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Lady Ags barely get by Sam Houston

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

It took nearly five games for Sam Houston State University (13-29) to figure out how to beat the Texas A&M Softball Team (30-23)—well almost. The Lady Aggies defeated the Lady Kats four times this season and were prepared to add two more to that list last night at the

Lady Aggie Softball Field, but this time around the Lady Kats were not so quick to give in to A&M.

Not only did the Lady Kats surprise the Lady Aggies with two-nine inning games, but they were able to hold the Lady Aggies scoreless until the bottom of the ninth inning in the first game.

The only run came when junior Trina Solesbee reached second base

off a throwing error made by Lady Kat third baseman Katrina Emerick.

Then, A&M sophomore Kamie Johnson stepped-in to pinch run for Solesbee, stole third base, and scored the only run of the game off a single to left field by junior Amy Schmaltz.

Head Coach Jo Evans predicted the Lady Kats were going to play tough.

"We know that Sam Houston has three or four aggressive hitters who can hit the ball well," Evans said. "In order to win, we had to play hard, keep the intensity level up and not play to other team's levels."

In the second game, Sam Houston jumped ahead scoring four runs off base hits by the fourth inning.

It took a home run from Solesbee to spark the Lady Aggie offense in the bottom of the fourth inning, and the Lady Aggies were able to tie it up by the bottom of the fifth inning at 4-4.

Four innings later, the score remained at 4-4 until freshman Jamie Smith won the game scoring freshman Angie Long off a base hit to left field.

The win marked the sixth against Sam Houston this season and increased the Lady Aggie winning streak to eight games.

The Lady Aggies will have little time to enjoy their wins over Sam Houston as they resume Big 12 Conference action on Saturday at the Lady Aggie Softball Field

against 17th-ranked Oklahoma State University.

Currently, OSU has an overall record of 28-16 while standing first in the Big 12 with a record of 4-5.

Despite being ranked ahead of A&M, the Lady Aggies are 24th for the series which ranks as third highest number of wins among OSU's opponents.

Evans said the Lady Aggies are happy they are playing OSU at home.

"Right now we have a good winning streak and our pitching looking really good," Evans said. "All facets of our game are at their peak right now."

On Sunday, the Lady Aggies will have to face seventh-ranked University of Oklahoma (43-13) and the Big 12 Co-Player of the Year Jill Moore.

Evans said the team will have to look out for Moore and her style of pitching.

"She is probably the best pitcher in our conference and one of the best in the nation," Evans said. "We need to be our best at the plate this weekend but since we have them in the fall we have a lot of confidence to play them now."

This weekend's doubleheader will close out A&M's eight game home stint but the team will not resume playing action until Wednesday against the University of Texas-Arlington.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

A&M freshman pinch runner **Emmie Melancon** runs into SMSU third baseman **Katrina Emerick** and is tagged out during last night's game.

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KEENS

Continued from Page 9

"He's pretty skinny and about a foot tall. He was kind of shaggy at first, but we cleaned him up — made him more clean cut to fit our image."

Interestingly enough, Keens possesses an alter-ego on the mound, a polar opposite from his locker room shenanigans. Assistant Head Coach/Pitching Coach Jim Lawler says Keens has as much presence on the mound as any pitcher on the team, which is an invaluable

trait for a hurler usually asked to slam the door on opponents. "He's a real closer," Lawler said. "Robert plays the role and gets himself focused. On the mound, he has the presence of a closer. His attitude is, 'I'm coming after you and I'm going to make you beat me.'" Jim Lawler, A&M pitching coach

chant "Haaaaaaa..." until the pitch smacks that catcher's mitt, when they all yell "-beeb!!!" This summons the makeshift Jobu's power or strikeout.

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getting his arm to recover as quickly after outings. In the few weeks he has been called to pitch in the late innings of close games. Statistically, Keens has been as steady as they come, posting a 3-2 record with a 3.86 ERA in 16 appearances.

"I got to a point where I was throwing a lot and I felt like my arm was getting leveled off because I was getting enough rest and doing things it takes to get my arm back in shape," Keens said. "Now I feel like some time off and I've gotten my routine where I feel more confident that I have the stuff that can get people out. I've gotten that confidence back."

Uh-oh, better steer clear of the locker room.

Uh-oh, better steer clear of the locker room.

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