

Aggies face showdown with U

Softball team looking for redemption after Georgia tou

By KATIE MISH
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Softball team will face North Carolina in a doubleheader Friday at 5 p.m. at the Aggie Softball field.

Coach Jo Evans said that the Aggies will win if they play well. She said the team is getting extra practice that they haven't had because the number of games they have been playing has limited their practice time.

She also said the practice time gives the team a chance to work on specific objectives.

"We're getting some batting practice in and some pitching and defensive work, and we're starting to come together as a team, even though we have some improvements to make," Evans said.

"We're working towards being able to peak at the right time. We're hoping to be ready for conference, ready in terms of being consistent with our pitching and defense."

Evans said the pitchers are working on not getting behind in the count and really preparing themselves for the two games in these practices. She said the pitchers are trying to improve their level of play to keep it steady.

"Our pitchers need to get out



RYAN ROBERTS

Amy Lawler and the Aggies hope their level of play will improve there and take control of these two games," she said. "They need to throw strikes and get ahead of the hitter; that's a key thing they need to do. We need to get that consistency from our pitching staff, from all of them."

Marianne McGuire, A&M's senior catcher, said these are big games for the Aggies. She said the games give everybody more practice, something that is important for the upcoming Sacramento State Tournament and the start of conference play.

"We want to work on consistency, and it gives us more games, more experience for everybody," McGuire said.

Freshman pitcher Ashley Lewis said she thinks she will pitch better against North Carolina than she did against Illinois

State. She said she's been working on some of the things she has improved on and she still doesn't feel she has enough consistency with enough consistency.

"I've been working on the screwball, and it's been lately, but it's getting better," Lewis said. "I've been a new change-up. The practice felt really good. I feel like they are working on it."

The Aggies will play Sacramento State over Spring Break, and McGuire said they believe they can win the tournament.

The Aggies will play the same teams they played in the Georgia Tournament, but they will face many teams ranked in the top 25 in the nation.



Evans

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A&M battles OSU in Stillwa

Break includes Big 12 play, non-conference game at

By TRAVIS HARSCH
Staff writer

As A&M students celebrate their annual respite from classes with trips to the beach and to the mountains, the Aggie Baseball Team will take a road trip of its own as its members try to continue doing what they've been doing all season long. Winning.

The Aggies will be coming off a split with Southwest Texas State in a doubleheader this past Tuesday.

After shutting out the Bobcats 6-0 behind the arm of Chance Caple, the Aggies couldn't get the run they needed to keep the game alive in the ninth and fell, 4-3, despite a two-run homer from leftfielder Steven Truitt.

Now A&M returns to Big 12 conference and road games with a three-game set against Oklahoma State that will get underway at 7 p.m. Friday in Stillwater.

Truitt said the Cowboys will give the Aggies a tough league challenge.

"They're a good team, one of the pre-season favorites, and we're going to do what we can to win," Truitt said.

Taking the hill for A&M will likely be Ryan Rupe in the first game, Casey Fossum in the twi-



ROBERT MORAN

Junior outfielder Jason Tyner and the Texas A&M Baseball Team to speed by Oklahoma State in a three-game Big 12 series over the weekend.

For the Aggies this year, good things have come with those three pitchers. Together they boast a combined record of 11-2 with 103 strikeouts and an opponent batting average of .196.

Coach Mark Johnson said his hurlers will be an important part of shutting down the Cowboy's potent offense.

"Oklahoma State is one of the favorites; they're better this year than they were last year, but I think our pitchers will help," Johnson said.

Oklahoma State is coming off a weekend which saw them lose to Kansas State 8-5, with the Sat-

urday and Sunday games called because of bad weather.

In the first Big 12 matchup, the Aggies lost to Oklahoma State in a three-game set at Stillwater.

After taking the first game, the Aggies dropped the second, 9-3 and the third, 11-7. The series continued on Saturday.

Since the first meeting in 1916, when Oklahoma State was known as Oklahoma, the Cowboys have piled up a record versus A&M.

After the series with Oklahoma State, the Aggies continue their road trip to San Antonio as they take on the Longhorns.

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