

# SPORTS

Wednesday, April 14, 1993

The Battalion

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## Cliches ringing true for Aggies in fateful year

**W**e knew they would be good, but this good?

After breezing through their first 40 games with a 36-4 record, the Texas A&M baseball team suddenly finds itself first in the nation for the first time in four years, in all three polls, no less. Ahead of preseason favorite Louisiana State. Ahead of the traditional media darlings from the Pac-10, Southeastern and Atlantic Coast conferences. And yes, ahead of the University of Texas.

While it's easy to get caught up in the excitement and hoopla of the Aggies' top ranking, let's keep our feet on the ground. We've got a couple of cliches to get through first.

Cliche number one: Everybody's gunning for the top-ranked team.

This is as true as ever. Teams who are ranked at the top of the polls before and during the season serve merely as targets for opponents. Everybody loves to knock teams out of first, and for some teams it can be the highlight of an otherwise nondescript season. A case in point is Baylor's sweep of nationally-ranked Rice two weekends ago, which severely crippled the Owls' Southwest Conference title hopes.

Cliche number two: The only time a number-one ranking counts is

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**DON NORWOOD**  
Sports Editor

## Top-ranked Aggies split with Bearkats



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

First baseman Billy Harlan waits for a pickoff throw as Sam Houston's Hans Buth dives back to the bag during the first game of Tuesday's doubleheader. Buth was safe after his stolen base attempt was nipped in the bud.

## Thomas turns in hat trick with three home runs

By DAVID WINDER

The Battalion

In tonight's game against Texas Southern University, Texas A&M centerfielder Brian Thomas might be a little tired, because last night against Sam Houston State he spent all of his time circling the bases.

Thomas had three home runs and seven runs batted in, including a two-run shot in the bottom of the seventh that gave the Aggies a 5-4 win in the second game of the doubleheader.

"I've never hit three home runs in one day, not even in a doubleheader," Thomas said. "It's just one of those great moments you dream about."

"The first pitch was a changeup and the wind was blowing out. As soon as I hit it, I knew it was gone."

A&M's John Curl made a bid to be the

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## Gonzalez dealing aces for 13th-ranked Lady Aggies

By MATTHEW J. RUSH

The Battalion

Kim Gonzalez is not your ordinary college woman, nor is she your average softball player. Gonzalez is the one and only pitcher the Lady Aggies have needed to help them to their 13th ranking nationally.

Gonzalez, a junior college transfer from Sacramento, Calif., has brought to A&M a dynamic arm that has led the team to its current 23-13 record. She is 18-10 overall and has compiled a nifty 1.53 earned run average while accumulating 92 strikeouts.

The junior righthander has pitched her way to a 12-2 record in Midwest Regional play, including seven shutouts and a 0.82 ERA while holding her opponents to an infinitesimal .137 batting average.

The most amazing statistic of all may be that she has thrown 193 innings thus far, which is quite an aberration from her last two years.

Gonzalez said that she has had no problem adjusting from the junior college ranks, even though she has had to move three feet back.

"I've been pitching for so many years, it's not that big of a difference," said the 20 year-old. "The only changes I've made

have been mental adjustments."

The remainder of the season holds some very demanding games, but the Aggies will be well-prepared for any post-season competition, as recent road trips to Hawaii and California have proven to the squad that they might be as good as anyone in the nation.

"We knew we were good, but we didn't realize how good," Gonzalez said.

The team proved to the rest of the competition on March 25 that they are for real, losing a heart-breaker to Arizona, the number-one team in the nation, 2-1.

"The trip proved to us how good we were," said Gonzalez.

Not all has been roses for the women's squad this year. In fact, the season saw the departure of two other pitchers, leaving Gonzalez as the only remaining hurler.

"It was hard being the only pitcher and having to pitch every game," she said.

Gonzalez also admitted that the team was not in the best of spirits after having lost two members of the staff.

"We were down and we thought we wouldn't be that good, but we've pulled together and proved a lot to ourselves and to others," she said.

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# SENIOR WEEKEND 1993

## SENIOR BASH: April 22, 1993

Featuring a Live Band, a Cash Bar, and Plenty of Fun at the Texas Hall of Fame from 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM. Ticket Prices are \$3.00 plus tax.

## SENIOR PICNIC: April 23, 1993

B.Y.C. (Bring Your Own Picnic) to the Southwood Valley Complex from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Recreational Equipment and a DJ will be provided. No ticket is necessary.

## SENIOR BANQUET: April 24, 1993

Featuring a Guest speaker, a Scrumptious Dinner, and the Class of 1993 Slideshow! A Cash Bar will be provided at 6:15 PM, and dinner is served at 7:00 PM at the Hilton Grand Ballroom. Tickets are \$15.00 plus tax.



"LAST ROAD TRIP THROUGH TEXAS"



## RING DANCE: April 24, 1993

Dance to the music of the Ronnie Renfrow Orchestra, Special F/X, RDM, or listen to piano bar/comedian Neal Kern at Senior Weekend's grand finale. Pictures will be taken beginning at 11:00 AM Saturday morning and Ring Dance begins at 9:00 PM that night. Tickets are \$25.00 plus tax.

## PACKAGE PRICES:

Buy 2 Bash Tickets, 2 Banquet Tickets, and 2 Ring Dance Tickets for just \$75.00 plus tax.