

Proving a point

From softball pitcher to javelin thrower at A&M, freshman Katy Doyle has lead a life of many transitions.

BY TOM KENNEDY
The Battalion

As an all-district selection in softball and volleyball at St. Agnes Academy in Houston, Katy Doyle always thought sports were in her future.

Little did she know the javelin throw would be the sport.

Last year, Doyle was a high school senior trying to decide

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— Katy Doyle
A&M javelin thrower

throw the javelin in college," Doyle said.

"I didn't necessarily want to go to Rice because it is too close to home, so he talked to Juan [de la Garza], who is the A&M javelin coach, and I came and walked on here."

The transition from softball pitching to javelin throwing has not been an easy one, but Doyle has made it look effortless. Midway through her first track-and-field season at any level, she already holds the No. 3 all-time performance at Texas A&M with a mark of 165 feet.

"When I first came here, Juan told me 'Don't think softball, because it is not like softball,'" Doyle said. "It was a difficult transition in the beginning, but Juan helped, and the other girls helped."

De la Garza said Doyle's improvement has been remarkable.

"[Her development] is beyond what we thought, so far," de la Garza said. "She'll probably get to nationals with the mark she has now, but there are still a lot of outdoor meets left, so she could easily improve that mark."

Doyle, whose father played for the Rice football team, credits much of her improvement to her upbringing in a family full of athletes.

"Since I was born and able to walk, they started giving balls and gloves to me," Doyle said. "Growing up with my brothers made me more sports oriented."

A&M track and field coach Ted Nelson said Doyle's most impressive quality is her work ethic.

"She has a real desire to do well and improve every day," Nelson said.



TERRY ROBERSON/The Battalion

A&M freshman **Katy Doyle** has put her experience as a softball and volleyball player in high school to use as one of the Texas A&M Track and Field Team's top women's javelin throwers.

Doyle said she has been fortunate to be around people who were able to help her improve consistently. When asked who her biggest influence on her performance was, she had to pause for a moment.

"I'd have to say Esther Eisenlauer," Doyle said. "She was Big 12 Champion last year, and she's been throwing for awhile, so she helps me out a lot on my technique when Juan is not around."

As for her future, Doyle said she has not set any performance goals to date. She knows one thing for sure, however — she wants to get better.

"My personal goal is to improve my technique every day," Doyle said. "There are a lot of things I still need to work on."

"This is all new to me, so I haven't been thinking about the future in javelins, just the day-to-day type of thing."

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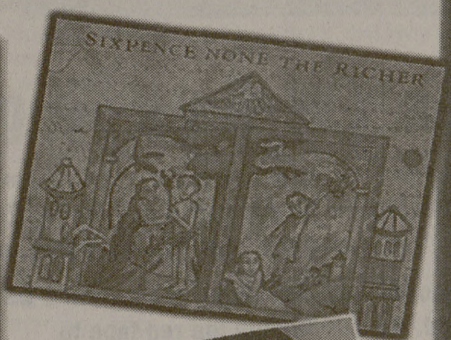
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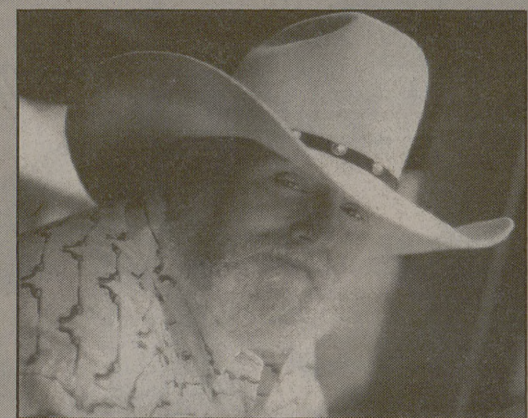
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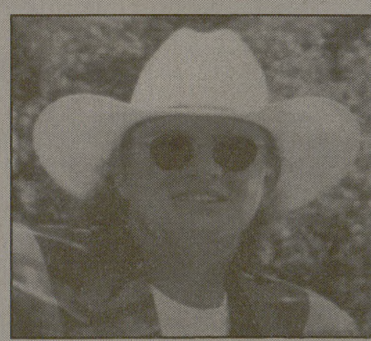
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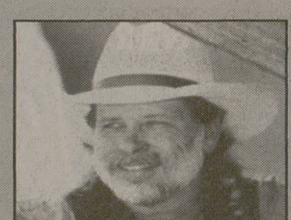
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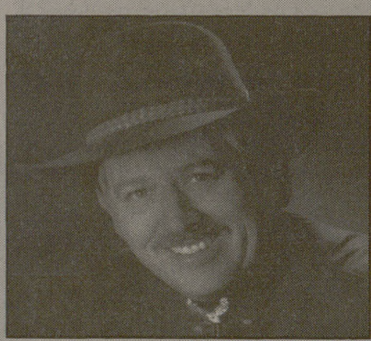
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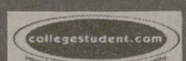
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