

Fossum makes successful USA baseball debut

From staff and wire reports

The USA Baseball Team began their 1998 summer season by beating the Mexican National Team 7-1 before 1,032 fans at its new Hi-orbett Field in Tucson, Ariz., on Saturday night.

USA starter Casey Fossum (1-1), a Texas A&M sophomore left-handed pitcher, gave up nine hits over seven innings to notch his first victory of the season.

He struck out nine and issued one walk in his first outing of the summer in 1998. Fossum only allowed one earned run in the fifth inning.

The Americans jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning, lead they would never relinquish. After the one Mexico run in the fifth, the USA team countered with one in the sixth to recapture the two-run advantage.

Ryan Ludwick, a sophomore outfielder from UNLV, led off the event with a solo home run to left field, his first one of the season. The Americans added one run in the eighth and two more in the eighth to put the game out of reach.

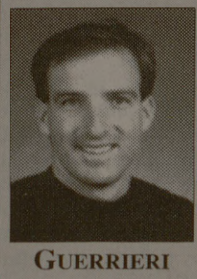
USA reliever Shane Wright, a Texas Tech junior, gave up one run in the ninth to make the final score 7-2.

Childers graduates early

Recruit receives diploma from Trinity Valley High, will play for Big 12 Champion Texas A&M in fall

From staff and wire reports

Texas A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri announced Tuesday that Amber Childers will graduate from Trinity Valley High School in Arlington a year early to play for the Aggies this fall.



GUERRIERI

Childers led Trinity Valley to the 1997 Southwest Preparatory Conference State Championship and guided the Texas Image '81 club team to the Under-17 State Championship.

She is currently a member of the Under-16 National Team and is a member of the Under-18 National Team Pool, made up of 36 players from which the national team will be chosen.

"Amber is one of the most talented and proficient young players in the country," Guerrieri said. "Her game fits in perfectly with the style that has won championships for A&M, and I'm confident she can help us in our cause for the future."

"I expect her to immediately improve our line-up and am excited about the possibilities she brings to the success of our program for the next four years."

Childers joins teammate Nicky Thrasher, who left Franklin High School in El Paso a year early to play for A&M in 1997.

Childers joins the 1998 recruiting class of Michelle Royal (Martin High School; Arlington), Anne Tam-

porello (Berkner High School; Richardson), Cameron Chorn (Highland Park High School; Dallas), Jodie Mitchell (Midland High School; Midland), Jamie Mar-

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— G. Guerrieri
Texas A&M soccer coach

den (Norman High School; Norman, Okla.) and Laurie Lovoi (West Brook High School; Beaumont).

Royal is participating in this month's Under-20 National Team Camp, making her and Childers the fourth and fifth Aggies to play with U.S. National Teams this year.

Texas A&M will play season preview matches at the Aggie Soccer Complex against Oregon on August 27 and a former students team on August 29 before opening the 1998 regular season with a home match against North Texas on September 1.

Rockets trade Kevin Willis; Raptors part with Rogers, first-round picks

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets forward Kevin Willis, almost traded to Toronto last February, finally became a Raptor in a trade for forward Roy Rogers and the 16th and 18th picks in the June 24 draft, the teams announced Tuesday.

"This was a great opportunity for us because we had the ability to get two No. 1 picks and a former No. 1 pick in Roy Rogers," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "However, our appreciation for Kevin Willis made this decision very difficult because of everything he has done for the Houston Rockets and the entire city of Houston."

Willis was one of the Rockets' steadiest performers last season. He started 74 regular season games and averaged 16.1 points and 8.4 rebounds. He is scheduled to earn \$2.1 million this season.

Willis was involved in a regular-season trade with the Raptors in February that would have sent guard Damon Stoudamire to the Rockets. That deal fell apart and Stoudamire eventually was traded to Portland.

"Kevin is flattered that Toronto would trade two first round picks and a third player for him to play in Toronto," said Steve Woods, Willis' agent. "Last February, it was a bargaining manipula-

tion whereas today it is based on Toronto wanting to bring in a seasoned pro and an outstanding basketball player."

Toronto obtained the 18th pick from Portland deal. The 16th pick originally belonged to New York.

Rogers has played for Vancouver, Boston and Toronto in his two NBA seasons. The 6-foot-10, 235-pound

Rogers has averaged 5.8 points, 4.2 rebounds and 1.8 blocked shots in 97 professional games.

The Rockets won back-to-back NBA championships in 1994 and 1995 but they have failed to return to the title game since Utah eliminated them from the first round of the playoffs this spring.

The average age of the Rockets' playoff roster this season was 32.6, leaving the Rockets with a goal of getting younger for next season. They already owned the 14th pick.

Charles Jones, 41, and Clyde Drexler, 35, already have announced their retirement and trading Willis sent another 35-year old packing.

The Rockets still have two of their superstars, Hakeem Olajuwon and Charles Barkley, both 35.



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Dr. Bonds is also an assistant professor at Texas A&M's College of Medicine.

He recently opened an office in College Station for private practice. For appointments, call 764-7983.

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