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SMITH

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Obviously, Smith has earned her mark on the A&M team, but she almost decided against coming to A&M.

"My first choice was Cal-Poly [San Luis Obispo] because I didn't want to leave home," Smith said. "But I changed my mind when I came on my recruiting trip here, and even

though it has been hard, the team has really kept me from being homesick."

One person who has been able to help Smith adjust to being so far from home is freshman second baseman Angie Long.

Not only are Long and Smith both from California, but the two freshmen also hold starting positions in the heart of the infield.

Long said the strongest bond between them is their ability to communicate.

"She makes it easier for me because I have never played second base before," Long said. "She talks to me a lot and we are with each other most of the time. On the field, she has a good arm and good range, so she is able to cover balls hit by lefties and slappers, which makes her a key player on our defense."

Overall, Jackson said the Lady Aggies are comfortable with Smith at shortstop.

"The team knows that when the

ball is hit to her, she is going to get it," Jackson said. "This says a lot because she is only a freshman. Not only has she stepped up, but she has matured as well."

For Smith, the sky is the limit, at least as long as the team never needs new equipment.

"I always wear the same thing whether it be my visor or cleats," Smith said. "We got new cleats, but I still like to wear the old ones because I am superstitious about everything."

JOHNSON

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"Kamie is dedicated to school," Head Coach Jo Evans said. "She spends more time on her studies than any other athlete I've had."

On the softball field, Johnson is one of the hardest workers on the team. Assistant coach Jackson described her as having an abundant supply of energy and being a great team player.

Jackson said Johnson always can be heard cheering someone on, and always is hugging someone to congratulate them. Prop said Johnson also is constantly working to improve her play.

"She is pretty intense when she is out there," Jackson said. "She wants to get the job done and wants to be better with every practice."

Although Johnson does not get as much playing time as she would like, she never gives up. She stops working when she is frustrated. With the support of her teammates and coaches, Johnson is making the adjustment to the college level and getting used to the tough level of play of collegiate sports.

"It's hard to come from high school, where you played all the time, to college and sit on the bench," Johnson said. "Coach Evans has really helped me make that transition smooth."

Johnson said being a student-athlete has made her a more well-rounded person. She has learned from the double responsibility of practicing intensely in a sport and being a good student in the classroom and on the field.

In addition to her experience in the classroom and on the field, Johnson now has another element of leadership in her life. She pledged Zeta Tau Alpha in the fall. During her freshman year, Johnson did not meet as many people as she had wanted to. She was searching for more avenues to explore leadership. One of her teammates was a Zeta, who persuaded Johnson to rush.

"I am so glad I did," Johnson said. "All of the Zetas have been very supportive of me. I've made so many new friends."

Johnson has taken the time to explore as many opportunities as possible for leadership and growth as a person while at A&M, as well as keep up her studies.

Johnson plans to keep her grades high, as she would like to eventually work in the medical field. For now, Johnson will continue to work hard, improve her play and prepare for her last two years on the team. Although she does not see much game time, Johnson still contributes to the team overall.

"It is fun to coach Kamie," Evans said. "She has a tough personality but she handles it well. She is light-hearted, and she makes it fun."

Johnson loves the game, her coach and her teammates. She derives satisfaction from working hard and seeing the results in the success of the team.

Johnson said softball is one of the most rewarding aspects of her life, and the atmosphere makes her feel good.

"The field is your home when you step between those lines," Johnson said.

**Cowboys
sign Garrett**

IRVING (AP) — Quarterback son Garrett, who has thrown 10 passes over the last two seasons, signed a three-year contract Tuesday to remain with the Dallas Cowboys.

Garrett has been one of Troy Wilson's backups for four years. Wilson has been the primary backup the last two seasons.

Garrett drew mild interest from other teams. In his only pro start, he led Dallas to a team-record 38 second-half points in a 42-31 comeback victory over the Green Bay Packers on Thanksgiving 1994.

For his career, Garrett is 32-4 for 466 yards and three touchdowns with two interceptions.

Dallas also signed 6-foot-6, 260-pound defensive end Oluwasanmi (Mike) Odumuyiwa, who played a year of semi-pro football after leaving Eastern Illinois University.

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