

Klam powers Aggs to victory

Freshman records 2 home runs as softball team sweeps SFA

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Lisa Klam is proving herself not only as a contributor but as a true team leader on the Texas A&M Softball Team in her freshman season. Coming off two-homerunning in the doubleheader against Stephen Austin State University Wednesday, Klam leads herself leading the team in seven categories. The Aggies looked to have their bats back to a rhythm after today's no-hitter against the University of Texas. The Aggies came out of the doubleheader with a total of 13 hits to win the first game, 5-4, and the second game, 2-1.



VINING

"This gives us a lot of confidence," Klam said. "We didn't do well against Texas, but we got contact tonight, and now we can go after them." Sophomore Amy Vining led the doubleheader for the Aggies with 10 strikeouts in the first game, improving her ERA to .74 and giving her an 18-7 record (.720). The Aggies held a scoreless for the first five innings as they scored five runs, including a two-run homer by Klam in the fifth.

Stephen F. Austin's pitching was less effective, as Catherine Paiz walked away with a single strikeout.

SFA went on a hot streak late in the game, scoring three runs in the sixth and a single in the seventh, but A&M was able to hold them off to retire the first game of the matchup.

In the second match, Klam got the game off to a hot start with her second home run in a two-out situation.

Jordana Barrack led off on the mound for the Aggies in the second game with four strikeouts. Barrack, who moved to an 1.86 ERA and an 11-2 record, fared well against the Lumberjacks' Laurie Fetters, who went without a strikeout in 26 attempts.

The Aggie field then let the game get interesting, allowing SFA to get into a bases-loaded situation with only one out. The Aggie gloves held the situation to only one run to keep the game tied, and the Aggies were able to respond to retake the lead by a score of 2-1 as Klam came in off a line-drive double by junior Jamie Smith.

"I'm happy to come away with two wins," A&M coach Jo Evans said. "We didn't play our best — we were a little flat and had some defensive errors, but I'm glad we got the wins."

With Wednesday's two-homer performance, Klam takes the lead in seven statistical cate-



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Junior shortstop **Jamie Smith** takes a swing during the Texas A&M Softball Team's 5-4 win over Stephen F. Austin State University Wednesday at the Aggie Softball Complex.

gories for the Aggies this season, including homeruns (10), slugging percentage (.687), on-base percentage (.428), stolen bases (19), runs scored (27), hits (52) and fielding percentage (.980). The freshman also has 26 RBI's to place second on the team.

"It's really shocking," Klam said about her offensive production this season. "I'm just hitting the ball. I focus on the pitcher and go with what she gives me. The game is still the same [as high school], but it's stepped up mentally."

Gillom named as assistant for USA

BY TRAVIS HARSCH
The Battalion

A good program starts with a good coach, and Texas A&M Women's Basketball has a good one in Peggie Gillom. Just ask the people at USA Basketball.



GILLOM

Gillom on Wednesday was selected as an assistant coach for the 1999 USA Basketball Women's National Team that will play this summer.

"It's just an honor to represent your country in any capacity you can," Gillom said. "Working with the type of players that are going to be on this national team is an honor."

Some of the players Gillom will be coaching are WNBA stars Lisa Leslie, Cynthia Cooper, Sheryl Swoopes and Tina Thompson and

University of Tennessee's four-time All-American Chamique Holdsclaw.

Gillom said the appointment was an honor.

"It shows you that dreams really can come true," she said.

Gillom recently completed her first season at A&M, after two seasons with the WNBA's Houston Comets and 16 years at the University of Mississippi. Gillom is the all-time leading scorer at the University of Mississippi, either male or female.

The team will be made up of 12 players. The team will play two games versus the German National Team that will help to determine a core group of National Team athletes. The players selected will train and compete together during whatever times the athletes are available.

This summer a separate USA Women's Basketball Team will compete in the Pan American Games.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Women rank 14th in latest track poll

The Texas A&M Women's Track and Field Team moved up nine spots to claim 14th in the April 7 edition on the Trackwire Top 25 Women's Outdoor Poll.

The Aggies, who share the spot with Big 12 opponent Texas Tech University, were ranked 23rd last week.

The Aggies have gotten off to a strong start to the outdoor season, claiming titles in both the College Station Relays and the Southwestern Invitational.

A&M assistant coach Ed Marcinkiewicz said he was proud of the women's performance so far.

"I'm very pleased with the recognition that the women have received," Marcinkiewicz said. "We felt all along we were a better outdoor team."

Marcinkiewicz said he expects more from the Aggies as they gain experience.

"I think there are better things still to come. I'm particularly pleased with how the younger athletes have stepped up. We have a very young group of girls who are performing at a high level for us."

A&M Softball vs SFA (April 7)

Game 1:
Texas A&M, 5-4
A&M - Vining (18-7)
SFA - Paiz (5-9)

Game 2:
Texas A&M, 2-1
A&M - Barrack (11-2)
SFA - Fetters (7-9)



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