

Aggies take second in Verizon Invitational

By AMAD OWIDI
The Battalion

After suffering losses in its first two games of the tournament this weekend, the Texas A&M softball team rallied to finish second in the Verizon Aggie Invitational.

The Aggies finished the tournament with three consecutive victories, one against Penn State, which eliminated the Aggies from the post-season last year, and the other two against the Islanders from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

The Aggies defeated the Islanders 5-1 on Sunday to improve their record to 10-4 for the season. Sophomore pitcher Lindsey Rippee held the Islanders to one run on four hits. Junior first basemen Kelly Ferguson, who drove the ball all weekend and against the Islanders, chipped in with a RBI base hit.

Freshman Lindsay Wilhelmson came through with three hits and sophomore catcher Selena Collins showed glimpses of last season's heroics going two for three from the plate.

"We stayed aggressive all weekend, and that helped us bounce back," said A&M softball coach Jo Evans. "I also liked our performance at the plate."

The Aggies used line-drive base

hits and rambunctious base running to fuel their consistent offense. A&M scored runs in five of seven innings.

"We put the ball in play and continued to put pressure on their defense to make plays," Evans said.

Aggie batters failed to put the ball into play only twice in Sunday's game.

A&M started the tournament with losses to fifth-ranked Alabama and Penn State. A&M lost to each by one run.

Alabama downed the Aggies 2-1 on Friday. The Crimson Tide used the momentum from that win to sweep the rest of the invitational and capture the invitational title.

In their second game on Friday, the Aggies lost another one-run game, as the Penn State Nittany Lions defeated A&M, 4-3.

The two teams met again Saturday and the Aggies, using a rearranged line-up, returned the favor by winning 4-1.

The Aggies closed out the tournament with a 10-1 thumping of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Saturday.

"These tournaments are good for tweaking the line-up. A lot of games in a few days gives a lot of people a chance to play," Evans said.



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION
Sophomore third baseman Selena Collins fields a ground ball during this weekend's tournament action. The Aggies finished second.

The Aggies hope to extend their three-game winning streak Wednesday when the University of Houston Cougars visit the Aggie Softball Complex. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Ags finish 13th at Taylor Made tournament

By KEVIN ESPENLAUB
The Battalion

After shooting a team total of 304 Friday in the second round of the Taylor Made Waikoloa Intercollegiate Golf Tournament, the Texas A&M men's golf team found itself in a good position.

The round, which was played in strong, gusty winds at the King's and Beach Golf Courses in Kona, Hawaii, was the second best of the day and moved the Aggies into eighth place going into the final round Saturday.

Unfortunately for the Aggies, they could not capitalize on the round. They shot a 296 on Saturday in the final round to drop them to 13th place.

Fourth-ranked University of Texas claimed the tournament title with a total of 37-over-par (893).

The Aggies finished at 76-over-par (332-304-296-932) for the three-round tournament.

Other top-five finishers were Arizona State University (43-over-par, 899), Texas Christian University (44-over-par, 900), the University of Oregon (48-over-par, 904), and the University of Oklahoma (57-over-par, 913).

In the individual portion of the tournament, Sprague Kolp of the University of Nevada-Reno took home the title. Kolp finished one-over-par (76-72-69-217) in his three rounds of action.

The Aggies saw promise in their individual performances this weekend.

Sophomore Matt Lindholm finished 19th after finishing at 13-over-par (82-70-75-227).

Freshman Stephen Reed also turned in a good

performance during the third round, carding a round of 69. Reed was one of only 13 players out of the more than 120 participants to shoot an under 70 this weekend.

For the tournament, Reed finished in a tie for 67th place with his 23-over-par performance (90-78-69-237).

Other Aggies participating were junior Josh McCoy (82-77-75-234) and senior Casey Cronin (78-79-77-234), who tied each other for 46th place at 20-over-par, and sophomore Shaun Helme (90-79-77-246) who finished in 102nd place at 32-over-par.

The team's next tournament will be Sunday when it travels to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the Puerto Rico Invitational.

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