

SPORTS

McFalls named to USA Team

Former Texas A&M All-American shortstop Jennifer McFalls has been selected to the USA Softball National Team. The team will compete in a pre-Olympic matchup being promoted as Superball Classic '95 as a member Aug. 3-6 in Columbus, Ga.

McFalls recently competed in the U.S. Olympic Festival '95 as a member of the silver-medal winning East squad.

The USA Softball Women's National Team will be putting its 105-game winning streak on the line in the competition which USA Softball representatives say will feature the toughest international assembled this year.

The event will include five teams already qualified for the 1996 Olympics softball competition.

McFalls, from Grand Prairie, is the Lady Aggies' all-time leader in runs scored, hits, batting average, doubles, triples, total bases and walks.

In her junior season of 1993, McFalls became only the ninth player in A&M history to be named a first-team All-American. In that season, McFalls led the team in runs, hits, batting average runs batted in, triples, total bases, slugging percentage and stolen bases.

Last season, McFalls fell slightly off her All-American production level, but the team was better. The Aggies were defeated by eventual-national champion Arizona in the championship of the Central Regional. McFalls hit .367, scored 51 runs again and led the team in hits and stolen bases as well.

National teams scheduled to compete in the tournament include Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Puerto Rico and Japan. The first-ever U.S. softball Olympic team will be announced following the USA Softball National Team Camp Sept. 5 in Oklahoma City.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A high school student at the Texas A&M Softball Camp practices her sliding techniques in a mud pit outside of Clements Hall Wednesday afternoon. The camp, organized by Texas A&M Head Softball Coach Bob Brock ends today with games at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Players get down and dirty at softball camp

□ Campers have the opportunity to play at the Aggie Softball Complex.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

When a Texas A&M softball camper completes the camp, she receives two rewards. The first is the opportunity to play at the Aggie Softball Complex. The second is the chance to take a dive in the mud.

This year's Texas A&M Softball Camp has an enrollment of 130 girls who are either learning or enhancing basic softball skills.

Texas A&M Head Softball Coach Bob Brock is overseeing the camp and said he is extremely pleased with the week.

"It's been going all right, and

everyone's having a bunch of fun," Brock said.

The campers, who range in age from 13-18, are staying in Cain Hall and have practiced at Kyle Field, the Polo Fields and at the Anderson Track Complex during the past week. The camp concludes today with several games at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Brock said the direction of the camp has changed this year because more and more high schools are beginning to field women's softball teams.

"There has been such an emergence and explosion of softball at the high school level," Brock said. "In years past, we've had mostly girls who have participated only in summer leagues.

But now are getting a lot of girls that play in high school and summer leagues. So now, we're get-

ting the best of both."

Brock has been head softball coach at A&M for the past 14 seasons. In that time, he has coached six College World Series teams and won three national championships. He came to A&M from Baylor, where he directed the Bears to regional championships and the Division II College World Series in both 1980 and 1981.

Brock is used to coaching this age group of players. He coached the Texas teenage girls' state champions in 1979 and also coached a senior league girls' state championship

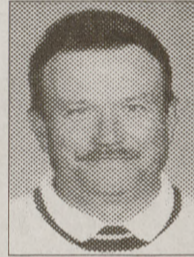
team in 1977.

"Coach Brock is always very involved in everything he does," former Texas A&M pitcher Kim Gonzalez said. "It doesn't matter if it's a summer camp, a practice or a World Series game."

On Wednesday, the campers had one final sliding drill, this one on a grassy strip outside of Clements Hall.

Known simply as "the mud slide," the drill involves the campers getting a running start before diving headlong into a basepath consisting of mud and water. Brock said the slide is always one of the highlights of the camp.

"It's one of the things (the campers) always hear about when they come here," Brock said. "We try to make everything about the camp fun, but this is something extra."



Brock

Demanding teams hurt thrifty cities

JIMMY WILLIAMS

SPORTSWRITER

Build it and they come ... or stay in that matter.

There are 113 professional sports franchises in America and a number of them could be packing up.

The reason is simple: They want new arenas and stadiums, and they want the paying public to foot the bill.

This really shouldn't be as a shock to anyone. Sports franchises are as blunt in their attempts to get what they want. Although few teams have taken the plunge and headed for other markets, cities without professional teams are building new arenas and stadiums in a desperate attempt to either keep the teams or woo them away from other markets.

Just this year, the Los Angeles Rams bolted St. Louis and its state-of-the-art domed stadium. The NHL's Quebec Nordiques left Canada for Denver. Although they are moving into McNichols Arena, which opened in 1975, they are making the move because the city of Denver already has plans under way to build a new arena, the Pepsi Center, in 1997.

There is little argument that owners are going to do whatever they can to compete and make more money. However, what most people don't seem to realize is that a professional sports team brings to a community

See WILLIAMS, 1B

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