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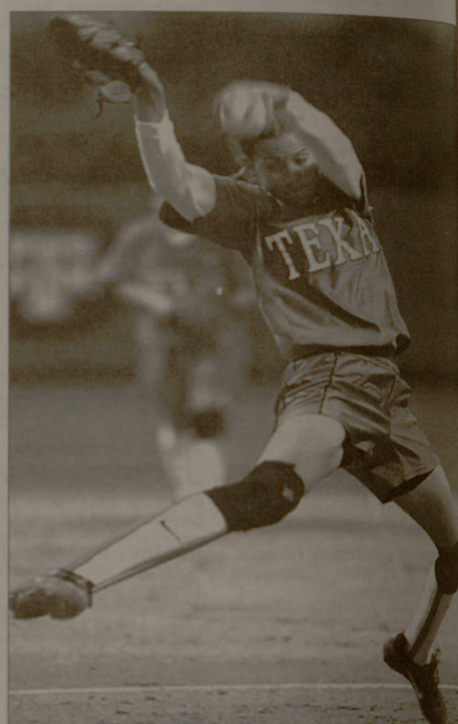
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# Aggies face off with UT

By Micala Proesch  
 THE BATTALION



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M softball team has proven it has what it takes to compete with the best teams in the Big 12, but the Aggies need to play to perfection as they face the red-hot Texas Longhorns on Wednesday at McCombs Field in Austin at 6:30 p.m.

The No. 24 Aggies (34-13, 7-8 Big 12) proved themselves worthy of their ranking as they split a doubleheader with No. 4 Nebraska last weekend. A&M has lost many close games to ranked opponents this season, so the win against Nebraska was a boost to the team's morale.

"Our kids went out there and played really well," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "We came out there aggressive at the plate, and we hit the ball very hard. They didn't make any errors. We just outthit them, and Lindsay Wilhelmson pitched a great game."

The Aggies jumped out to an early lead in the top of the first inning when senior first baseman Kelly Ferguson hit a sacrifice fly to score freshman left fielder Adrian Gregory from third base.

Junior catcher Selena Collins added some extra cushion to the A&M lead by pounding her 12th home run of the season, putting the Aggies up 2-0.

Wilhelmson (10-4) threw her sixth shutout of the season, walking three and striking out two.

The Cornhuskers bounced back to take the second game from the Aggies, 6-0, scoring all six of their runs in the third inning. Nicole Trimboli led the offensive onslaught against the Aggies, going 3 for 4 with a pair of doubles in the game.

A&M starter sophomore Jessica Slataper (16-8) took the loss after lasting only 2 1/3 innings, her shortest outing of the season. Junior Peaches James (18-5) claimed the win for the Cornhuskers, tossing a three-hit complete game shutout and notching two RBIs for Nebraska.

No. 16 Texas (41-10, 10-1 Big 12) swept Iowa State in a doubleheader this weekend to extend its winning streak to eight games as the

Texas pitcher Cat Osterman will face the Aggies Wednesday at McCombs Field in Austin.

Longhorns continue to roll though their start in the program's history.

Texas is led by freshman pitching sensation Cat Osterman, who was named Big 12 Pitcher of the Week for the sixth time this season.

Osterman is only 34 strikeouts short of the freshman record of 469 on the season set by Northwestern's Lisa Ishikawa in 1984. She leads Texas in wins (27), complete games (12), shutouts (13), innings pitched (235) and strikeouts (435).

Osterman shut out the Aggies earlier this season when they met at the Aggie Softball Complex, 2-0, but A&M feels more prepared to face her this time around.

"We have seen Osterman now, so we are more comfortable with what she throws," Evans said. "We will be more prepared and know what to expect from them."

## Hitters

Continued from page 7

can be seen by just looking at the cleanup hitters for both.

Sinisi, who came into the game hitting over .400, did not disappoint, going 2-for-4 with the home run and two RBIs.

Stephenson continued the downward spiral he has been in of late. He went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts and four runners left on base. In his last seven games, Stephenson is just 4-for-27 (.148), with eight strikeouts.

"We just can't get a consistent guy to hit .360 or .370,"

Johnson said. We just don't have anybody doing that. You like to make your lineup around your 3-4-5 hitters, but that's been hard with this group. We haven't had a big-time guy like a Sinisi, someone you can count on around and go. That's just what we are right now."

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.68	G	SI <sub>1</sub>	1550 <sup>00</sup> EGL Cert.				
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.55	G	VS <sub>1</sub>	1550 <sup>00</sup>	1.00	I	SI <sub>2</sub>	3200 <sup>00</sup>
.55	I	I <sub>1</sub>	850 <sup>00</sup> Old Mine Cut	.32	H	SI <sub>1</sub>	550 <sup>00</sup>
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