

# Lady Aggies defeated at regionals

## Aggies fall to No. 1 Arizona Wildcats in back-to-back shut-outs

By Mark Smith  
THE BATTALION

From a season that began with modest expectations, the Texas A&M softball team ended the 1994 regular season ranked No. 11 in the NCAA Top 25 Poll and landed a trip to a NCAA regional tournament in Tucson, Ariz.

The Aggies were excited to get a chance for postseason play, senior co-captain Jennifer McFalls said. But they had just one problem; they were facing the No. 1 University of Arizona Wildcats on their home field.

"It is kind of intimidating to face the number one team in the nation," McFalls said. "You have to respect the number one team."

There were four teams in the Arizona region: A&M, Arizona, Rutgers and Canisius College. The Lady Aggies and the Wildcats were the only two ranked teams in the group.

"We felt it was a two-team tournament," McFalls said. "We were prepared to play. We felt we had improved since the first time we had played them (Arizona)."

A&M began the regular season facing the Wildcats for three games in a tournament in Arizona. Of the three games, A&M lost 0-14, 1-2 and 0-8.

A&M's luck did not fare any better against Arizona during regionals.

In their first meeting, A&M managed only three hits off of Wildcat pitcher Susie Parra. The 5-0 shut-out improved Parra's record



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

A&M freshman third baseman Teresa Howell prepares for the pitch during one of the spring games.

to 29-1 and put A&M in the loser's bracket, facing Canisius College.

After the Lady Aggies defeated Canisius 9-0, they once again met Arizona for the championship game.

Since the Lady Aggies came from the loser's bracket, they would have had to defeat the Wildcats twice in order to advance to the Softball College World Series.

Unfortunately, A&M would not have the opportunity for a second game. Parra would

once again befuddle the Aggies.

Allowing only two hits and striking out 11, Parra shut-out A&M while going the entire seven innings.

The win improved the Wildcats' record to a remarkable 60-3 and dropped A&M to 56-20.

Despite losing in the Arizona regionals, head coach Bob Brock felt A&M had a successful year.

"We had 10 new players and (by going to the region-

als) we really built on the future," Brock said.

With all of the new talent coming in, Brock said he was modestly optimistic about the team's success for the 1994 season.

However, they surpassed his expectations, he said.

"Our biggest goal at the beginning of the year was to get to the playoffs," Brock said. "Near the end of the season we said, 'To heck with the playoffs. Let's go to the World Series.'"

## Rockets squeak by Utah, own 3-1 series advantage

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Houston Rockets survived a poor offensive game by Hakeem Olajuwon, a gutsy comeback from the Utah Jazz and a botched job by the Jazz timekeeper to win Game 4 of the Western Conference final 80-78 Sunday.

In a low-scoring game in which Houston led from the first quarter on, the Jazz rallied within 2 on John Stockton's 3-pointer from the corner with 13.5 seconds left.

Sam Cassell then committed a push-off foul trying to free himself for the inbounds pass, and Utah got the ball back with a chance to tie it or go ahead.

Utah inbounded, passed the ball four or five times until Tom Chambers got it in the lane. He lost control, though, missed a 4-footer, and Houston rebounded, running out the clock.

## Unser takes Indy, says Penske car made it 'easy'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — This Indianapolis 500 belonged to a machine more than any man.

With Al Unser Jr. behind the wheel, Roger Penske's superpowered engine dominated Sunday's race the way no piece of machinery has for more than two decades.

"Thank you to Mercedes-Benz," said Unser, celebrating his second victory in three years at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. "You know, they made it easy to pass everybody down the straightaway. This is a super car. It went the distance."

### How should the Astros spell relief? D-i-t-c-h M-i-t-c-h'

MARK SMITH  
Sports Editor



"Wild Thing, you make my butt sting."

—Randy Quaid from "Major League II"

That, my friends, should be a rallying cry for all Houston Astros fans.

It should be the song fans sing to Astros' manager Terry Collins every time Mitch Williams takes a walk from the bullpen to the mound.

It should be the resounding chorus that floats up to owner Drayton McLane's box to remind him of the lunacy of signing the man who lost the 1993 World Series to a \$2.5 million contract.

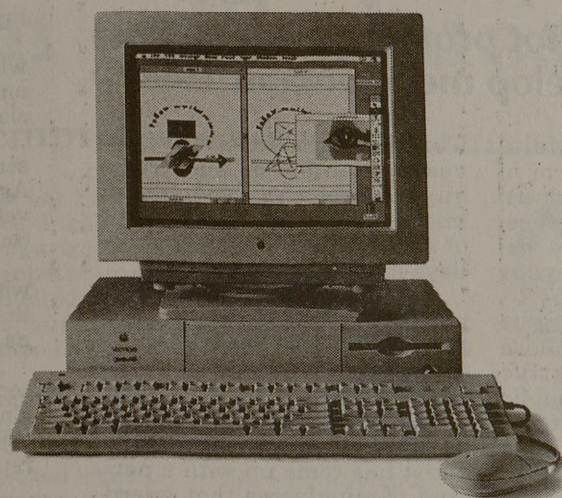
When he takes that walk, there is no loud musical accompaniment, but I wouldn't be surprised to hear the announcer say, "Welcome to Major League relief pitching. Sort of."

The only problem for Houston is the reality of the whole situation. Unlike Quaid's fictitious speedballer, Houston's Wild Thing is real. And he definitely qualifies for his nickname.

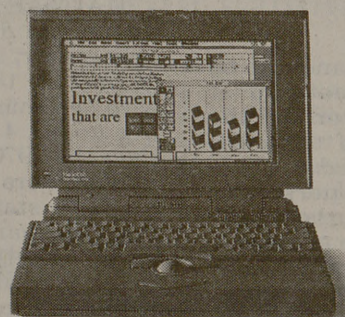
The numbers don't lie when it comes to this conclusion. Of the 19.0 innings Williams has pitched, he has walked 23

Please see Williams/Page 4

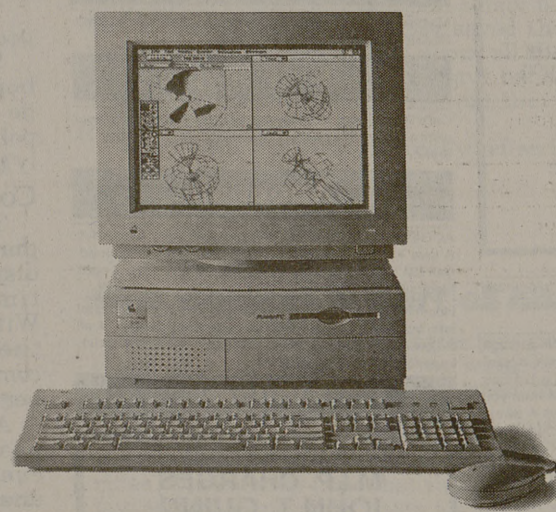
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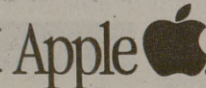
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