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THE BATTALION
SPORTS

Softball ready to stop Roadrunners in their tracks

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

Instead of catching rays over spring break, the Texas A&M Softball Team (16-17) was busy catching fly balls and winning games.

The Lady Aggies hosted the Super 8 Motel Aggie Mini Invitational, March 7-9, where they took second place behind 18th-ranked Louisiana Tech University. They went 4-2 in the tournament after defeating Ohio State University and Northern Illinois University.

March 13-16, the Lady Aggies packed their bags and traveled to Houston to compete in the Houston College Classic. The team went 5-3 and defeated Rutgers University and McNeese State University, posting a four-game winning streak, their longest of the season.

With only three days off, A&M gears up for a doubleheader against the University of Texas-San Antonio at the Lady Aggie Softball Field, starting at 5 p.m. today.

Assistant Head Coach Joy Jackson said the Lady Aggies will need to stay on their toes to beat the Lady Roadrunners.

"UTSA is a very scrappy team that always plays to win," Jackson said. "They have definitely come a long way since the last time we saw them and they are not the same team they were three or four years ago. We have to be ready to stay on our toes because they run a lot, drag bunt a lot and are very feisty."

Despite being fired up to play the Lady Roadrunners, the Lady Aggies will have to face UTSA without



A&M freshman shortstop **Jamie Smith** dives into second base against the University of Texas-Arlington's **Kim McGuire**.

Head Coach Jo Evans.

Evans is taking time off to heal from a concussion behind the upper portion of her right ear caused by a line drive foul ball during A&M's 6-4 loss to Oklahoma City University March 15.

Senior center fielder Gina Perez said the Lady Aggies realize that Evans needs time to heal and know they will have to work hard without her.

"We know she is going to be all right," Perez said. "It is not to say that we want to play without her, but we are ready to go out there and win."

A&M is 11-3 against the Lady Roadrunners, who have an overall record of 10-15.

As a team, UTSA is hitting .253. Ju-

nior catcher Shelby Kruttsinger leads the team with a .342 batting average and a .457 slugging percentage.

Freshman shortstop Jamie Smith leads the Aggies with a .284 batting average and three home runs.

Just behind her is junior catcher Amy Schmaltz, with a .259 average and a .457 slugging percentage.

Perez said the Lady Aggies are looking forward to today's game to help them get back into things.

"We need some of these big games to get us playing good baseball," Perez said. "We definitely can't take these games lightly because UTSA is a team that will lose to them if it hurts you, but if you win you are supposed to win."

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LYONS

Continued from Page 7

The Year in Review

The Aggies have made marked improvements this year, both as individuals and as a team. Now is the time to capitalize on the new foundation the Aggies have built. The team needs to add some depth in a few places. First, the team will be losing senior Wade Diederich, leaving Naftanel as the only male diver for Texas A&M. Although Naftanel contributes his fair share of points, to add to the team's overall performance, the team needs at least two other divers to round out next year's roster.

The sprint backstroke also needs more depth, as do the distance events. If the team

can build more strength in these three areas, they will be able to climb into the ranks of the Top 15 teams in the nationally. And Texas A&M shouldn't be hard to sell.

The team has a brand-new conference to tout in addition to their state-of-the-art facilities. They also have A&M itself, with all its wonderful traditions and the high-quality education the athletes will be receiving.

When you put all of that in a package, how could someone possibly choose Nebraska or Iowa State over Aggieland?

If senior Robb Pantano is right, the Aggies might be ready to make their move on the national scene as soon as next year. "They have the personnel, they just need to put it together," Pantano said. "They just need to know that they're good, and to step up to their potential."

Cougars claw Ags

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

HOUSTON — The Texas A&M Baseball Team continued its skid with a 6-4 loss to the University of Houston last night.

The Aggies have lost its last four games and the Cougars have won their last four.

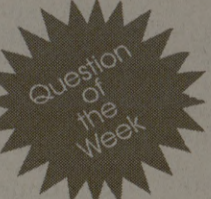
A&M freshman Chance gave up two hits, and five runs in two and one third innings before senior John came to relieve him.

Offensively the Aggies had eight hits but could only score half of them. Catcher Scott Sandusky was one of four with two RBIs.

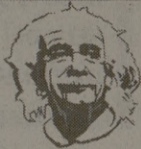
The Aggies will stay on the road as they travel to Soonerland this weekend to play a series with Oklahoma

Satisfied customers speak up about

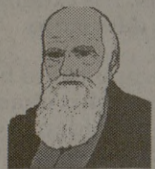
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I couldn't have done it without them. -Einstein



They've really evolved. -Darwin



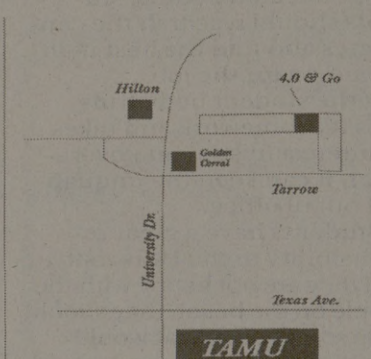
To go or not to go... that is not a question.

-Shakespeare

Question:

Which group of Aggies will publicly display themselves covered only with a "mortarboard" sometime this spring?

(First 5 to call with answer get free review!)



The week of March 23-27				
Acct 327	Test Review Mon Mar 24 7pm-10pm			
Bana 303 Shetty	Part I Sun Mar 23 7pm-10pm	Part II Mon Mar 24 5pm-8pm	Part III Tue Mar 25 5pm-8pm	Part IV Wed Mar 26 5pm-8pm
Bana 303 Stein	Part I Mon Mar 24 5pm-8pm	Part II Tue Mar 25 5pm-8pm	Part III Wed Mar 26 5pm-8pm	Part IV Thur Mar 27 5pm-8pm
Bana 305 Shetty	Part I Sun Mar 23 10pm-12am	Part II Mon Mar 24 8pm-10pm	Part III Tue Mar 25 5pm-8pm	Part IV Wed Mar 26 5pm-8pm
Bana 305 Anthony	Test Review Sun Mar 23 4pm-7pm			
Econ 322	Part I Mon Mar 25 6pm-9pm	Part II Tue Mar 26 6pm-9pm		
Mgmt 211 Crunch	Test Review Wed Mar 26 6pm-9pm	Tickets for ALL Mgmt 211 Classes will go on sale Wednesday March 28 at 4:00 pm		

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