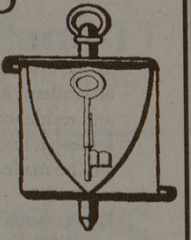


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## Ags look to avenge loss Old Southwest Conference foe comes to Olsen Field

BY JAMIE BURCH  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Baseball Team (30-15, 13-8) finishes the back end of a home and home series against the 17th-ranked University of Houston (25-12, 12-3) tonight at Olsen Field at 7.

The Aggies swept Big 12 opponents the past two weekends but stumbled against Southwest Texas State University last Tuesday, losing 10-4.

Head Coach Mark Johnson said A&M needs to carry over its weekend success to be a great team.

"The championship teams do that," Johnson said. "The teams that are really good can hold onto and carry it. It's tough this late in the season because we get emotionally high about the weekend series. The challenge for us is if we're good enough, we'll be ready to play."

Although they are now members of a new conference, Conference USA, the former Southwest Conference Cougars are no strangers to the Aggies. A&M leads the all-time series 89-42-1 but UH leads the season series 1-0. The Aggies fell to the Cougars at the Astrodome 6-4, March 19 after

the Cougars jumped out on top early, tagging freshman pitcher Chance Caple for five runs through 2-1/3 innings.

Johnson said the first meeting will provide ample motivation for the Aggies.

"We're playing a ranked team, which ought to get us excited," Johnson said. "And we're playing a team that has already beat us once. It's an easy setup for us to be ready to play. We should have our guns loaded."

The strength of the Cougars lies in their speed on the base path. As a team, UH has stolen base 90 times in 107 attempts. Senior pitcher/designated hitter Jason Schreiber is a perfect 19-of-19 between the bags.

Johnson said the pitching staff will have to bring the ball quicker to gun down would-be base stealers.

"We're going to have to do a better job of getting the ball to home plate," Johnson said. "Normally you can use a slide step and some other things to speed up the delivery. Sometimes that takes away from a guy's pitching ability, but that is what separates the good from the bad.

"Our catching game, is fine. It

can shut down the running game if pitchers do a good job of holding the runners and get the ball to home plate."

The Aggies will put freshman Steve Scarborough (2-1, 6.50 ERA) on the mound to face junior left-hander Jon McDonald (4-2, 6.53 ERA). Scarborough and the rest of the staff will attempt to cool off the Cougars hot-hitting outfielders. The team leader in batting average (.492), junior outfielder Geoffrey Tomlinson also is tied for the team lead in home runs (8) and is second in doubles (15). Senior outfielder/third baseman Dustin Carr boasts a .408 average with eight home runs and 16 doubles.

Taming the Cougar offense is not the Aggies' only concern. Johnson said they need to get things going offensively early in the game.

"We're going to have to do a lot better offensively," Johnson said. "We didn't carry our load with the bats down there. I think we had our poorest offensive game against them. We struck out too many times (15).

"We fell right into their pitching pattern and didn't make adjustments. They have us well-charted, I'm sure. We have to make sure we're making that adjustment."

## Softball to make up doubleheader

BY JAMIE BURCH  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Softball Team (26-23, 4-6) begins an eight-game homestand with a twilight doubleheader tonight against Stephen F. Austin University at the Aggie Softball Complex at 5. Game 2 is scheduled to start at 7.

The Lady Aggies and Lady Lumberjacks were originally scheduled to play a doubleheader Feb. 26 but were rained out.

After losing six of their last seven games, the Lady Aggies are currently riding a four-game win streak. The streak consists of sweeps against Sam Houston State University April 10 and the University of Texas this weekend. A&M shutout the Longhorns in both games of the series, 2-0, 9-0.

A&M Head Coach Jo Evans said the recent turn-around is a result of the Lady Aggies' self-determination.

"I think we kind of regrouped," Evans said. "We figured we needed to pick ourselves up. We had a

bad road trip at Kansas (April 5) and Missouri (April 6) and have bounced back really well from that. I think it helped playing Texas.

"We had something to look forward to in the doubleheader against the 'Horns. The girls were able to get focused."

The Lady Aggies plan to start staff ace senior pitcher Lori Gioco (15-11, 1.45 ERA) in Game 1. The probable starter for Game 2 is junior Trina Solesbee (1-4, 3.28 ERA).

Evans said the Lady Aggies need to take advantage of the slumping Lady Lumberjacks, who have lost three straight games after dropping a three-game series to the University of Texas-San Antonio.

"They're (SFA) struggling a little bit," Evans said. "Their pitchers' ERAs are all 2.20 plus. I think we'll be able to score runs. Their opponent's batting average is 3.06. We feel that if we're disciplined at the plate we have a great shot to win."

## Lady Aggs face 'Horns in Austin

BY COURTNEY LYONS  
THE BATTALION

As the women's tennis season winds down, the Lady Aggies head to Austin to face the University of Texas at its home court. The red-hot Lady Aggies are undefeated on the road and are 45-3 in singles competition in the Big 12 Conference. A&M begins its three-match road trip (vs. Texas, Kansas State, and Kansas) before entering the Big 12 Tournament in two weeks.

The first challenge comes from the Lady Longhorns. The Lady Aggies are trying to avenge last year's 5-3 loss at the conference tournament. The Lady Aggies are on a five-match sweep of Big 12

opponents and are looking to take down Texas.

The Lady Aggies are excited about the match with their rivals and are ready to face their competition, sophomore Vanessa Rooks said.

"We feel 100 percent positive that we can win," Rooks said. "We can definitely beat Texas."

Freshman Lisa Dingwall said she is excited about facing the Texas team for the first time. Dingwall said A&M has been strong all season, and the Lady Aggies will play Texas like they play any other team — hard. Dingwall said she is trying not to think about the competition until Tuesday afternoon, so she will be

mentally prepared.

"I don't want to get nervous yet," Dingwall said. "But when I do get nervous, that means I will be mentally tough. I'm not hesitant in any way."

Women's Tennis Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke said Texas has an excellent team, with solid players all the way down the roster. Kleinecke said that for the Lady Aggies to win, they must play extremely well.

"We're capable of winning," Kleinecke said. "We just have to keep our level up, and let the winning take care of itself."

Kleinecke said the team has enough confidence and talent to get the job done, as they have all season.

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