

Thursday, April 20, 1989

## Lady Ags clip No. 16 Sam Houston

### Seniors excel in last home game; Newkirk and Crainer homer

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

It was a fairy-tale ending to fairy-tale careers for the three senior Lady Aggie softball players Wednesday night as the Texas A&M softball team swept a doubleheader from 16th-ranked Sam Houston State, 3-2 and 6-0.

Seniors Carrie Heightley, Erin Newkirk and Tory Parks, appearing in their last home games, helped to lead the Lady Aggies to victory. Newkirk was 3-for-7 with one home run and four runs batted in. Height-

only error of the night in the tenth inning. Lori Nesmith started the inning on second base under the international rule and Debi Robertson reached on a throwing error by Michelle Mayfield.

"We played outstanding defense tonight," A&M Head Coach Bob Brock said. "Michelle's error was questionable because I thought we got her (Robertson) on the tag."

SHSU then took the lead when Tyler singled to score Nesmith.

A&M quickly responded in the bottom of the inning. Mayfield started the inning on second. Barbara Kajs singled to center and Mayfield moved to third.

Renee Blaha was intentionally walked to load the bases and Mayfield scored when SHSU left fielder Christy Roschal misplayed a fly ball by Parks.

"We got lucky with Tory's ball because it was one of those balls that had eyes — that helped to keep us going," Brock said.

Heightley hit into a force play at home and Newkirk came up with the bases loaded and one out. Tyler fell behind in the count and Newkirk hit a 3-2 pitch into left to single home the winning run.

"I felt good tonight and it was nice to get the hit for the team, plus it was against Sam Houston and I love to beat Sam Houston," Newkirk said.

In the second game, the Aggies took no time at all in taking control as the seniors again led the way.

In the bottom of the first with two outs and Heightley on first, Newkirk did her John Byington impersonation as she smashed her third home run of the year over the left-field fence giving the Ags a 2-0 lead. It would be all they needed.

"She threw me the ball I like to hit," Newkirk said. "It was over the plate — it was meat — and I knew it was gone when I hit it."

A&M scored again in the second when sophomore Stacey Crainer hit her first career home run to lead off the inning.

"Our seniors played great and I was really glad for them to go out as winners," Brock said. "But I think our young players did an outstanding job defensively and hitting-wise."

"I was excited for Stacey getting her first home run and I think she was a little excited herself."

Crainer may have run the fastest home run trot ever seen at an A&M



Photo by Dean Saito

A&M catcher Erika Ericksson tags out SHSU's Melissa Tyler at the plate in the Lady Aggies' 3-2 first game win.

game.

"I didn't think it was a home run and I thought it bounced off the fence," she said. "When I rounded second I couldn't understand why everyone was laughing, and then they told me it hit the scoreboard and it was a home run."

A&M finished the Ladykats off for good in the fifth when Parks sin-

gled in Kajs, then Newkirk singled in Blaha and Heightley to end the scoring.

A&M pitcher Dana Mitchell (25-20) scattered four hits in the second game and pitched her 11th shutout of the season. She struck out two and walked four batters on the night and limited the Ladykats to 11 hits and two runs.

### A&M softball

Score: A&M wins two 3-2 and 6-0 over Sam Houston State.

Record: 25-21.

Next game: Friday doubleheader against Northwestern State of Louisiana at 3 p.m. at Natchitoches, La.

Key was 4-for-7 with a double and one RBI and Parks went 1-for-6 with one RBI and was on base three times.

While at A&M, the three seniors have won a national championship, finished second once and tied for fifth. They have made three straight trips to the softball World Series and have helped A&M compile a 163-63 record the last three years.

The three seniors were honored between the games by the Maroon Club, the Women's Athletics booster club.

In the first game, SHSU (31-15) tried to ruin the seniors' farewell party as they scored quickly. SHSU scored in the first inning and threatened to score again in the second.

However, center fielder Newkirk threw out Melissa Tyler at the plate as she tried to score from second on a single by Shonta Garr.

SHSU led 1-0 until Heightley got a two-out double in the third to score Renee Blaha. The score stayed tied until the tenth inning as the Ags played uncharacteristically good defense.

A&M (25-21) had committed 99 errors coming into Wednesday's games. The Aggies made just one error all night and raised their record to 19-7 in games in which they commit less than three errors.

SHSU took advantage of A&M's

## A&M's Kephart named in steroids case

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The strength coach at Texas A&M was charged with importing anabolic steroids in South Carolina and three former University of South Carolina assistant football coaches were indicted Wednesday for allegedly providing athletes with the muscle-building drug.

The indictments came as Athletic Director King Dixon said South Carolina reopened an internal investigation into the charges. The university probe was halted after the grand jury investigation began.

Keith Kephart, a former strength coach at South Carolina, was charged with conspiring with "other members of the USC athletic community" to bring steroids into the state and dispense them without prescriptions.

Kephart faces a maximum of five

years in prison and \$302,000 in fines if convicted on all five counts.

James W. Washburn, Thomas E. Gadd and Thomas Kurucz were charged with "conspiring to conduct a program of illegal steroid use by members of the athletic community, ... particularly by ... the university's football team." The coaches allegedly encouraged and monitored the progress of the athletes using steroids.

The three coaches also were charged with importing steroids into South Carolina and dispensing the drug without prescriptions.

The charges facing the four coaches are all misdemeanors. If convicted on all counts, the three could be sentenced to a maximum of four years and fined \$301,000.

Kurucz, who left South Carolina in December 1986 after four years at the school, also was charged with one felony count of lying to the

grand jury, which carries a maximum fine of \$250,000 and a five-year sentence.

U.S. Attorney Vinton Lide said at a news conference Wednesday the coaches also used steroids.

"I think if you read the indictments carefully you may come to that conclusion," he said.

Lide declined to elaborate, but one of the indictments said "Kephart and others would administer the steroids to each other to improve athletic performance and to enhance physical appearance."

Washburn, who coached at South Carolina from December 1982 until he left after last season to go to Purdue, said he had been advised by his attorney not to discuss the indictment.

Gadd, who left South Carolina in December 1986 after four years at the school and is now an assistant at Utah, said in a statement that he was

never contacted by state or federal authorities.

"At this time, I don't know any specifics of the charges," Gadd said. "My No. 1 concern at this time is clearing my name."

Kephart, whose contract as an assistant at Texas A&M expires in May, had no immediate comment, a school spokesman said.

Kurucz's wife, Mary Ellen, said her husband was out of town and unavailable for comment.

The grand jury also charged a fifth man, John L. Carter of Bethesda, Md., with distributing steroids to four former South Carolina players including Tommy Chaikin, who played from 1983 to 1987. It was an article co-written by Chaikin in the Oct. 24 issue of Sports Illustrated that prompted the grand jury probe.

## NFL needs drafting lessons from Chicago

It's that time of year.

That wonderful time when all of the NFL's general managers are strung out from stimulant abuse like characters in a Jack Kerouac novel and the same burnouts are the (un)fortunate recipients of advice from all sides.

And there is good reason for the double-dose of stress and guidance thrust upon front office types in the spring.

As is commonly known, the draft can make or break a team. The Dallas Cowboys are a prime example of how draft wisdom and foolishness can have profound and lasting effects.

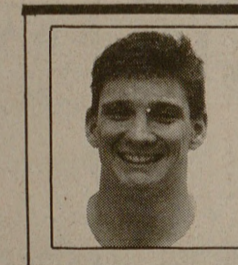
The 70's brought the wonder-picks for the Pokes. Franchise cornerstones like Randy White and Tony Dorsett came from shrewd dealings by the now deposed Texas A. Schramm. But the 80's presented an entirely different set of circumstances.

Rod Hill, the name that causes GM's across the league to shudder and recoil in fear, was the beginning of a floodgate of draft woes for "America's Team."

Yes, the draft blues are what the Cowboys will be singing Sunday as they prepare to make a franchise turnaround under the new direction of Jerry "Hayseed" Jones and his right-hand man Gorgeous Jimmy Johnson.

But just as the Cowboys have doomed themselves to the NFL cellar with draft boo-boos, other teams have lifted themselves up to the upper echelons of the league with draft magic.

The Chicago Bears have built themselves into a perennial powerhouse with their first round



Tom Kehoe Sports Writer

picks. Mike Singletary, Jim McMahon, Wilbur Marshall, Willie Gault, Jimbo Covert, Neal Anderson, Jim Harbaugh and Brad Muster were all first-rounders in the Windy City.

Singletary is THE inside linebacker in the NFL. McMahon may still be the straw that stirs Chicago's drink. Marshall was All-Pro until he went for bigger money with the Redskins. Gault was top-notch at the wide out for the Bears until his trade value sent him to warmer climes. Covert is a hoos on the line and is magnificently consistent.

Anderson made the trepidation surrounding Walter Payton's retirement purely sentimental as he was more than ready to fill the backfield void left by Sweetness. Jim Harbaugh will contend for a starting job in camp after filling in as the starter last year. Brad Muster, last year's top pick from Stanford, saw action in every game and will start this year.

And those are just the first-rounders. Richard

Dent and Ron Morris, to name two, came later.

The Bears don't use a fancy draft computer. They've never had a policy of taking "the best available athlete." And geez, the poor souls, look where it's gotten them.

Instead of psycho-analyzing prospects, the Bears look at the bottom line.

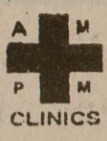
Can he run? Can he block? Can he tackle? This year could be the blockbuster in Chicago. They have three, count 'em, three first round picks — numbers 11, 12 & 25.

Their immediate needs lie in the defensive line. The Fridge has just about exhausted Ditka's patience with his oil-tanker physique. Steve McMichael and Dan Hampton have bad knees. The duration of their careers is dubious.

So, the Bears will be looking to make a play for Outland and Lombardi winner Tracy Rucker. He is the best down lineman in the draft. They might have to deal to move up to get him, or maybe not. A knee injury during his junior season has made some scouts skeptical.

If not, they may try for Pitt's defensive end Burt Grossman, who scouts say is the best pass rusher of the crop. But he will be even more popular in the early picks than Rucker so more wheeling and dealing may be required.


However they decide to play it, expect big things. The Bears are a draft terror. I hope the new residents of Valley Ranch take a few notes on Sunday and Monday because somehow, somewhere, Rod Hill's little brother is probably running a good 40 and giving all the right answers to a rorschach test.



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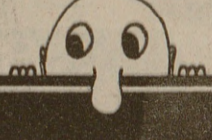
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