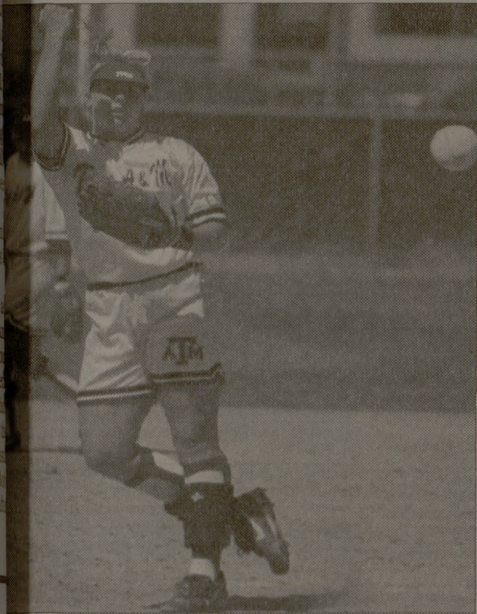


# Softball team breaks from Big 12 with SHSU

## Texas A&M hopes for repeat performance of earlier Bearkat doubleheader sweep

By **ROBERT HOLLIER**  
Staff writer



**BRANDON BOLLOM**, THE BATTALION  
Freshman **Ashley Lewis** and her Aggie teammates take on Sam Houston in a non-conference game.

The Texas A&M Softball Team (28-20-1, 4-6) will take a short break from its tough conference schedule when they travel to Huntsville to play a doubleheader against Sam Houston State this Tuesday.

Earlier in the year, the Aggies swept a doubleheader from SHSU at the Aggie Softball Complex, and A&M Coach Jo Evans expects her team to repeat the performance.

"We played them well earlier in the season," Evans said. "We have to go out and play them well, and I think we can beat them twice."

The Aggies have been on a roller-coaster ride the last three weeks. They were swept by No. 8 Nebraska in Lincoln and A&M took two games from No. 11 Missouri. Then the Aggies were swept by No. 9 Texas.

"We just need more consistency and more aggressive play," Evans said.

The Aggies only managed seven hits and two runs against Longhorn pitching last weekend, and Evans and the team know that will not result in many victories.

"That's not going to get it done," she said. "We were out-pitched and out-hit, and it's discouraging. We can play better."

Senior catcher and team captain Marianne McGuire agreed, adding the team needs to hit better in the clutch if they want to score more runs.

"We didn't get the hits when we needed them," McGuire said. "We aren't getting the hits, and we didn't score."

Evans believes the Aggies may just need a change of fortune.

"We just need a couple of breaks," Evans said. "We hit the ball hard against them (Texas), but we hit them right at people. If we had hit the ball in the right spots, you never know what could have happened."

"We can't get discouraged," Evans added. "When we scored our first run against them, we had perfect execution. We just need to do that more consistently."

Although Sam Houston will not provide the same competition as some of their Big 12 opponents, Evans and the Aggies know anything can happen in this sport.

"They have some quality players, and Shelly Blair is a good pitcher," Evans said. "They are very aggressive at the plate, and they can make some things happen."

Next, the Aggies will travel to take on Oklahoma and Oklahoma State next weekend. Both series will be doubleheaders.

# Aggies wave goodbye to Omar Smith Center

Freshman Shuon Madden experiences end of perfect A&M record in Boulder



is being billed as one of the top five outdoor tennis facilities in the nation.

Its 12 courts will allow the men's and women's teams to play dual matches simultaneously, and it should have room for approximately 1,500 fans. It is already slated to host next year's Big 12 Championships.

The new center is located behind the new Reed Arena on West Campus.

It will replace the old Texas A&M tennis center named after Omar Smith.

Rocky Mountain Low

In the Aggies' 5-2 loss to Colorado last Friday, freshman Shuon Madden saw his bid for a perfect season end in a straight-set loss to the Buffaloes' Artur Rusiccki.

Madden, who has been named the Big 12 Player of the Week for the past two weeks, also lost in A&M's Sunday win against Nebraska, but he was playing in the No. 1 slot instead of his usual No. 3.

— Al Lazarus is a sophomore journalism major.

# Wade returns; Fobbs lost to track and field



This Thursday, the decathletes and heptathletes will travel to California to compete in the Mt. SAC Multi-Competition, with the rest of the team traveling to Austin on Saturday, April 18, for a five-day meet.

## Fallen Fobbs

The Texas A&M Track and Field Team is coming off their best all-around performance of the season this past weekend at the A&M Invitational.

The meet included the successful return of senior Larry Wade to the outdoor season, but also saw the Aggies suffer the loss of senior sprinter Billy Fobbs, who injured his hamstring in the 100-meter dash.

This further hindered the Aggies in their quest to return their 4x100-meter relay team, which included Fobbs, to action in defense of their national championship of a year ago.

## Freshmen Contributions

This spring, the freshman class of athletes on the Texas A&M Track and Field Team have really stepped up their performance, especially in the outdoor season.

Esther Eisenlauer is one of the top javelin throwers in the nation and has already qualified automatically for the NCAA Championships at the end of the season. Also in the javelin, Lauryn Miller and Jennifer Parker finished 2-3 this past weekend at the invitational.

— Michael Ferguson is a senior business management major.

## Hometown Boy Makes Good

Cody Hubbell, a freshman from A&M Consolidated High School, has won four of his last five matches, including a three-set victory against North Carolina that clinched the dual match for the Aggies.

Hubbell usually plays in the No. 6 slot for A&M, but has victories playing No. 2 against Missouri and No. 4 against Nebraska.

## Out With The Old ...

The Aggies will take on Kansas Saturday night in what will be the last match played at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

With a victory over the Jayhawks, A&M will have closed out last season there in style, with a perfect 9-0 record.

## In With The New

The Texas A&M Varsity Tennis Center is set to open in June, and

— Al Lazarus is a sophomore journalism major.

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## INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

in 154 Bizzell Hall West

-Monday, April 13

11:00-11:30 AM

-Wednesday, April 15

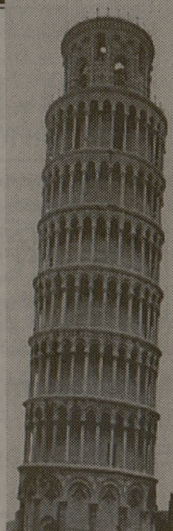
9:30-10:00 AM

-Friday, April 17

2:00-2:30 PM

Pick up an application at the meeting or drop by the Study Abroad Program Office.

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