

The Battalion

Aggies look to build on recent wins

BY AARON COHAN
The Battalion

This weekend the No. 13 Texas A&M Baseball Team will host a three-game series against the University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks as they look to gain the form they showed before its 1-2 trip to Arizona.

To win consistently, a baseball team has to maximize the depth of its roster, and so far the Aggies have been able to turn to that depth when they needed it.

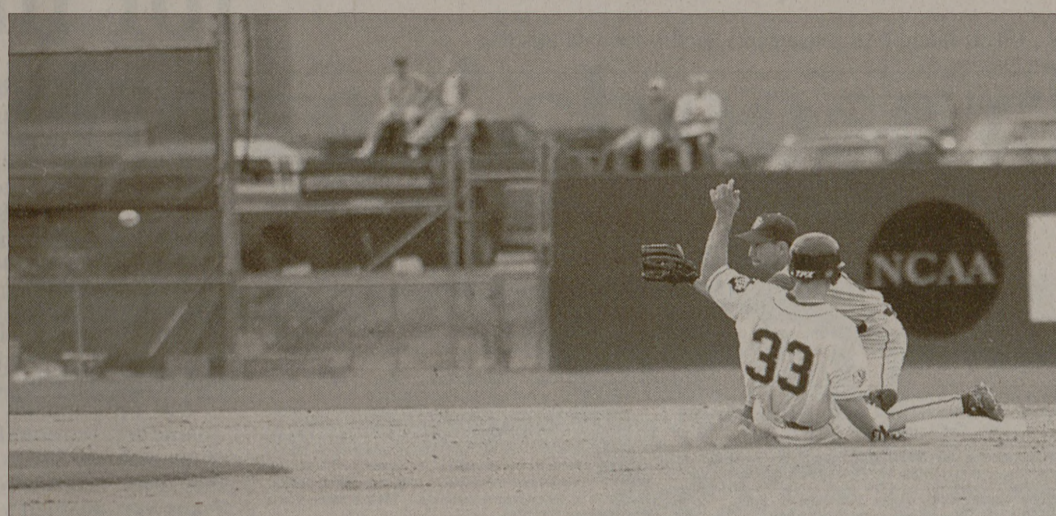
A&M Baseball coach Mark Johnson said team chemistry and playing time will be as big a concern for A&M as the UTA Mavericks.

"UTA has a great ballclub," Johnson said. "But the focus right now is on us to try and get the right guys out there at the right time."

A&M has seen the necessary production from its starters so far this season, and the backups so have put up strong numbers.

Particularly effective for the Aggies has been serve infielder and designated hitter Kenny Lindstrom. The senior has torn up opposing pitching, getting eight hits in his first 11 at bats for a .727 batting average, and those hits have come in clutch situations, netting six RBI's for Lindstrom.

"It's positive to have guys like Kenny come off the bench and do what they do," Johnson



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Baseball Team will look to continue its recent winning ways when the Aggies host the University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks this weekend at Olsen Field.

said. "The problem is that we just need to get them some more at-bats."

The Aggie reserves have been productive this season, but so have the players starting in front of them. Sophomore Daylon Holt leads the team with 6 home runs and 21 RBI's, while leading the team in batting average has been senior first baseman John Scheschuk. Scheschuk's .538 batting average has helped the Aggies to a team average of .395.

If the starters are worried about losing their place in the rotation, they are not saying. They have said the depth is a positive for the entire team.

"We're not worried about a depth problem at all," junior third baseman Dell Lindsey said. "At every position there is somebody who can come in and do just as well."

The biggest question facing the Aggie coaching staff right now may be how to find

enough playing time for the players to judge their skills.

"What we're trying to do is work the lineup to get more right-handed hitters against left-handed pitching and vice versa," he said. "This could give us a better idea of who can do what down the line."

One of the few unsettled spots for A&M so far this season has been the closer role. As of now, several players are still battling for the position.

"We have so many guys that can cross the line and get the job done," junior pitcher Casey Fossum said. "It builds character knowing that all these guys want to win so bad."

With a 5-2 overall record, including a perfect 4-0 at Olsen Field, the Aggies will look to continue their success Saturday as hurlers Casey Fossum and junior Chance Caple get the starting nods in the doubleheader.

Big 12 closer begins at UT

Swimmers prepare for weekend

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

It will be a battle for time and points this weekend as the Texas A&M women's swimming team concludes the 1998-99 season this weekend at the Jamail Texas Swimming Center in Austin with the Big 12 Championships. The 24th ranked Aggies will not only be swimming to win the tournament in a very strong and narrow conference, but will be swimming for lifetime best times in hopes of qualifying more individuals for the NCAA tournament.

Leading the Aggies charge to upset the top two seeds, Nebraska and Texas, will be freshman Clara Ho and junior Tracy Evans who have already qualified for the NCAA tournament. Evans has never been beaten in the Big 12 meet in the mile and will try and keep the streak going, while lone senior Tammy Lee, joined by junior Monica Williams and 1998 NCAA qualifier Monica Stroman will try and join the ranks of the 25 swimmers that qualify in each event.

The Aggies have managed to end the season with a 5-7-1 conference record against some of the nation's top teams despite injury and sickness problems that plagued the A&M roster.

"To this point the lowlight has been the injuries incurred that struck at our depth," fourth-year A&M coach Don Wagner said. "The rest of the team has done a great job to overcome that by improving their swims and performing at a high level."

Representing the Aggies in diving is platform favorite Danielle Guarneri. Following her World Cup ninth place finish in New Zealand, Guarneri looks to final on all three boards along with freshman Meghan Zack. Guarneri finished second on the platform during last year's championship and earned All-America Honorable mention with a 14th place performance at the NCAA tournament.

"We really want to go out dive well and score points for the team," Zack said.

The two divers are expected to perform best on the platform according to diving coach Kevin Wright. The University of Texas will provide the toughest competition diving in their own pool.

The 1998 Big 12 Championship was won by the Cornhuskers with the Longhorns placing second and the Aggies third. This year the battle for the top position will be closer than ever before, with five teams boasting more than capable teams.

The defending champion, Nebraska, is the favorite entering the meet, with Texas and A&M close behind. Kansas and Missouri have developed quickly this season with much improved teams as opposed to last season's record.

The women will be swimming in

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— Don Wagner
A&M Women's Swimming
head coach

A&M Softball Team hosts weekend tourney

BY BEN WESTBROOK
The Battalion

The high-flying Texas A&M Women's Softball Team will play host to the Aggie Invitational tournament this weekend, beginning Friday at noon.

The two-round tournament will feature four teams, including the Aggies, competing in round-robin play.

The women, who are coming off a second-place finish last weekend in the University of Texas-Arlington/Pepsi-Cola Classic, will play their first game of the tourney against Auburn University (3-1) at 4:30 p.m.

The Aggies are 0-1 all-time against the Tigers, who are off to a strong start this season. Auburn boasts a .481 team batting average and is holding opponents to an average of just .176.

The Aggies' next game is scheduled for Friday at 6:45 against the University of New Mexico. The Lobos enter the tournament with their best-ever start, 12-1, and have already handed out seven shutouts to

opposing teams. New Mexico also currently is riding a 10-game winning streak.

The Aggies will start Saturday at noon with the Penn State Nittany Lions, who will open their season Friday against New Mexico. Penn State returns 16 letter-winners from last year's 21-28-1 team.

The A&M softball team currently is boasting its best start since 1991 with an 8-1 record, the one blemish coming last weekend against No. 24 University of Illinois-Chicago.

Strong pitching has carried the Aggies so far, thanks to the performance of Amy Vining (4-1) and Jordana Barack (4-0). The duo has given up just two earned runs in 62 innings of work this season.

The Aggies' big hitter this year has been freshman Lisa Klam, who has already hit three game-winning RBI's and has recorded at least one hit in all nine games this season.

The Aggies also will be looking for help from Hollee Hayden, who leads the Aggies in steals (6-6) and batting average (.440) this season.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

The A&M Softball Team will host the Aggie Invitational this weekend at the Aggie Softball Complex.

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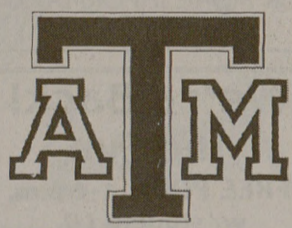
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MONDAY Golden Tee Golf Local & National Tournament

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(Men)



vs.

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Reed Arena

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