

Lightning on the Links

Junior Ryan Palmer joined Texas A&M from the University of North Texas, has been looking back at competition since

By MICHAEL TAGLIANTI
Staff writer

Some people are born Aggies, and for some it takes a while for them to decide that they really belong in Ag-land. Ryan Palmer is one of those people.

A junior member of the Texas A&M Men's Golf Team attended the University of North Texas before he decided to transfer to Texas A&M.

Palmer began playing golf at the age of nine. He played throughout school and was twice named to the All-Region team and once to the All-State team as a golfer at Amarillo High School.

Upon graduating from Amarillo, Palmer decided to play golf for UNT. Palmer played for UNT for one year before he decided that A&M was a better place for him to be.

"I wanted to be down here," Palmer said. "I came to A&M for better competition, better tournaments and better opportunities to improve my game."

Palmer sent a letter to A&M Golf Coach Greg Ellis that included a résumé of his accomplishments. Ellis offered Palmer a scholarship without ever seeing him play.

"I hadn't seen him play," Ellis said. "He had written me and he looked like a good player. I sent me a résumé and his accomplishments looked good. I probably receive an average of two résumés per day, and his really stood out."

Palmer has come into his own in the spring of his junior year. He won consecutive tournaments earlier in the year when he won the Louisiana Classics and the Border Olympics.

Palmer's stellar spring performance is a contrast to the fall season when he struggled.

Palmer said he struggled in the fall because he became a little burned out on the game of golf.

"Last semester I kind of got in a slump," Palmer said. "I kind of got burned out. I had played all through the summer and that led to some physical problems with my elbows."

Palmer took some time away from the game, and developed a new outlook towards golf.

"I took a break for a couple of weeks and came out of it with a whole new outlook," Palmer said. "I

changed my clubs, started having fun, and it paid off. I started to play better."

Palmer's teammate, senior Miguel del Angel, said that the difference in his game was evident.

"Everything just started clicking for him," del Angel said. "He is driving the ball well and hitting it close and making the putts. He finally believes that he can do it and it is showing."

Ellis said that Palmer is a good player and a team leader.

"He (Palmer) is a very solid player and individual and is a very talented player as well," Ellis said. "He is a leader and is a jokester. He has a good perspective on the game."

"He knows what to say and how to say it. He can make a bad situation a good situation with one of his jokes."

The golf team has recently had a two-week break from tournaments.

Palmer said that he thinks the break will help the team play better.

"I'm looking forward to it (the Big 12 Tournament)," Palmer said. "I think that these last two weeks off were a great help. We had a chance to rest and relax after three straight weeks of tournaments."

Palmer said that he likes his chances at an individual title at the Big 12 Tournament.

"I'm feeling more confident now," Palmer said. "I think I'm playing better now than when I won those two tournaments earlier in the year. I think I am striking the ball better. I feel I have a pretty good shot at it."



GREG MCREYNOLDS/The Battalion

Swedish import Isabella Rosberg anchors Aggies' No. 10 Women's Golf Team, has plans for future professional career

By ROBERT HOLLIER
Staff writer

Playing in a sport that does not often receive as much attention or glamour as football or baseball, golf can provide as much intense pressure and suspense for fans and players as any sport in the world.

And that is just the way Texas A&M lady golfer Isabella Rosberg likes it.

Originally from Sweden, Rosberg said she got started in the sport through the help and support of her family, especially her father.

"My dad has been playing for a long time," she said. "He also teaches people how to play and I would just hang around and follow him. I was always with him watching him show people how to play and that is how I learned to play."

Even though Sutherland never saw Rosberg play, she heard about her from friends and coaches.

"I went by word-of-mouth," she said. "I saw her scores and they were usually very consistent. I knew her scores would translate because the courses where she played were harder than most of the courses she would be playing on here."

She has made plans to continue playing on the LPGA Tour when her collegiate career comes to a close.

"I'm probably going to turn pro in November," Rosberg said. "I've played as an amateur on the pro tour in the Compaq Open and finished 30th. I had the best amateur finish and I got to play with Helen Alfredson."

"It was a great experience for me. Playing at that level takes some of the pressure off the college game because I've played at a higher level before."

As Rosberg's game has continued to improve, she maintains the most consistent part of her game is

her short game.

"Right now, my wedge play is my strongest area," she said. "It was not my better side of my game last year so I practiced and worked on it really hard and it has become my strongest area."

Jeanne Sutherland, head coach of the women's golf team, said Rosberg's short game is definitely her most consistent aspect of the game.

"It's always been good," Sutherland said. "She worked very hard to improve in that area and she has continued to improve her whole game every year. She is very determined and works very hard."

During Rosberg's college career, she has had the opportunity to meet and play against other great golfers from Sweden.

"My favorite golfer is Anika Sorenstan and I got to meet Jesper Parnivik at a camp," Rosberg said.

"Whenever they have success on tour, they would come and talk to us and tell us how to improve our games."

Even though her college career will end this year, with the hard work and dedication Rosberg puts forward to her game, there is a good chance that she will have a long professional career.

Most likely, we will be seeing a lot more of her on the LPGA Tour for many years.



JAKE SCHROEDING/The Battalion

Aggie comeback falls short against Cougars

Texas A&M pushes University of Houston to ten innings, loses 9-7 on home run

By ROBERT HOLLIER
Staff writer

With two swings of the bat, Houston Cougar center fielder Mike Medrano ended all hopes for an A&M comeback as the Aggies fell to the Cougars 9-7 in 10 innings Tuesday in front of 2,027 fans at Olsen Field.

Going into the top of the ninth with A&M holding a 7-6 advantage, Medrano lined a solo home run over the right field wall off re-

"We took the lead. We just couldn't hold on to it."

Mark Johnson
Texas A&M Coach

ever Eric French to tie the score at seven.

Then, with two outs in the top of the tenth, after a Cougar single, Medrano came up and hit his second homer of the game over the right center field fence off Courtney Weller to secure their win. Weller drops to 1-3 on the year with the loss.

"It's crazy, Mike Medrano just called us for two home runs," Coach Mark Johnson said. "We battled back and got the lead. We didn't pitch well early, but we got some good relief work with Chris Glass and I thought (Eric) French gave us a chance."

"We took the lead, we just couldn't hold on to it. They've got some good players."

The Cougars started the scoring in the first with back-to-back doubles after a walk and took a 2-0 lead.

A&M answered with an RBI single off the bat of third baseman Craig Kuzmic.

Houston padded their lead in the second with two more runs off starter Chance Caple who threw two innings, giving up four runs on five hits and one strikeout.



ROBERT MCKAY/The Battalion

Junior third baseman **Craig Kuzmic** gets tagged out while trying to steal third base. Aggie pitching got tagged for a two-run homer in the tenth by Houston's Mike Medrano to win the game for the Cougars.

Trailing 4-1, the Aggies closed the gap to 4-3 when Kuzmic doubled in Jason Tyner and Steve Scarborough who had both singled earlier in the inning.

Kuzmic went 2-5 with a single and a double and drove in three which give him 44 for the season.

"They were throwing me a lot of junk over the plate," Kuzmic said, "and I just hit it. It was disappointing, we definitely should have won this game."

Going into the bottom of the sixth, trailing 6-3, the Aggie bats came through for four runs on six hits to give them a momentary 7-6 lead.

The inning started with singles from John Scheschuk and Daylan Holt followed an RBI single from Steven Truitt.

After Eric Sobek popped out, Sean Heaney and Scott Sandusky each drove in a run with singles

followed by Steve Scarborough's RBI groundout.

The Aggies would hold the lead until Medrano hit the two home

some good players. We have to move on. We got some tough conference games coming up and we're in the thick of the race. There are quite a few teams in the hunt. The Oklahoma teams are making a move."

During the game, Baylor, who was leading the Big 12, lost their first game to Kansas State 4-2, which puts A&M at the top of the conference by percentage points. The Aggies are 16-8 in the Big 12 and are 34-15 overall.

The Aggies will be on the road this weekend when they travel to Lawrence, Kan., for a three-game series with the Kansas Jayhawks.

Ryan Rupe (7-4, 3.30 ERA) is the scheduled starter for Friday night's game. Casey Fossum (8-2, 3.11 ERA) will take the mound on Saturday afternoon for the Aggies and Matt Ward (6-2, 4.70 ERA) will go on Sunday in a 1 p.m. start.

"They're leading their conference and they've definitely got

Baseball Update

Record: 34-15, 16-8 Big 12

Next Game: at Kansas

Time: Friday at 7 p.m.

Scheduled Starters:

Ryan Rupe (7-4, 3.30 ERA)

vs. Kansas TBA

Dallas Cowboys boost talent pool by signing undrafted free agents

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Former Texas Tech quarterback Zebbie

Letheridge is among 16 college free agents who have agreed to contracts with the Dallas Cowboys in the wake of the NFL Draft.

Letheridge, who signed with Dallas as a defensive back, and the others will join the rest of the team at a mini-camp starting this Friday, the team said Tuesday.

The free agents are all players who were not selected in the draft, which wrapped up on Sunday.

Dallas Free Agents

- ◆ Ronald Bailey, cb, Georgia
- ◆ Kent Booth, g, Northern Illinois
- ◆ Greg Bright, lb, Georgia
- ◆ Barry Cantrell, k/p, Fordham
- ◆ Chike Egbunlwe, lb, Duke
- ◆ Anthony Eubanks, wr, Arkansas
- ◆ Junior Filikitonga, dt, Abilene Chrst.
- ◆ Denny Fortney, de, Miami
- ◆ Cory Geason, te, Tulane
- ◆ Daniel Gonzalez, qb, East Carolina
- ◆ Michael Hicks, cb, UTEP
- ◆ Taj Johnson, wr, San Diego State
- ◆ Zebbie Letheridge, db, Texas Tech
- ◆ Jeff Ogden, wr, Eastern Washington
- ◆ Bobby Rodriguez, fb, Houston
- ◆ David Zadel, de/lb, Wake Forest



Letheridge

Huge San Antonio lineup concerns Suns in playoffs

PHOENIX (AP) — Danny Ainge does not buy into the depiction of San Antonio as a Jekyll-and-Hyde team, with David Robinson and Tim Duncan towering over a backcourt puny in ability as well as stature.

"I don't think of the Spurs' backcourt as a weakness at all," the Phoenix Suns coach said. "Vinny Del Negro, Jaren Jackson and Avery Johnson have been terrific. Maybe they are not David Robinson and Tim Duncan, where they're MVPs or whatever, but they are not a weakness."

The Spurs and Suns had the same record (56-26). But Phoenix won the first three of four regular-season meetings and is at home for the first-round playoff opener Thursday night.

That does not impress Duncan, who won the rookie of the month honor six straight months while recording an NBA-high 57 games with double figures in scoring and rebounding.

"They've got to win three games to take us out of it. We're feeling

pretty good," Duncan said.

Robinson has recovered from the concussion and knee sprain he developed when Utah's Karl Malone elbowed him in the head on April 8.

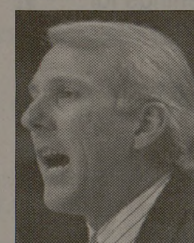
Robinson, who missed six games earlier because of another knee problem, sat out three and then returned to the starting lineup last week with 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists against Seattle.

"They played a lot better down the stretch than they did early in the season," Ainge said. "I think the series we had with them during the regular season you pretty much throw out the window, because I don't think they're the same team and I don't think we're the same team."

Robinson actually was subpar on his return. He averaged 21.6 points and 10.6 rebounds this season, and Duncan (21.1, 11.9) made the Spurs the eighth team to have two players average in double figures in both categories.

Will Perdue probably will start at center, an arrangement that produced a 16-5 record when coach Gregg Popovich used San Antonio's three 7-footers.

But Perdue's presence on the floor masks the absence of Sean Elliott, who tore his left quadriceps in January and is on the injured list.



Poppovich