

Brock leads Aggie softball to 'the top'

Stewart Doreen
The Battalion

Bob Brock and firm is the ideology of Brock, head coach for the 11th-ranked Texas A&M softball team, has used to elevate his program as one of the top programs in the nation.

Brock came to Texas A&M in 1982 from Baylor University where he had taken the Bears to Division II College World Series in 1980 and 1982. He replaced Bill Galloway who left for Louisiana Tech after directing the Aggies to three-straight AIAW College World Series in a row.

"It didn't take long for Brock to make his mark at A&M. In 1982, Brock directed the Aggies to a 84-9 record and their first AIAW national championship. He would continue his success a NCAA national championship in 1983.

After runner-up finishes in 1984 and 1986, Brock added another national title with a team that is particularly dear to him. It was the first championship team that was entirely filled with players he recruited.

"All teams are special," Brock said. "The team that sticks out in my mind is the 1987 championship team.

"When I first came here, I was known as 'he was using so many so's players,' but everybody that team was people I had recruited and people that stayed with me the whole four years."

His teams' continued success with the increased parity at the collegiate level has given Brock a 661-251 overall in his 12th year as a head coach, the recognition of being one of the country's best coaches.

At the beginning of the season,

he ranked No. 4 among active Division I coaches in victories and was also in the top 10 in winning percentage.

Brock's formula for success is being "firm and fair" toward his players, a philosophy that goes back to the days he worked in the criminal justice program.

But, he said, he does not want to frighten his players. Brock, who admits to having high goals, does not want to be known as a coach that intimidates players.

"You should be firm and fair," Brock said. "I might be more firm than some people would like for me to be, but that is the way I am. I don't want to be known as a coach that teaches by fear."

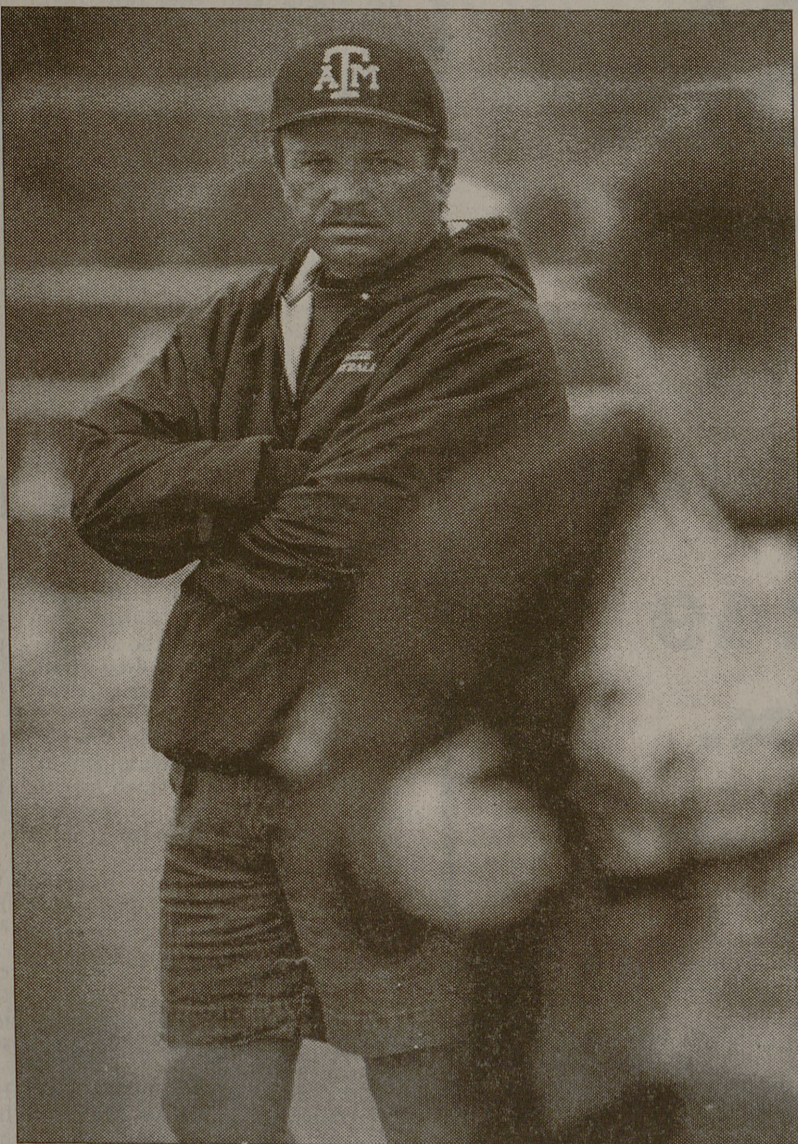
With great teams, the list of great players that have played under Brock is long. Those players that have gone through the program know his road is a tough one, but one that produces wins and brings the best to A&M.

"He's tough and he sticks to what he believes in," said Jennifer McFalls, A&M's senior All-American shortstop. "It takes a lot of dedication and hard work. You have to give him 110 percent; he expects it out of you."

"He's pretty strict and very intense," said assistant coach Shawn Andaya, former three-time All-American pitcher who played for Brock on his 1987 national championship team. "One thing about A&M, girls know softball-wise they will come here and win."

At 50-years young, Brock is taking his program into a new ball park, and the merged Big Eight conference with a new look. Over the last year, he has lost 50 pounds in an effort to stay on top of the team.

Brock gives no real answer to when he will give up the reigns



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

A&M's head softball coach Bob Brock looks over the No. 11 Lady Aggies before a game.

to the team, but he jokes that it will come after he wins his 1,000th game.

The joke is that the 1,000th win will probably come very quickly so he says he probably

will be the coach until he turns 65.

"Experience has taught me that you can't always win," Brock said. "But that doesn't mean you can't keep trying."

Women's sports banquet honors McFalls, seniors

By Nick Georgandis
The Battalion

A year of shining individual performances and record-setting achievements was lauded Monday night, as Texas A&M University held the Women's All Sports Banquet at the College Station Hilton.

Senior softball player Jennifer McFalls received the night's top honor, taking home the Dillard's PaceSetter Award for exemplifying the essence of what a Lady Aggie should be, including excellence in athletics, academics and community work.

Special honors were given to each of the senior athletes, 25 in all, from the basketball, softball, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis,

volleyball and track teams. Each senior was given a music box, hand-crafted by Robert Brooks.

Women's athletic director and head women's basketball coach Lynn Hickey called the year the best in the school's history.

A highlight video to end the evening lauded the second-place conference finishes of the basketball, tennis and volleyball teams. Particular highlights of the video were the basketball team's stunning upset of national power Texas Tech at G. Rollie White Coliseum in February, and the volleyball's team first NCAA tournament appearance since 1986. The team knocked off George Mason

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Kent, Krause honored as Coach, Rookie of Year

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M men's tennis team, in the midst of its best season in school history, garnered a pair of regional awards from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Aggie head coach David Kent, in his 16th year at A&M, was named the Wilson Coach of the Year, while freshman Robbie Krause earned Tennis Match Rookie of the Year honors.

"This is a very pleasant surprise," Kent said. "This is a big honor for the team and myself, especially when you consider all the great coaches in the Southwest Conference. I'm very honored and humbled by the award."

Kent said he felt the ITA made a good choice for the Rookie award.

"Robbie is very deserving of this honor," Kent said. "He made the difference for our team. He made a good team into a Top 20 team.

Robbie is simply a pleasure to coach. He's a hard worker, and nobody competes harder on the court."

Kent was named the Southwest Region's top coach after leading the Aggies to a 22-3 overall record and a share of the Southwest Conference championship, A&M's first.

The team's .880 winning percentage is the best in school history. Among the highlights for the team was a 15-match winning streak to begin the season and taking the team championship at the H.E.B. Team Collegiate Championships.

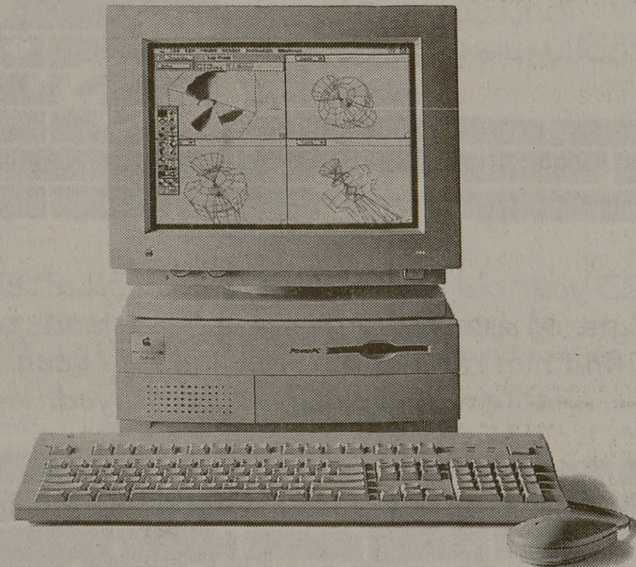
Krause, who is from Roodeport, South Africa, compiled a 21-4 overall singles record and was 19-3 in dual matches.

The No. 18 Aggies will be vying for the automatic berth into the NCAA Championships at the Southwest Region Championships May 13-15. The site of the competition is still to be determined.

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