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SPORTS

Aggies to face SHSU

BY BEN WESTBROOK
 The Battalion

The No. 23 Texas A&M Softball Team (26-7) will head to Huntsville Wednesday to face the Sam Houston State University Bearkats before starting Big 12 action this weekend against the University of Nebraska. The game will be at the Bearkat Softball Complex at 1 p.m.

Last weekend at the Bank of Hawaii Invitational, A&M pitcher Amy Vining claimed MVP honors by striking out 18 batters in 14 innings of work on her way to a 2-0 record for the tournament.

Rightfielder Tiffany Esters nabbed an all-tournament spot by posting a .545 batting average and driving in a tournament high six RBIs. Esters was also named all-Big 12 player of the week for last week's play.

Second baseman Rachel Lewis also was named to the all-tournament team. Lewis hit .545 too, but drove in only two RBIs.

The Aggies finished second in the Bank of Hawaii tournament, losing first place in a tournament for the second time this year due to runs scored against.

The women are hitting .303 as a team while the pitching staff is posting a 1.20 ERA.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

A&M Freshman **Lisa Klam** hammers a pitch against Butler University March 7 at the Aggie Softball Complex. The Aggies will take on Sam Houston State University today at 1 p.m. at the Bearkat Softball Complex.

Tammy Donnell, who took over center fielding chores when Hollee Hayden broke her arm sliding into second 20 games ago at the Aggie Invitational, has hit safely in each of the last 10 games. The hitting streak ties the longest of the year.

The women will also be looking to set a team stolen-base record against the Bearkats. They need just one more theft to tie the current record of 82, set by last year's squad. The Aggies are currently averaging 2.45 stolen bases per game.

The women will be facing a

12-20 Bearkat squad that is playing under first year head coach John Garris.

The top hitter for the Bearkats is senior Sharon Johnson, who leads the team with a .369 batting average and 14 RBIs. Johnson was named to the All-Southland Conference team for the 1998 season.

The top pitcher for the Bearkats is Julie Lindner who leads the team with four wins and four losses while keeping her ERA at 1.07 on a staff which posts a combined 4.14 ERA.

'Rocket' ready to in Dallas

Agent disputes report
 of deal with Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — The "Rocket" is ready to be traded, but the Dallas Cowboys' agent disputes reports that the free-agent pitcher has agreed to a contract with Dallas but said a deal with the Cowboys could be done by this weekend.

"We are working on a deal but we have not signed a contract and I do not expect until this weekend," the agent told the Associated Press in a phone interview.

ESPN and at least one station reported Tuesday that a deal had been struck, but the reports were premature.

A Cowboys spokesman said Tuesday night that no agreement was scheduled.

For the past three seasons has played for Carolina and is working out at the Panthers this off-season. He also has acquired a new home in Charlotte.

Asked whether Carolina was in the picture, Mula said he had contact with the Panthers, the only other club he had spoken to.

"It's down to Carolina and the Cowboys but we're talking towards a deal with Dallas," Mula said.

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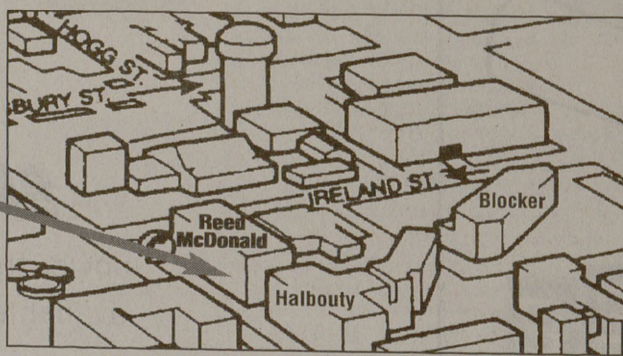
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