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A&M freshman Anna Jonsson brings international outlook to Women's Golf Team

BY TOM KENNEDY
The Battalion

When freshman golfer Anna Jonsson first arrived at Texas A&M, she received a warm reception, but it wasn't from the friendly student body.

"The heat was a lot for me [compared to Sweden], because I got here on the 20th of August," Jonsson said. "But I liked the campus a lot."

She said that the adjustment has not been as difficult because she has friends from Sweden who have made the move easier for her.

"I have a lot of friends that go to different schools [in America]," Jonsson said. "So I knew what to expect."

A&M's combination of golf and academic reputation, along with junior teammate and fellow Swede Anna Becker's recruiting skills, were the deciding factors that brought Jonsson to A&M. Becker, who has the same hometown as Jonsson, said she encouraged Jonsson to commit to A&M for many reasons.

"She's a freshman and she's good, so she can show the other freshmen that being a freshman is not a protection [from high expectations]," Becker said. "It's fun for me that she's playing well because I helped bring her here."

The pressure of being a Swedish National Team member has not seemed to faze Jonsson, as evidenced by her individual title at the GTE "Mo" Morial Invitational in College Station Feb. 22.

The victory made Jonsson the first A&M freshman to win a tournament since 1995.

Jonsson said her ability to play a steady game during rough conditions enabled her to clinch the victory.

"The win was no surprise," Jonsson said. "I played [the course] right, and a lot of people struggled in the wind."

Success is not a new concept to Jonsson. She has played on numerous national teams since she began playing golf at age nine,

and last fall, in her first season at A&M, she led the team in scoring average.

A&M women's golf coach Jeanne Sutherland said Jonsson's work ethic has been a key factor in the success of Jonsson and the team.

"She is really going for excellence with whatever she does, whether it is in the classroom, on the golf course or in the weight room," Sutherland said. "Whenever she puts forth an effort, it is a first-class effort."

"She is really going for excellence with whatever she does, whether it is in the classroom, on the golf course or in the weight room."

— Jeanne Sutherland
A&M women's golf coach

Like many A&M golfers, Jonsson said she believes her golfing will continue after college on the professional ranks, yet she is hesitant to state her plans.

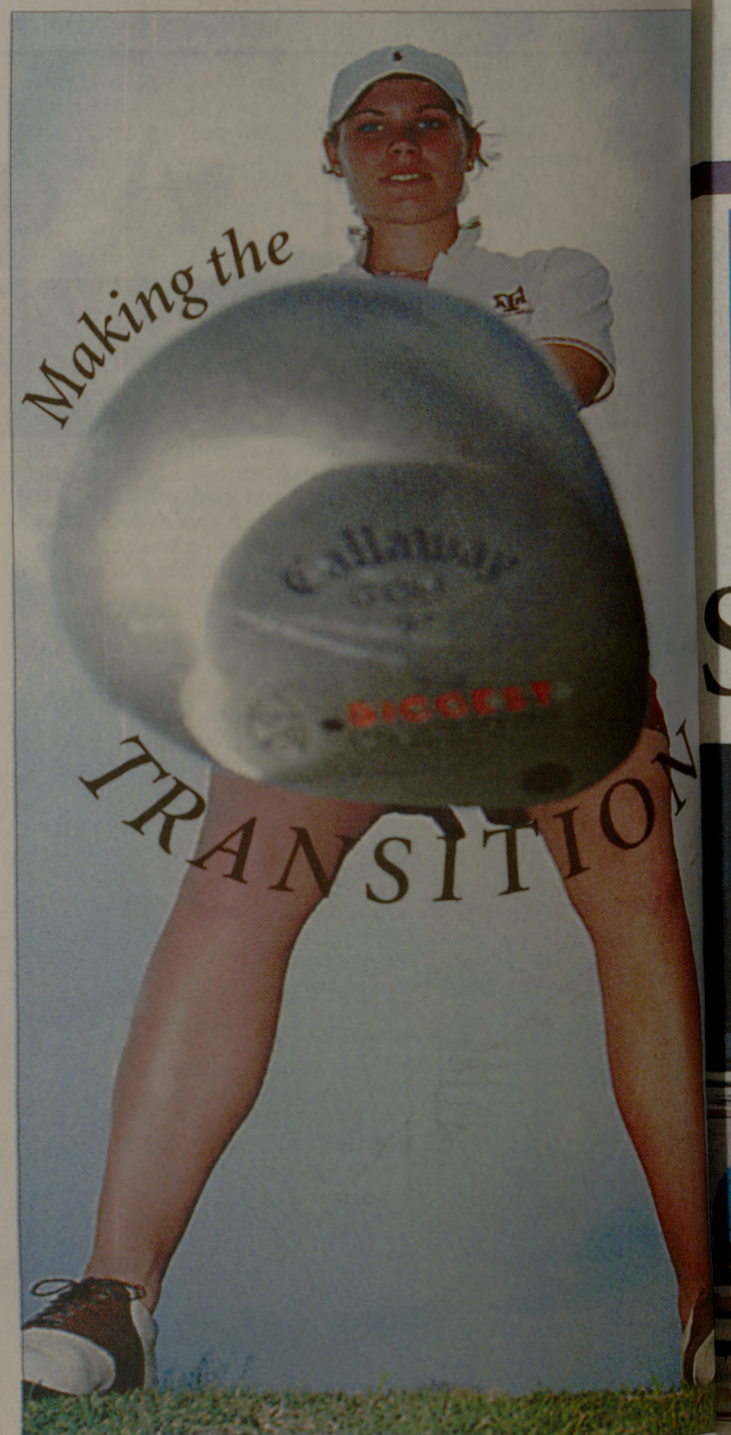
"When I'm done here I will turn pro," Jonsson said. "Right now it's good for me just to be here and not worry too much about the future. I could have stayed home and turned pro after high school."

In the meantime, Jonsson is focusing on earning her degree in industrial distribution.

She said the possibility of earning professional money has not caused her to blow off her studies.

"Just because you turn pro doesn't mean you will make a lot of money," Jonsson said. "I also don't plan on playing [professionally] for the rest of my life."

Jonsson said the most valuable



TERRY ROBERSON

Freshman Anna Jonsson, who is from Sweden, has made the transition to college life and competition with the Texas A&M Women's Golf Team. Jonsson led the team in scoring average this fall and captured the "Mo" Morial Invitational title in College Station Feb. 22.

experience for her since coming to A&M has been practicing and playing with her teammates, which she said has helped her be more open and confident about her golf skills.

"Before it was just me, but so much stronger when other people believe in you, too," Jonsson said. "They've taught me that"

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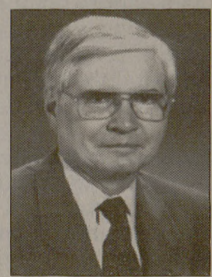
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Chat & Chew

with Dr. Malon Southerland
Vice President for Student Affairs
and special guest - Mr. Don Engelage
Executive Director, Student Financial Aid

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- Voice Concerns
- Ask Questions
- Light Refreshments



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