

## College World Series takes off

MATTHEW L. THIGPEN  
The Battalion

The herd has been thinned out, the weak have been defeated and only eight teams get to pack their bags and head to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

San Jose State University, Clemson University, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Stanford University, University of Southern California (USC), Florida State University (FSU), the University of Texas and Louisiana State University (LSU) will comprise the bracket for the College World Series (CWS).

FSU now has a chance to avenge last year's defeat in the championship game, while San Jose and Louisiana-Lafayette make their first CWS trip in school history. Texas, USC and LSU make their much anticipated trip, and teams like top-ranked South Carolina and Nebraska return home after being defeated by two cinderella teams — Louisiana-Lafayette and Stanford.

San Jose will take on Clemson Friday, June 9, at 3 p.m.

San Jose makes its first appearance in the CWS after defeating Houston in a best-of-three series last Saturday. The San Jose Spartans (41-22) also ended a 14-year wait for head coach Sam Piraro. Tim Adinolfi (8-3) of San Jose pitched eight innings, striking out four.

The Spartans will meet the Clemson Tigers (50-16). Clemson swept Mississippi State to advance to Omaha. Scott Reba (3-0) came in for 4 1/3 innings and allowed only one run in the se-

ries finale. The record crowd of 6,392 gave Reba a standing ovation as he left the field.

Louisiana-Lafayette will face Stanford Friday, June 9, at 7 p.m.

The Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns did something that no one else has done this year — they defeated South Carolina twice in a row at Sarge Field. South Carolina was the No. 1 seed in the tournament and boasted the best record this year at 56-10. Unfortunately for the Gamecocks, the Ragin' Cajuns still felt the pain from last year's Super Regional loss to Rice.

After winning the first game against Rice last year, the Ragin' Cajuns had two straight losses and were denied their first CWS appearance. Now with six starting seniors, the memories provided an extra incentive.

In the second game of the three-game series, freshman Andy Gros pitched a complete game to defeat South Carolina by a score of 7-1 to force a third and decisive game.

Stanford (47-15) now awaits the Ragin' Cajuns. Stanford outlasted Nebraska in a best-of-three series and denied the Huskers their first trip to the CWS. Brian Sager (6-1) of Stanford allowed five hits in seven innings to advance the Cardinals to their third CWS in four years — 12th overall.

USC will head up against Florida State Saturday, June 10, at 12:30 p.m.

Nothing is new for the USC Trojans (43-18), as they head back to Omaha for the 12th time. The Trojans have 12 CWS championships, more than

twice the amount of any other school. They are also ranked No. 1 in two out of three current polls and have a 15-game winning streak.

Mark Prior threw eight shutout innings to sweep the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. Josh Persell hit his third home run in two days, and Rob Garibaldi cleared the bases with a two-run blast.

FSU (51-17) fought its in-state rival University of Miami in Super Regionals and avenged last year's CWS championship game loss to Miami. The reigning champions were one win away from a record-tying seventh straight CWS appearance.

Mike Ziegler (9-4) struck out nine batters in a complete game to send the Seminoles to their 18th CWS. FSU is 0-3 in the CWS championship game.

Texas will face LSU Saturday, June 10, at 7 p.m.

The Texas Longhorns (46-19) represent the Big 12 in their 28th CWS appearance. Texas won



KELSEY ROBERTS/THE BATTALION

its first Super Regional title by sweeping Penn State University. In Omaha, the Longhorns meet LSU, whom they have played 30 times in previous seasons. Texas leads the all-time series over LSU 22-7-1, and has the only win in the CWS against LSU.

Beau Hale (12-5) struck out 12 as Texas pounded PSU to advance.

LSU (48-17) makes its 11th trip to Omaha with a 14-8 sweep over UCLA. Billy Brian (6-2) struck out four batters to save the victory for the Tigers.

### Sports in Brief Madden awarded for performance

Texas A&M tennis standout and four-time All-American Shuon Madden was named Big 12 Male Athlete of the Year Tuesday by *The Dallas Morning News* and the Dallas All-Sports Association.

Madden is the first Aggie to receive the award from the newspaper which honors players and coaches from Big 12 Conference institutions in Texas and Oklahoma.

After leading his team to its second Big 12 Tournament Championship in the last three years, Madden was unanimously selected Big 12 Player of the Year by the conference's tennis coaches.

Madden advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Singles Championships in individual competition. He posted a singles record of 36-9, the best at A&M in over 10 years, which included a 21-match winning streak.

### Aggie signee in French Open

Tres Davis, a recent signee for Texas A&M's Men's Tennis team, is currently competing in the junior portion of the 2000 French Open at Roland Garros in Paris, France. Davis is the United States' No. 1 doubles player and No. 2 singles player.

Davis was eliminated in three sets by Spain's Daniel Munos, 6-2, 7-6 (6), 7-5 in the first round of the singles grand slam Monday. He continued to see action when he teamed up with Chris Martin in the 32-team doubles draw Tuesday. Davis and Martin were defeated by Ante Matijevic and Ivan Stelko of Croatia 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

### Two Aggies picked in Draft

Two members of the Texas A&M baseball team were selected in the 2000 Major League Baseball draft. Junior outfielder Daylan Holt and junior pitcher Chris Scarcella were picked by the Oakland Athletics.

Oakland took Holt in the third round with the 90th pick overall. They selected Scarcella in round 16 with the 480th pick.

Holt and Scarcella were the only two Aggies to be selected in the 50-round draft.

### Great Aggie football games of the '90s to be shown

The Texas A&M Video Lab has produced a series of Greatest Aggie Football Games in the 1990s entitled "Distant Replay."

Every Wednesday evening from now until August, viewers will be able to tune in to KAMU Channel 18 at 8:30 p.m. to watch a 30-minute abridged version of some of the top Aggie football games from the previous decade.

Tonight's feature will be the 1994 34-10 victory against the University of Texas Longhorns in Austin.

Other games that will be shown throughout the summer will be the 1990 Holiday Bowl versus Brigham Young University, the 1995 Alamo Bowl versus the University of Michigan and many other great games.

## Kosse Rodeo begins

SHAUN FITZPATRICK  
The Battalion

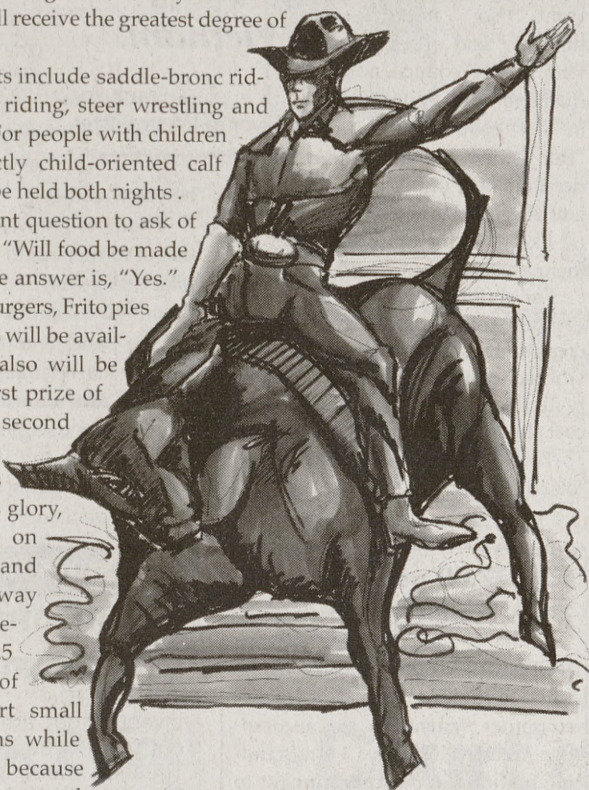
Looking for something to do this weekend? Desperate for a break from Bryan-College Station? Many Texans have probably been to a rodeo — or at least met someone who has. Those who do not fall into this category probably do not get out of the house anyway. Here is a chance to do something productive: Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10, the city of Kosse will be holding its annual Homecoming Rodeo. This rodeo offers a variety of things to see.

For example, watch for lasso burns during the calf roping event. During the bull riding events, gamble with your friends on which rider will receive the greatest degree of whiplash.

Other events include saddle-bronc riding, bare-back riding, steer wrestling and barrel racing. For people with children in tow, a strictly child-oriented calf scramble will be held both nights.

An important question to ask of every rodeo is, "Will food be made available?" The answer is, "Yes." Nachos, hamburgers, Frito pies and Sno-Cones will be available. A raffle also will be held with a first prize of \$100 and a second prize of \$50.

To see this rodeo in all its glory, travel north on Highway 6 and take the Highway 14 exit. The arena is located 1.5 miles north of Kosse. Support small town traditions while you still can because they won't be around forever.



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

## Comet lands on campus Cynthia Cooper speaks to basketball camp

REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

Girls attending the 2000 Texas A&M Women's Basketball Camp were treated with a visit from WNBA superstar Cynthia Cooper on Monday.

Cooper, starting guard for the Houston Comets, traveled to College Station late Monday afternoon to deliver an inspirational speech to the campers and to sign autographs. In her speech, Cooper suggested the girls do the three things that helped her to become a success both on and off the court.

Cooper advised the campers to "work hard," "hang tough" and "go the distance."

"Everything is not going to be all right," Cooper said. "There is going to be some tough times in your life."

Cooper used her own advice to battled through the tough times and is now considered one of the WNBA's greatest players. In the first three seasons of the league ('97, '98 and '99), Cooper was awarded MVP in the WNBA Championship each year, was a league MVP in '97 and '98 and was named to the All-WNBA First Team each year.

With her success, Cooper feels it is her duty to be a positive influence on young people.

"It's always important for a professional athlete to be a positive role model," Cooper said, "to get out and do what they can to encourage the young people of today, to really be active in the lives of the youths today and to be affective to their lives in a positive way."

After being interrupted by applause and cheers, Cooper concluded her speech saying, "I think the one most important thing is to believe in yourself. You know

everything else is real important, but when you start off believing in yourself, then most of the time, you don't have to go elsewhere to get things that you can already find within yourself."

The speech was well received by the smiling campers, coaches and other spectators who quickly formed a line to receive autographs shortly thereafter. Stacey Crafton, Class of '89, was happy that her 14-year-old niece, Cassi Crisp, had the opportunity to listen to the all-star.

"It was very positive and inspiring," Crafton said about Cooper's speech. "I think it's very positive for the girls to have a role model like that — one that hasn't had any negative publicity in the newspapers. I think she's (Cooper) certainly a positive role model."

Cooper has a special connection to Texas A&M University. Before coming to A&M in 1998, A&M women's basketball coach Peggie Gillom was an assistant coach for the Houston Comets where she helped lead Cooper and the rest of the team to become the WNBA Champions.

Gillom was appreciative of Cooper's trip to College Station.

"She didn't have to do this in the middle of her season," Gillom said. "That was just big for her. She always said, 'Coach, if there's anything you want me to do for you, let me know.' I knew we'd have a little break in between camps, and I just asked her if she would do it. And she said 'I'll be glad to do it.'"

After the speech, Gillom told the campers to take Cooper's speech to heart. She told the girls that if Cooper's talk did not make them think or encourage them to do their best, then they were in the wrong place.

**"I think the most important thing is to believe in your self."**



COOPER

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