THE BATTALION

SPORTS

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ady Ags want to get back on track against SFA



Rogge Heflin, THE BATTALION

man second baseman Angle Long dives for the ball during practice at the Lady Aggie Softball Complex.

By NICKI SMITH THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Softball Team's overall record of 4-8 may look a bit under the weather, but the Lady Aggies still have high hopes for the season. A&M is prepared to wrap up its home stint today in a doubleheader against Stephen F. Austin University at the Lady Aggie Softball Field at 5 p.m.

Ending a four-game losing streak by beating Sam Houston State University 13-0 at the Aggie Invitational last weekend, Head Coach Jo Evans said the Lady Aggies are prepared to pick up where they left off.

"As a whole, we are not concerned with the way Sam Houston plays or with the players they have," Evans said. "We need to worry more about our own squad's consistency and how we play out there on the field.'

Even though the Lady Aggies have three weeks until Big 12 Con-

ference play starts, freshman sec-ond baseman Angie Long said the Lady Aggies need to use the games against SFA as a tool to help them prepare for some tougher games they will face down the road.

We got off to a slow start, but our teamwork is good and we stick behind each other," Long said. "Games like this help us work on not settling on easy runs by taking things lightly, and going seven innings straight.'

For the series, A&M has a commanding 23-4 record against the Ladyjacks, including a sweep in last year's doubleheader. However, SFA has played eight more games than the Lady Aggies and is at .500 with an overall record of 10-10.

Additionally, the Ladyjacks went 3-2 at the Louisiana State University Tournament, and are holding batters to a .280 average

Senior left-fielder Heather Hayden said the Lady Aggies can expect to outscore SFA, but can not take the team lightly.

"They are a very scrappy team, but at the same time, we all have played at a high level," Hayden said. "When they play us they treat it like it is a World Series game. They really go into the game wanting to beat us, so we can't play like we expect to win."

Currently, senior first baseman Mya Truelove leads the Lady Aggies with a .333 batting average and is one of five A&M players who have recorded single home runs.

Two grand slams, hit by sophomore Kami Tucker and Long, grace the Lady Aggie offensive charts while defensively, junior Trina Solesbee leads the pitching staff with a team-best 1.72 earned run average.

This weekend the Lady Aggies will head to the 1996 Olympic Games softball facility to participate with 17 other teams in the NFCA Leadoff Classic Tournament in Columbus, Ga.

erez silent but deadly

"Gina is extremely

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Jo Evans

A&M head coach

By SARA DUESING THE BATTALION

he only stands 5-foot-3, but last year she led her team with 27 runs batted in. She is not rery loud, but throughout her collegiate cahe has a .289 batting average. Now entering nal year on the Texas A&M Softball Team, Perez has overcome what some call a distage because she is smaller and less vocal other players.

really depends on how you at it," Perez said. "I've been size for as long as I can reber. Sometimes I even forget small I am.

When people say 'I'm bigger you,' I say 'I don't care yone is bigger than me." erez was a walk-on her freshvear and has since started ame at either third base or r field while leading in the

ng lineup. Gina is a very consistent

er," A&M Head Softball Coach Jo Evans said. ensively, she puts the ball in play and makes contact. Defensively, she takes charge and rs a lot of ground. She is very aggressive and t afraid to dive for a play.

nior teammate Mya Truelove said Perez is a very outgoing or loud player, but she has a long way in four years.

She has stepped up a lot vocally, but Gina ne of those silent leaders," she said. "She

doesn't tell you what to do, she shows you by doing it herself."

Evans said the team looks to Perez because she gets the plays made, not because she is vocal.

Not everyone is going to be outgoing," Evans said. "But she has a tenacity and a determination to be the best. The players respect her ability and her love for the game.

The senior from San Antonio said her most memorable moment in her years at A&M occurred when the team made it to regionals

her freshman year. "It was exciting to be a part of that after I walked on," Perez said. Evans said Perez is a key com-

ponent of the team because of her aggressiveness and experience. "Gina is extremely valuable because she gets it done both offensively and defensively," Evans said. "She is pretty hard-nosed

and is willing to put in extra time." This season, Perez is fourth on the team in batting average, hitting .275. Last weekend, Perez

recorded her first home run on the season against Sam Houston State University. Perez said she attributes her success to su-

perstitions. She wears the same visor and hair ribbons in every game "One tournament she left the ribbons behind and had someone's parents buy her some at the

store," Truelove said.

Calun Mardi Gras Party With Live Music

Crazy Cruz's



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Senior Gina Perez walked on her freshman year See PEREZ, Page 8 and now hits at the top of the batting order.

Lady golfers finish third at Monica Welsh

By LARA L. ZUEHLKE THE BATTALION

The No. 11 Texas A&M Women's Golf Team broke its three year winning streak, placing third in the Texas Bookstore/Monica A&M Welsh Memorial tournament at Pebble Creek Country Club.

Going into the second day of the tournament the Lady Aggies were third behind Louisiana State University and Texas Christian University. The Lady Aggies were not able to

move up on the second day of the tournament. LSU won the tournament finishing eight strokes ahead of TCU.

A&M junior Jamie Hullett fired a three-round total of 231, placing sixth. Aggie junior Isabelle Rosberg also placed in the top 10, tying for seventh place, shooting a 233.

A&M Head Coach Jeanne Sutherland said Hullett played well throughout the tournament.

"Jamie played well yesterday and today, and she never gave up," Sutherland said.

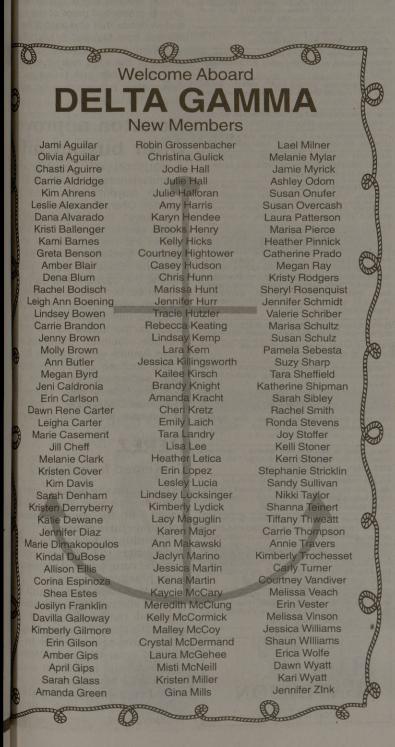


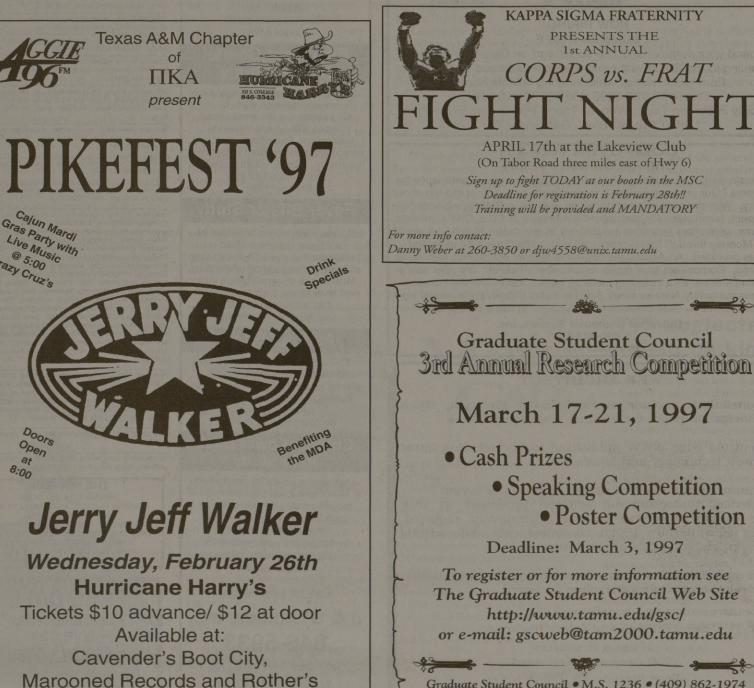
Senior Isabelle Rosberg chips the ball on to the green at the Monica Welsh Memorial Tournament Tuesday.

Teams had to brave the rainy weather throughout the tournament, and Sutherland said the rainy weather made playing conditions difficult.

"The scores for the whole tournament were high, and I think we could have played better," Suther-land said. "I was extremely proud of my players, though, because they never once complained about the weather.'

The Lady Aggies' next competition will be March 8-10 when they travel to San Jose, Calif., to compete in the Spartan Invitational.





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