

# Playing the **HOT** Corner

## Junior Dell Lindsey has taken over third for the Aggies

BY AARON COHAN  
The Battalion

One of the biggest factors in whether the Texas A&M Baseball Team could repeat last season's success was who would step in and take Craig Kuzmic's spot at third base.

Since third is such a hot spot on the diamond, A&M coach Mark Johnson and his staff devoted most of the fall to deciding who their man would be.

Then along came Dell Lindsey of Houston. He is not very outspoken, but he lets his game do the talking, showing why he has been a force in the field and behind the plate for the nationally ranked Aggies.

Lindsey said he is just glad the opportunity finally came around for him.

"Nobody could ever fill Kuzmic's shoes," he said. "But the spot was open when he went to the minors, so this opportunity has been treating me great so far."

The junior's life in baseball has been successful ever since he passed the Little League level. Facing the stiff competition of North Shore High School in Houston, Lindsey emerged as one of the top youngsters in the area, garnishing All-District honors three times, earning a spot on the All-State Team and winning the national AU Championships with Aggie teammate Leven Truitt.

Lindsey left high school for Blinn Junior College and quickly picked up where he left off. In his freshman campaign at Blinn, he earned All-Conference Honors under longtime coach Kyle Van Hook.

"Coach Van Hook really helped me get

my game to the next level," Lindsey said. "It was fun playing for a team like Blinn."

The next season, Dell started grabbing the attention of top Division I schools and professional scouts, hitting .404 at the plate to go along with 20 long balls and 97 RBIs. Lindsey's impressive statistics and strong play helped him earn Second-Team

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— Dell Lindsey  
Aggie third baseman

All-American Honors.

Now there were knocks on the door from everyone, but to Lindsey the decision to come to A&M was simple.

"Playing at Blinn made it easy on me to make the decision to come here," he said. "Not just because it was close, but because I have played with so many of the guys growing up, and we have great chemistry."

Lindsey said he was glad to be given the chance to play third base on an everyday basis upon his arrival finally to Aggieland. "Everyone on the team and all the coaches put a lot of trust in me right off the

bat," he said. "It really became easier to play my game."

The only real question that popped up was whether Lindsey could manage the jump from junior-college to top Division I pitching. Unlike the JUCO pitchers he had faced at Blinn, who often come right after the hitters, Division I pitchers often will pitch around and make the situation more difficult for the hitters.

But Lindsey said his move to top-level competition was smooth.

"Adjusting to the level of pitching was easier than I expected, especially with the help of the coaches," he said.

It has shown so far this season, as Lindsey ranks second on the team with a .368 batting average, putting him among the top 15 batters in the conference. The junior also has hit 10 home runs to go along with 37 RBIs to show off his top-10 slugging percentage in the Big 12.

"Dell has been awesome for us this all year long for us," senior team captain John Scheschuk said. "It's great having a steady bat like his in the lineup everyday."

More importantly, Lindsey has built the initial respect of the coaches into an admiration for what he has done thus far.

"He's well liked and a great guy," Johnson said. "Without Dell, we wouldn't have the record that we have right now."

Lindsey has helped the Aggies to an overall record of 33-8 and now has his sights set on helping them to the place they were just five years ago.

"I want us to go back to the College World Series," he said. "It would be a great accomplishment not only for me in my first year here, but for the team as a



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Junior third baseman **Dell Lindsey** has taken over the position vacated by the departed Craig Kuzmic. **Lindsey**, a junior-college transfer from Blinn College, is second on the team with a .368 batting average.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

A&M junior catcher **Krissey Renner** tries to pick off the runner at first following a bunt attempt during the Aggies' game against Southwest Texas State University Tuesday at the Aggie Softball Complex. The Texas A&M Softball team scored eight runs in the first inning en route to a 10-0 win over the Bobcats.

## A&M Softball Team scores early, often versus Bobcats

BY JASON LINCOLN  
The Battalion

The bottom of the first inning showed it would be field exercises for the 19th-ranked Texas A&M Softball Team as they took on Southwest Texas State University in a non-conference match on Wednesday evening.

After quickly retiring the Bobcats' top three with two strikeouts and a groundout, the Aggies got to test their bats against SWT pitcher Amber Mosher. Eight runs later, the Aggies closed the first inning with a comfortable lead.

Each of A&M's ten starters had a hit as the Aggies finished the game with 12 hits to win, 10-0, in four and a half innings after the game was called by the run rule.

"We were due to break the bats out and have a rally like that," A&M coach Jo Evans said. "We were aggressive at the plate and put pressure on their defense. It took them out of the game at the beginning."

"I was pleased to win big like that against a team that has given us some fits in the past."

Even with the early momentum, the Aggies had trouble keeping the bats effective. They were held to one hit

and no runs in the next two innings, as Mosher found her groove, and the Bobcat field improved its accuracy. In the next three innings, A&M managed just four hits and two runs, but the Aggie gloves kept SWT scoreless on three hits in eighteen trips to the plate.

For the Aggies, sophomore pitcher Amy Vining finished with three strikeouts, and designated hitter Heather Martinez went 3-for-3 with two singles and a double for one RBI. Junior Angie Long, sophomore Tiffany Ester and freshman Tammy Donnell each had two RBIs, while juniors Jamie Smith and Krissey Renner had one each.

"Their pitcher [Mosher] was a little slow, so it was just a matter of waiting on the ball, having good timing and picking the right pitch," Martinez said.

"This game gives us a lot of confidence going into the weekend [conference matches against the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University] because we know we have the ability to hit the ball well."

The Bobcats now have an even .500 record for the season with Mosher at 18-17, while the Aggies move to a 34-10 record, and Vining improves to 19-8.

The Aggies will host two conference double-headers this weekend as they face the eighth-ranked University of Oklahoma on Saturday and Oklahoma State University on Sunday. Both days' games will be held at noon and 2 p.m.



VINING

## Track teams head to California

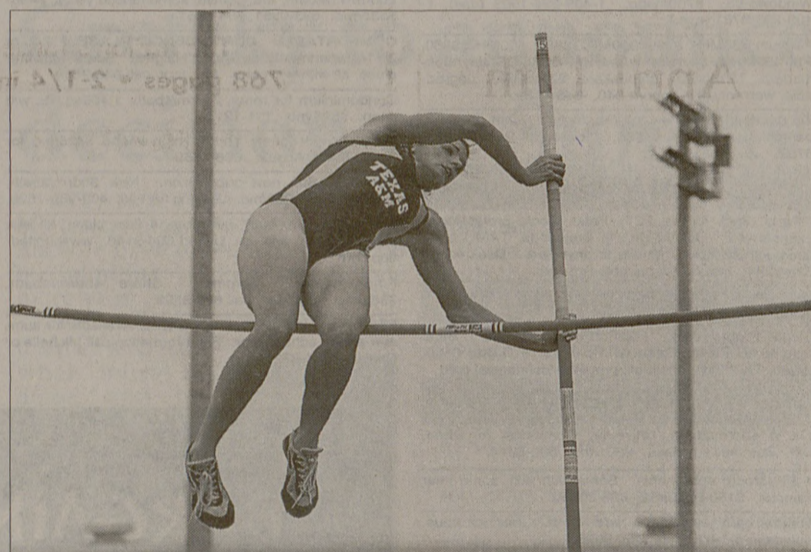
BY TOM KENNEDY  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Track Teams will send seven of their decathletes and heptathletes to Walnut, Calif., for the Mt. San Antonio College Multi-Event to be held today through Friday at the Azusa Pacific Track Stadium.

The meet will mark the season debut of All-American senior Kendall Madden and junior Chad Meyer after missing time due to injuries. Meyer, who ranks as the number four decathlete in school history, and Madden, ranked sixth all-time at A&M, are both expected to place high after finishing fourth and fifth, respectively, last year.

Also expected to contribute for the men are senior Toby Ware, sophomore Jason Wyatt, and freshman Jake Boone. Boone, who leads the team this season with a 6,830 point performance at the College Station Multis, was the 1997 USA Track and Field Junior Decathlon National Champion.

The women will be led by freshman Kendra Reimer and sophomore Desi Hudson, who rank as the number two and three



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Freshman **Erica Boren** clears the bar during the women's pole vault competition Saturday at the A&M Invitational. The men's and women's track teams will travel to Walnut, Calif., this weekend for the Mt. SAC Multi-Event.

heptathletes, respectively, in A&M history.

Reimer is coming off of a 5,371 point performance at the College Station Multis which provisionally qualified her for the NCAA

meet. Hudson, who was 16th at last year's NCAA Meet, will compete in her first heptathlon since withdrawing from competition at the College Station Multis due to injury.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Men's tennis signs 3rd-ranked recruit

Stephen Moros, the nation's third-ranked junior tennis prospect, signed a national letter of intent Wednesday to play for Texas A&M, men's head coach Tim Cass said.

Moros, who hails from Sarasota, Fla., has been ranked No. 1 or No. 2 in the Sunshine State his entire junior tennis career.

He finished in the top six in singles recently at the prestigious Eastern Bowl national tournament. Previously, he placed third at the USTA Nationals, positioning him to be one of the top five players in the 18-and-under division.

Moros is also a member of the U.S. National Team and is ranked No. 2 in the nation in doubles.

"Our goal is to fill our lineup with U.S. National Team players," head coach Tim Cass said. "Stephen fills that wish and many more. His junior ranking is similar to that of other guys we've signed like Rafael de Mesa, Shuon Madden and Keith From."

Cass looks to fill one more vacancy on his team. His first recruiting class in 1997 was selected as No. 1 in the nation by College Ten-

nis Weekly. As a team, the Aggies are ranked No. 14 nationally by College Tennis Weekly and hold a 14-3 overall record and a 6-0 mark in the Big 12.

#### Volleyball to travel to spring tourney

The Texas A&M Volleyball Team continues its off-season spring drills with an exhibition tournament at Southern Methodist University in Dallas on Saturday, April 17.

Action gets underway at 9 a.m. at Moody Coliseum as the Aggies take on Big 12 Conference foe Baylor. The tournament runs throughout the day, and admission is free.

Other teams A&M is scheduled to face are host SMU, Texas Tech and an open team made up of former college players, including former Aggie standouts Genny Wood (1991-93) and Page White (1993-96).

Match format is best two out of three games. Games 1 and 2 are rally scoring to 21. There is no scoring cap, and a team must win by two. Game 3 is rally scoring to 15 with a 17-point cap.

A&M, which went 21-9 and was

ranked 15th in the final Volleyball Magazine Top 20 Poll after advancing to the second round of the 1998 NCAA tournament, concludes its spring season Saturday, April 24, with an exhibition tournament at Texas in Austin.

#### Louisiana prospect signs with Aggies

Andy Slocum, of West Monroe, La., has signed a national letter-of-intent to play college basketball at Texas A&M, Aggies coach Melvin Watkins said yesterday.

Slocum, a 6-11, 235-pound center, is ranked as the 88th best prep player in the country by recruiting analyst Bob Gibbons. Slocum averaged 21 points and 14 rebounds a game as a senior and also considered Utah, Notre Dame, Tennessee, Florida State, Texas, Alabama, Southern California, Tulane and Oklahoma.

Slocum is also a standout pitcher for West Monroe's nationally-ranked baseball team and, according to USA Today has a 93-mph fastball. Slocum will join two other West Monroe athletes, football signees Brian West and Jason LeDoux, on the A&M campus.