

Forever!

Cox takes skills to higher level

By CHRIS FERRELL
THE BATTALION

As the legend goes, when Ty Cox stepped up to his ball on the 17th hole of last year's NCAA Regional Tournament, he found himself in an undesirable position. The highly touted freshman was in the rough, behind a tree and 150 yards from the pin.

Cox went to his bag, pulled out his pitching wedge and unloaded on the ball. With the tree blocking his view, Cox looked over at the player he was paired with, Louisiana State University's Jim Skinner, and asked, "Where did the ball go?"

Skinner replied, "Just short of the green."

As the pair approached, there was Cox's ball, all of 3 feet from the hole. Skinner looked up at Cox and asked, "My God, how do you hit shots like that?"

Cox went on to finish 15th, leading the Aggies to the Central Regional Championship. The tournament also sent a message to the college golf ranks — Ty Cox had arrived.

"That's the ability he has," Head Coach Bob Ellis said. "And that's what we need to see two weeks from now, that ability coming through."

Ability never has been a problem for Cox. Now a sophomore on the Texas A&M Golf Team, Cox brings a résumé to the table which rivals any other collegiate golfer.



Robert McKay, THE BATTALION

See Cox, Page 12 Senior Ty Cox practices his putting Tuesday afternoon.

Becker makes transition to new team, country

By LARA L. ZUEHLKE
THE BATTALION

Many freshmen have a difficult time adjusting to college — moving to a new town and meeting new people. But freshman Anna Becker, a member of the Texas A&M Women's Golf Team, has had to overcome more than just moving to a new town. She has moved to a whole new country.

The 5-foot-6 freshman phenomenon is a native of Lund, Sweden. In Sweden, Becker dominated the golfing circuit, the 1994 Trygg Hansa Teen Tour, winning the Swedish championship in 1995 and the 1995 Finnish Open.

Becker said golf in the United States is much different than in Sweden.

"We didn't have high school golf, but it was as an individual," Becker said. "I played for my home course. That's probably the biggest difference."

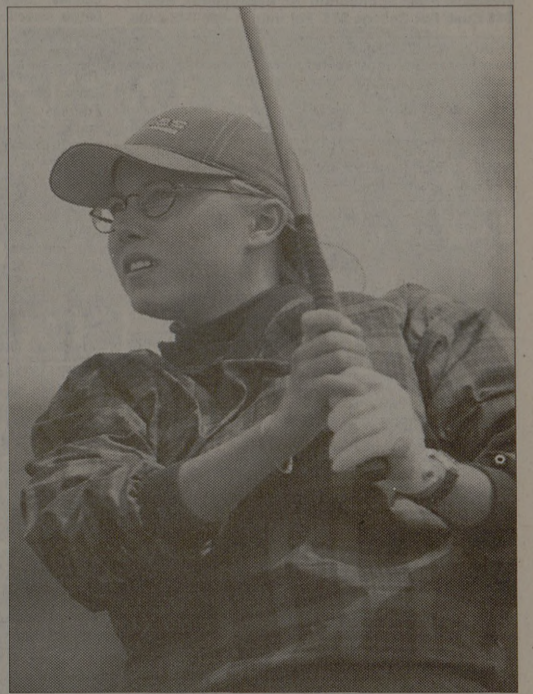
A&M Head Coach Jeanne Sutherland said Becker is at an incredible level considering her freshman status.

"Not many freshmen come out of high school and have so many adjustments to make," Sutherland said. "Golf is the one thing that she knew how to do, but the other adjustments, like in school and with the language, have affected her game."

Becker said several components influenced her decision to leave Sweden and come to A&M.

"I wanted to come to the United States, and I heard A&M was a big school," Becker said. "I am a business major and heard the business program was good. Coach (Sutherland) also recruited me really well."

Becker sought the advice of fellow Swede and A&M teammate junior Isabelle Rosberg.



Robert McKay, THE BATTALION

See BECKER, Page 9 Freshman Anna Becker drives the ball down the fairway at Briarcrest Country Club Sunday.

Small frame does not deter Hullett's dreams of playing pro

By LARA L. ZUEHLKE
THE BATTALION

Junior golfer Jamie Hullett might be small of stature, standing only 5-foot-2, but when it comes to the game, this member of the Texas A&M Women's Golf Team can out-swing and out-putt anyone.

Hullett has been the powerful punch behind the 12th-ranked Lady Aggie golfers' success this season. She leads the team with a 76.79 average and ranks third in the Big 12 Conference individual rankings. Hullett also represents the Lady Ags in the Rolex Collegiate Golf Rankings, coming in at No. 17.

The Mesquite native has made a strong showing this season, posting seven top 20 finishes.

"I'm a lot more consistent now, but I still have a few bad rounds," Hullett said. "I have more opportunities to shoot lower than I did before."

Sophomore teammate Jennifer Emmons said Hullett's consistent play is reassuring to the team.

"Everybody always knows she will shoot low. There's no doubt that she will shoot low," Emmons said.

"If I'm playing badly, I don't have to worry about, 'What if Jamie is playing badly too?' because that's not going to happen."

A&M Head Women's Golf Coach Jeanne Sutherland said Hullett always has been a solid player for the Lady Ags.

"She's always played well for us, but she is gradually learning more about her own game," Sutherland said. "She works a lot harder at her game, because in high school she wasn't pushed as hard. Once she came here, her teammates pushed her to get better."

Although Hullett played soccer for 11 years, she chose to stick with golf. She began playing as a seven-year-old under the watchful eye of her grandfather. Hullett has an older brother, David, who plays professional golf.

Hullett will follow her brother's footsteps into the pro circuit. She will tee off in her first Ladies Professional Golf Association Tournament May 1 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"I am getting to play in the LPGA because of a tournament I won last



Robert McKay, THE BATTALION

Junior Jamie Hullett judges how to putt the ball at practice.

summer," Hullett said. "I am kind of nervous, but it should be a good chance to see how it all works out."

See HULLETT, Page 9

Junior keeps up mental toughness

By MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

Contrary to popular belief, not all good golfers are handed a nine-iron at age three or hit the links at the local country club with their golf-addicted fathers.

Miguel del Angel, a junior on the Texas A&M Men's Golf Team, waited until he was 10, and even then he learned the subtle nuances of the world's hardest sport in the arid, gusty plains of the Valley.

"We have a lot of nice golf courses," del Angel said of his Valley roots. "There's not a lot of big trees, obviously, like we have here. It's more of a windy-style golf course. You have to learn how to hit it low and straight."

But del Angel says the unusual conditions under which he routinely played actually helped him when he began his college career at A&M.

"It helped a lot, because most of the conditions we play under here are either wet or windy," del Angel said. "It's very rare that we get a day

when it's just beautiful. I'd say it helped a lot growing up — learning to hit the ball low and learning to hit different shots in the wind."

After a slow fall season, del Angel has had an excellent spring, compiling a 75 stroke average and placing in the top 20 in three of his past four tournaments, including two top 10 finishes.

"Miguel's having a good season," A&M Head Coach Bob Ellis said. "He didn't start off that well in the fall, but in the spring he's really been very consistent. He's very solid mechanically — good putter, good ball-striker, good chipper. And he handles himself beautifully on the golf course. Watching him, I can't tell if he's three over or three under — there's just absolutely no emotion, and he's good with that."

Del Angel's mental toughness and consistency have been his hallmarks this season, and he says each is a direct result of the other.

See DEL ANGEL, Page 9

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