

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Softball team to end season against SFA

The Texas A&M softball team will conclude its regular season home schedule today with a doubleheader against Stephen F. Austin at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Senior catcher Beth Gerken will be playing her final home game for the Lady Aggies, 26-20 on the season, and will be recognized between games.

Against the Ladyjacks of SFA, the Lady Aggies are 19-4 all time and have won eight of the last nine meetings between the two teams.

Second baseman Merry Mapp has quite the team for personal reasons. The sophomore was ranked second on the team with a .319 batting average this season. In addition, Mapp was second on the team with 43 hits and 11 doubles and led the team in stolen bases with eight.

On Thursday, the Lady Aggies depart on a road trip through Louisiana with doubleheaders at McNeese State, Louisiana Tech and Northwestern Louisiana.

### Spurs' Hill named NBA coach of month

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Hill, who led the San Antonio Spurs to an 11-2 record in April, was chosen NBA coach of the month Tuesday.

San Antonio finished the season with the best record in the league at 62-20. The team won 32 of its last 37 games.

The Spurs, who will have the home court advantage throughout the NBA playoffs, won five straight games at the start of the month and closed the season with six consecutive wins to overtake Utah for the Midwest Division title.

San Antonio had the NBA's best road record at 29-12 and won seven of eight on the road during April.

## A&M thumps SHSU, tunes up for Texas

□ The Aggies have won 15 of their last 17 ballgames.

By Robert Rodriguez  
THE BATTALION

The 17th-ranked Texas A&M baseball team finished its last non-conference game of the season with a win over the Sam Houston State Bearkats 7-4 before 2,111 at Olsen Field Tuesday night.

With the victory, the Aggies improved to 34-15-1 on the season. Freshman John Sneed picked up the victory while junior Paul Barber collected his third save.

Head coach Mark Johnson this was a good victory against a team that always plays hard against Aggies.

"This was a typical A&M-Sam Houston game," Johnson said. "We would hit the ball well and then all of the sudden look up and they are right back in the ballgame. They always seem to stay in ballgames with us and we have a hard time separating ourselves from them on the scoreboard."

Hitting was the key for the Aggies on this night. Senior John Curl went 3-for-4 with a run batted in and two runs scored while juniors Chad Alexander, Ryan Huffman and Tech-hero Jeff Bailey had two hits apiece. One of Alexander's hits was a home run, his ninth of the season.

"Everyone just feels real good at the plate," Curl said. "Hopefully, we can keep this up a couple more weeks for the tournament."

The Aggies started the game on a tear as the first



Junior Jason Stephens takes a large lead off of first base preparing to steal in the Aggies' 7-4 victory over Sam Houston State Tuesday night.

four batters for A&M got on base with hits off of losing pitcher Tim Gesino. Alexander led off with a triple that just missed being a home run and scored on a Bailey single.

After a Chad Allen single, Curl hit a double which plated Bailey, making it a 2-0 game.

In the third inning, Bailey led off with a single and would reach third on Curl's second double of the game. Sophomore Jason Stephens knocked both runners in with a single to make it 4-0.

While the Aggies were entertaining the crowd on 25-cent Hot Dog Night on the art of hitting, the A&M pitching staff was also

working well as Sneed (5-3) would allow no hits in his three innings of work. However, he did

said. "I thought he threw the ball pretty well."

Freshman Shane King came in the game in the fourth inning and struck out four batters in the two innings he pitched. King was able to work out of a bases-loaded jam in the fifth inning by getting the Sam Houston centerfielder to fly out to end the inning.

In the A&M fifth inning, the Aggies' hitters were at it again as Curl got on base with a base

**"Friday night will be special because it will be our final home game and our seniors will be recognized."**

—Mark Johnson,  
Aggie baseball head coach

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## DiNardo nets respect as Lady Aggies' senior leader

□ Dinardo finished her career in the SWC Championships vs. UT.

By Shelly Hall  
THE BATTALION

For some, it may be lonely at the top. But for Lady Aggie tennis player Christine DiNardo, the lone senior on the A&M team, nothing could be further from the truth.

DiNardo said despite her senior status, she has had no problem relating to the other players and feeds off the spirit of her younger teammates.

"It has been weird being the only senior on the team," DiNardo said. "But, we are all pretty close. My team members motivated me a lot."

DiNardo said she has been inspired on the court by the relationships she has with her teammates.

"The people on my team have been a big motivation," DiNardo said. "When you have a bad day, they are there to pump you up."

DiNardo, who won the Pennsylvania singles state championship her senior year in high school, said it is her desire to win that gives her consistency on the court.

"I knew it took a lot of work to win," DiNardo said. "I've had some good wins, collegiately."

DiNardo said it was her parents that originally introduced her to the game of tennis.

"Both of my parents played," DiNardo said. "They took me to lessons and I started to play."

DiNardo said she feels good about this past weekend's Southwest Conference tennis championships even though the event marked the end of her tennis career at A&M.

"I played well against Texas," DiNardo said. "The team played them close. We played them better than earlier in the season."

DiNardo said she captured most of the goals last weekend that she had set for herself this season.

"I started out playing at No. 4," DiNardo said. "I got moved down to No. 5, so I lost some confidence. But winning a match and pulling it out for the team has stood out in

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DiNardo

## Baseball team needs history repeat

For the Texas A&M baseball team and its fans, the last two years have been an emotional roller coaster of highs and lows. To show this point, let's let history do the talking.

April 30, 1993: In front of an overflow crowd at Olsen Field, Texas A&M defeats the University of Texas 6-2 to clinch its first outright Southwest Conference championship in 15 years. Aggie pitcher Jeff Granger goes the distance for A&M, scattering six hits and outdueling the Longhorns' top hurler, Brooks Kieschnick.

A&M, the consensus No. 1 team in the nation, will eventually advance to the College World Series for the first time since 1964.

April 30, 1994: Texas Christian University defeats the defending conference champion Aggies 6-3 at Olsen Field to clinch the SWC title. As the Horned Frogs celebrate their title on the infield grass, Aggie fans are left to ponder what went wrong in a season once full of promise.

With a fifth place finish and 6-12 conference record, A&M will not get to host or participate in the SWC Tournament.

April 30, 1995: A&M defeats the University of Texas at Ditch-Falk Field in Austin to complete a three-game sweep of the Longhorns. The Aggies grab the conference lead and moves one step closer to reclaiming the SWC crown.

Although the third scenario is not a reality yet, these moments define the treacherous peaks and valleys the baseball team has traveled in two years.

On Sunday, exactly two years after beating Texas to win the 1993 SWC title, the Aggies have a chance to climb back on top if they can cap off a successful series against their archrivals.

A&M is currently tied with Rice atop the standings with a 12-6 record, while Texas Tech is a game and a half back at 10-7.



TOM DAY

SPORTSWRITER

However, Rice takes on Tech this weekend, so the Aggies could put some valuable ground between themselves and one of these teams.

A&M, meanwhile, is on an all-time high in the aftermath of Jeff Bailey's heroic, game-winning grand slam against Tech last Sunday.

If the Aggies take just a shred of this momentum with them onto the field this weekend, the Longhorns could be in a lot of trouble. At 12-9, they can't afford to lose.

Looking back, A&M went from the penthouse to the outhouse in just a year's time. What happened?

The departure of the All-American Granger and A&M's other top gun Kelly Wunsch is what happened. In their absence, Aggie pitching suffered temporarily, crippling A&M's chances at a repeat title.

But this season has been a different story, as solid pitching, timely and productive hitting and good team defense has returned to Aggieland.

After a slow start, A&M rode a huge wave of momentum to a 15-game winning streak and back to the top of the conference standings. Now, the team appears poised and ready to make a final assault at the SWC championship.

Based on Bailey's miracle home run and the team's unlikely comeback victory over Tech last Sunday, it would seem the team is destined to win the conference and advance on to bigger and better things.

With 12 players remaining from the '93 squad, the team has experience in winning. But weathering last season's fall-off also taught those players nothing can be taken for granted.

It's been a wild ride of exhilarating highs and depressing lows for the Aggies and their fans. Let's just hope the next stop is the top of the mountain.

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