey said.

Since Title IX only applies to schools receiving federal funding, private schools do not have to make as big a commitment as state schools, like Texas and A&M.

"Right now schools like Baylor and SMU just aren't being funded like we are," Hickey said. "In fact, one of the reasons Tech is so close to us in the size of their budget is because they have such huge travel expenses."

Hickey said that, instead of a money problem, it was mainly an educational process that she and her staff faced.

"Basically, the money support has been there, although you always like to have more," Hickey said. "Our main goal has been to socialize the fans to accept women's athletics and see that it is alright for women to play sports."

One of Hickey's successes at A&M has been the Maroon Club. Although it boasts only about 250 members, it has helped open the eyes of some administrators.

"When we started the booster club, everyone thought it was cute," Hickey said. "Then it raised \$60,000 and everyone started taking it a little bit more seriously."

Despite the bigger budget and the success of the Maroon Club, Hickey does not count them as her biggest successes.

"When I first got here we didn't have a scholastic advisor or bro-

chures for all the sports, and there was almost no ticket revenue," Hickey said.

Since 1984, A&M has added a scholastic advisor for the women, every sports team has a media guide, there is a full-time sports information assistant and administration support is at an all-time high.

"John David Crow (A&M athletic director) and Wally Groff (associate athletic director) have given us all the support they can," Hickey said. "Many times their hands are tied financially, but they also help out in other ways."

The achievement Hickey is proudest of is the education of the athletes who come through A&M's program.

"We want to be competitive, but the important thing is to make sure the girls are receiving an education," Hickey said.

The graduation rate for students in the women's athletics is 87 percent according to Tedi Zalesky, scholastic supervisor for women's sports at A&M.

Hickey said there is only one area where women's athletics is not making the kind of progress she would like. Hickey said the facilities at A&M are lacking in some areas and not really of the highest quality.

"The facilities here are not the best, but we are making improvements," Hickey said. "G. Rolie (White Coliseum) just can't compete with the Erwin Center (Texas's basketball arena). However, the new track complex is a step in the right direction."

Hickey said it would be unreasonable to assume just because of Title IX that everything would be equal in women's and men's sports overnight.

"It's ridiculous to think you can make everything equal overnight," Hickey said. "However, you can make improvements. If we just continue to improve a little each year, then we will be competitive."

**Lady Ags win two from SWT squad**

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The upswing continued for the Lady Aggie softball team Wednesday as they took a doubleheader from Southwest Texas State, making it four A&M victories in two days.

A&M picked up runs early in both games to win 5-3 and 5-2, bringing their record to 21-15.

Dana Mitchell threw both games for the Lady Aggies, upping her re-

sacrifice bunt by Mitchell. Stacey Crainer singled and Brock called for a double steal that scored Schulte and moved Crainer to second.

Crainer scored as Blaha reached first on a SWT error to make it 3-0 A&M.

The Lady Aggies connected again in the sixth inning as Mitchell, Crainer and Michelle Mayfield all singled to load the bases.

Blaha singled to score Mitchell and Crainer scored on a wild throw by SWT's shortstop as she attempted to throw out Kajs at first and A&M led 5-0.

The Lady Bobcats scored all three of their runs in the sixth but A&M held on for the victory.

Brock said he was pleased to get the win in the first game, although his team looked a little rough.

"The first one wasn't pretty, but it was a win," he said. "We've got to cut out our mistakes. But they are becoming less frequent."

Blaha again singled to start the second game. Kajs and Newkirk reached to load the bases and Blaha gave the Lady Ags a 1-0 lead as Schulte drew a base on balls.

The second inning was all A&M needed to put the Lady Bobcats away.

Mayfield singled and Blaha reached on a fielder's choice. Terry Parks hit a single to right field to score Mayfield and put A&M up 2-0.

Newkirk pounded a double to left-center field to score Blaha and Parks, and catcher Erika Erikson singled home Newkirk to make it 5-0 A&M.

**Aggie softball**

- Score: A&M sweeps a twinbill from Southwest Texas St. by scores of 5-3 and 5-2.
- Record: 21-15.
- Next game: Tuesday doubleheader at Stephen F. Austin St. at 4 p.m.

A&M Coach Bob Brock was pleased with the intensity of his team's play.

"I'm glad to see we came out and played as well as we did today, since we played two very intense games last night," Brock said.

In the first game, shortstop Renee Blaha led off with a single for the Lady Aggies, followed by a one-base rap by second baseman Barbara Kajs.

Blaha scored on a fielder's choice by Erin Newkirk to give A&M a 1-0 lead.

In the fourth inning, Stephanie Schulte doubled to left field for the Lady Aggies and went to third on a

**Ryan faces Detroit in debut as Ranger**

ARLINGTON (AP) — Nolan Ryan, who holds 41 major league pitching records in his 21 years of baffling hitters with his fastball, makes his debut with his fourth team, the Texas Rangers, tonight at Arlington Stadium.

It will be Ryan's first regular season start in the American league since Sept. 28, 1979, when he lost 5-0 to the team which now signs his paychecks.

The 42-year-old Ryan, who was picked up by the Rangers as a free agent from the Houston Astros, broke into baseball with the New York Mets in 1968. Ryan went to the California Angels and had been with the Astros since 1980. The Rangers offered him a contract of \$1.3 million to pitch this year.

Some 300 people from Ryan's hometown of Alvin, near Houston, were expected to attend the 5 p.m. game against the Detroit Tigers. The time of the game was moved up two and one-half hours so Detroit could catch a plane.

Ryan was bothered during spring training by muscle pulls. It was unlikely that the Rangers' pitching coach Tom House would let him go more than seven innings unless his number of pitches was way down.

Ryan still led the team with three wins including a 12-4 victory over Houston last Sunday in which he went seven innings, yielding eight hits and three runs.

Last year Ryan led the National League in strikeouts for the second consecutive season with 228.

Ryan has 4,547 innings pitched and 4,775 strikeouts.

"I'm pretty close to where I want to be going into the game," Ryan said. "I could have used a few more innings in spring training but the muscle pulls set me back a little."

"I did feel good in the game against Houston at Oklahoma City. I'm still missing with some of my pitches but maybe that will come around."

Ryan was 12-11 with a 3.52 earned run average in 33 starts for the Astros last year.

**Atlanta beats Astros behind Blauser, Perry**

HOUSTON (AP) — Jeff Blauser put Atlanta ahead with a two-run double in the fourth inning and Gerald Perry added a pair of run-scoring doubles, leading the Braves to an 8-4 victory over Houston Wednesday night.

Last season, the Braves lost 10 straight games at the start of the season and began 1989 with a loss to the Astros on Tuesday night.

Blauser's two-run double chased starter Bob Knepper after 3 2-3 innings and gave the Braves a 5-4 lead.

Andres Thomas singled, was sacrificed to second and after Lonnie Smith walked, Blauser doubled to right field to put the Braves ahead. Perry followed with a double to

score Blauser.

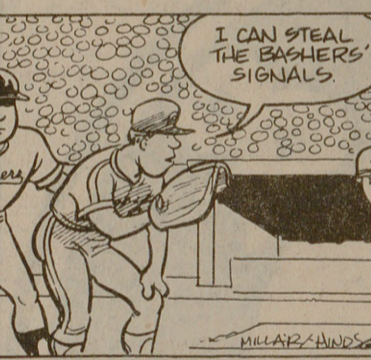
Atlanta got another run in the fifth when Thomas walked, took second on Danny Darwin's balk and scored on a single by Geronimo Berroa.

The Braves scored first-inning runs off Knepper when Perry singled, went to third on Dale Murphy's single and scored on Jody Davis' single. Murphy came home on a balk.

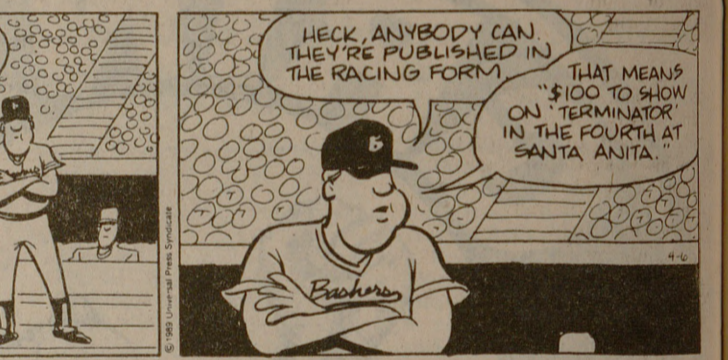
Glenn Davis singled off Atlanta's Pete Smith in the first inning to score Gerald Young, who singled and advanced to second on a balk.

Jose Alvarez, who relieved Smith in the third inning, got the victory and Joe Boever pitched the last two innings for the save.

**TANK McNAMARA**



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**SATURDAY:** Barbecue Cook-Off, 11 a.m., The Grove Singing Cadets, 8 p.m., Rudder Aud.

**SUNDAY:** University Awards, 9 a.m., Rudder Aud. Chapel Service, 11 a.m., All Faiths Chapel Corps Review, 2:30 p.m., Kyle Field

**April 7, 8, & 9**

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