

Sports

SECTION **B**

THE BATTALION Thursday, April 4, 2002

Texas freshmen shine as Horns down Aggs

By Micala Proesch
THE BATTALION

The Big 12 showdown between No. 21 Texas A&M and No. 20 University of Texas turned into a showcase of the Longhorns' freshmen, as a pair of Texas newcomers hit home runs in the seventh inning to beat the Aggies 2-0.

The game remained scoreless into the top of the seventh inning, when A&M pitcher Jessica Slataper (14-6) hung a pitch over the plate that UT freshman Wynter Turner slammed over the center field fence for her fifth home run of the season.

"I was more patient at the plate in this at bat," Turner said. "I just waited for my pitch and went with it."

A&M knew that Texas was capable offensively, and while they played errorless ball in the field, Slataper faltered in the seventh and was unable to finish the game out strongly.

"We mainly targeted Gardner and Wynter, because we knew we

had to stop them at the plate," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "Jessica pitched six great innings, but you can't get the ball up on Wynter, and you have to be able to finish it out."

Later in the inning, Texas freshman Tiffany Anders took a ball deep to left field, belting the first home run of her career and giving Texas a 2-0 lead.

The Aggies had a chance to come back in the seventh, as Adrian Gregory and Selena Collins reached base on a walk and an infield hit before Kelly Ferguson laid down a bunt to put both runners in scoring position.

The Aggies were unable to capitalize on the opportunity, as Texas freshman pitcher Cat Osterman struck out Crystal Martin to end the game.

Osterman (22-6), who was named Big 12 Pitcher of the Week for the fourth time this season, lived up to her hype, striking out 14 batters and allowing only one hit in

the shutout.

She said she was not getting as much movement on the ball as she liked, but she was still able to come through in the clutch and shut down A&M's rally attempt in the seventh.

"In the seventh they had their 3, 4, 5 and 6 batters up who are all having great seasons, so I really had to focus on putting more movement on the ball," Osterman said. "I couldn't exactly focus on the strikeout, I just tried to keep the ball on the ground."

Osterman also snapped A&M senior Kelly Ferguson's 17-game hitting streak, the longest recorded streak in A&M history.

With the win, Texas (33-9, 6-0 Big 12) extends its winning streak to eight games, and remains atop the Big 12 standings.

The Aggies (28-9, 2-4 Big 12) hope to bounce back tomorrow against Southwest Texas at the Aggie Softball Complex. First pitch is slated for 6 p.m.



John Livas • THE BATTALION
Texas pitcher Cat Osterman throws a pitch in the Longhorns' 2-0 victory over Texas A&M on Wednesday at the Aggie Softball Complex. Osterman pitched one-hitter, striking out 14 batters.

Texans to use first pick in draft on Fresno State QB Carr

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans know the ultimate success for most NFL teams lies at quarterback.

So when the Texans make the first selection in the NFL draft on April 20, the team will choose Fresno State quarterback David Carr. That announcement, unusual in that it came more than two weeks before the draft, was announced Wednesday by owner Bob McNair, although the decision was made by general manager Charley Casserly and coach Dom Capers.

"To win, you have to have a good quarterback. Charley and his people have looked at this long and hard," McNair said. "We know enough about Carr that

we feel like we know who he is."

The Texans had been expected to go for Carr all along, although Oregon's Joey Harrington is regarded as good a quarterback prospect by some NFL teams.

In 37 games at Fresno State, Carr completed 62.8 percent of his passes for 7,849 yards, 70 touchdowns and 23 interceptions. As a starter, he had an 18-8 record.

As a senior, Carr led the nation with 4,308 yards passing and 42 touchdown

passes, becoming only the sixth quarterback in NCAA history to throw for more than 4,000 yards and more than 40 touchdown passes in the same season. He led the Bulldogs to an 11-2 record last season.

Carr finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy voting and won the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award as the nation's top senior quarterback.

The Texans' announcement Wednesday came as no surprise.

Casserly had previously acknowledged that Carr was likely to be his choice over Oregon Harrington and others, like North Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers.

"We felt he was the best player in the draft," Casserly said. "You got a real solid individual off the field and a real talented individual on the field."

While the Texans are impressed by Carr's accurate passing and strong work ethic, Casserly said the team also likes that his personality is well grounded by his family life.

Carr and his wife, Melody, have been married about three years and have a son.

McNair said discussions with Mike Sullivan, Carr's agent have been going well and the team believes a contract will be worked out soon.

"He's going to be a rookie. He's going to make a lot of mistakes. To

learn, you have to make mistakes," McNair said.

Casserly said contract talks would resume the week of the draft.

Sullivan helped negotiate a \$62 million, six-year deal for Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick, the No. 1 pick in last year's draft.

He would not comment on terms, although in general, NFL contracts follow a pattern when the same player is selected at the same position in the draft, meaning Carr's contract would be slightly higher than Vick's.

Houston is still looking for a veteran free agent quarterback to run the offense while Carr gets educated.



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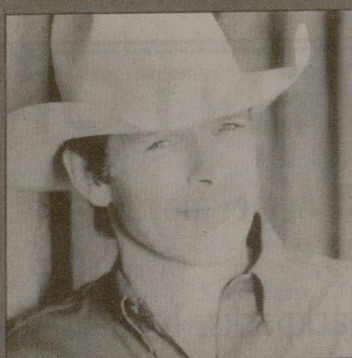


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PLAYING AT 11:00



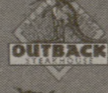
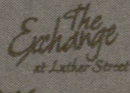
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