

## Aggies square off with Tech

### A&M hopes to move up in Big 12 versus Red Raiders

By Micala Proesch  
THE BATTALION

The struggling Texas A&M softball team is hoping to dig itself out of the bottom half of the Big 12 standings when it hosts Texas Tech today in a doubleheader at 5 p.m. at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Despite maintaining their No. 21 ranking, the Aggies (30-10, 3-5 Big 12) are stuck in seventh place in the Big 12. Tech (12-28, 1-7 Big 12) stands in ninth place in the conference after picking up its first conference win over Oklahoma State last week.

A&M is hoping not to fall victim to the fate of the Cowgirls, who lost the second game of their matchup with the Red Raiders, 1-0, after run-ruling Tech, 12-1, in the first game last weekend.

"Tech came back and shut out Oklahoma State, which is not easy because they are a great hitting team," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "We are not going to overlook them because we know they are capable of playing good ball."

The Aggies split a doubleheader with Kansas last Saturday, losing the opener because of a poor defense that enabled Kansas to come back and score five runs in the final two innings.

"Our team did not play well in the first game," Evans said. "We were sloppy on defense, and it hurt us in the end."

However, the team bounced back to take game two of the series 3-0 as sophomore Jessica Slataper threw her third career no-hitter and her first no-hit shutout. This was Slataper's 16th complete game and ninth shutout of the year.

The no-hitter helped Slataper capture Big 12 Pitcher of the Week honors, which is the first time she has been featured this season.

"Slataper took charge and set the tone for the team in the second game," Evans said.



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A&M sophomore pitcher Lindsay Wilhelmson throws a pitch against the Oklahoma Sooners at the Aggie Softball Complex. The Aggies will host Texas Tech today in a doubleheader at 5 p.m.

Aggie first baseman Kelly Ferguson has hit safely in 20 of the last 21 games, including going 3 for 4 in the opener versus Kansas before blasting a solo homerun in the nightcap.

The all-time series between the Aggies

and the Red Raiders is tied at 8-8, with Tech winning seven of the last ten meetings. Tech eliminated A&M from last year's Big 12 Tournament when first baseman Carmen Grindell hit a walk-off homerun to best the Aggies, 1-0.

## Road not kind to Ags as Cougars roll to win

By Kevin Espenlaub & Dallas Shipp  
THE BATTALION

HOUSTON — A&M sophomore left hander Kyle Parcus received a less than warm reception on Tuesday as the University of Houston Cougars scored five runs in the first three innings off Parcus en route to a 10-2 victory in front of 2,925 fans at Cougar Field.

Cougar first baseman Brett Cooley ripped a three-run homer over the left field fence to close a four-run third inning and led the Cougars to their third consecutive victory over the Aggies.

"Conference USA teams have done a great job this year against ranked teams like A&M," Cooley said. "That really says a lot for our conference and for our team."

The Cougars used three pitchers to combine for seven shutout innings that included four double plays by the Aggies in the first five innings.

"We just could not make anything happen for us tonight," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "We hit into all of those double plays and we are just not a good enough team to hit into that many and still generate any offense. Sometimes you just hit the ball right at them, and we did that tonight."

A&M hit into inning-ending twin-killings in the third, fourth, and fifth innings.

"Anytime you are able to roll up four double plays in the first five innings it is really going to stop any offensive rallies," said UH head coach Rayner Noble.

While A&M pitchers were able

to draw two double plays out of the Cougar bats, they were hit hard and often throughout the contest.

Parcus, who lasted only three innings, allowed eight hits and five earned runs, dropping his season record to 2-3. Two of those losses have now come at the hands of the Cougars including a 2-1 loss earlier this season.

"We have really been looking for a strong left-handed pitcher all season," Johnson said. "We just cannot seem to get it to happen. Kyle struggled today and got behind in the count and left the ball up there and it was deadly."

Aggie sophomore reliever Brian Finch took over in the fourth and struck out three of the first four batters he faced before surrendering two walks and three earned runs in 1 1/3 innings.

Three other relievers combined to finish the game that was closed by freshman Logan Kensing's two-inning performance.

"Houston just really hit the ball well tonight," said A&M junior catcher Rusty Meyer. "Our pitchers had some quality pitches and some that were not quality pitches. Sometimes that happens, but Kyle came out and fought hard and just had a couple of mistake pitches that they pounced on."

The Aggies broke Houston's shutout bid with their only two runs of the game in the eighth inning as Aggie sophomore shortstop Matt Alexander had a RBI triple and Meyer capped off the inning with a RBI single.

The Aggies will return to College Station for their weekend series with Big 12 opponent Kansas State University.

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Michael L. Washlesky  
March 7, 2002  
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Bloom, Harold. William Shakespeare's Othello, Chelsea House, 1987, pg xiii