

# Softball team to host UTA

By Pete Burks  
THE BATTALION

After spending a weekend on the West Coast, the No. 21 Texas A&M softball team will return to the Lone Star State to take on the University of Texas at Arlington Lady Mavericks. The Aggies will head to Arlington after winning the Stanford Classic this weekend.

The Aggies (16-7) went 4-1 in the tournament, garnering their third championship weekend in a row.

After showing their offensive muscle in the St. Joseph Aggie Invitational II last weekend, the Aggies did an about face and relied heavily on their defense to stifle the opposition last weekend. On Friday, the Aggies beat Long Beach State in the first game, 2-0, but lost a tough one to the No. 12 Georgia Bulldogs, 2-1.

The next day, tournament host No. 11 Stanford was on the receiving end of the biggest Aggie offensive outburst of the tournament with the Aggies winning 7-3.

In the night cap, the Aggies again put away Long Beach State 2-1 to reach the championship game on Sunday for a rematch against No. 12 Georgia. This time, it was the Aggies who got

the best of the Bulldogs with junior pitcher Lindsay Wilhelmson no-hitting the Bulldogs through five innings. Wilhelmson later proved to be her own best friend, clearing the bases with a line drive down the left field line in the top of the eighth to break the tie and drive in the winning runs. As a whole, the Aggie defense was so dominant that opposing hitters managed only a .189 batting average, allowing Aggie pitchers to do their work, posting a 0.96 ERA for the weekend.



EVANS

While relishing the fact that her team won a tournament this weekend, A&M Head Coach Jo Evans understands the importance of maintaining the intensity the team showed in Palo Alto.

"UTA is a very competitive team, and they have already had success against teams from the Big 12," Evans said. "These mid-week games against Southland Conference teams are always competitive, and we can't afford to overlook UTA because we know what happened when we played Southwest Texas."

As for UTA, the Lady

Mavericks have had their own run of success lately, advancing to the championship game of the 2003 Crimson Classic in Tuscaloosa, Ala. UTA is led by junior pitcher Katy Cox, who is fresh off of receiving Southland Conference Pitcher of the Week honors.

Although her team is young, UTA Head Coach Debbie Nichols-Hedricks said she has been pleased with its performance this season.

"We are a very young team with several freshmen starting in various spots," Nichols-Hedrick said. "We have had success against the Big 12 and SEC already this year, beating Baylor 10-0 and beating Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Our freshmen have played well above their age."

Lately, UTA's freshmen have played like veterans, including freshman first baseman Falon Kwasnick who earned Southland Conference Hitter of the Week honors. She finished the week hitting .333, helping lead UTA to its 11-9 record, 3-0 in conference play.

After heading to Arlington, the Aggies will continue their road trip, heading to Tallahassee for the weekend to compete in the Seminole Invitational.

# Parcells adds FB Richie to roster

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Fullback Richie Anderson signed Tuesday a three-year deal with the Dallas Cowboys, making him the first of Bill Parcells' former players to sign as a free agent.

Anderson is the second player to be reunited with Parcells, joining receiver Terry Glenn, who was acquired Friday via trade from Green Bay. Terms of Anderson's deal were not immediately available.

Anderson is the second free agent to sign, joining punter Toby Gowin.

The 6-foot-2, 230-pound Anderson takes over a position that's been weak since the retirement of Daryl Johnston. Converted linebacker Robert Thomas had the job the last few seasons. The Cowboys drafted Jamar Martin from Ohio State to challenge Thomas last season, but he suffered a season-ending injury during the first contact

drill of training camp.

Anderson has played the past 10 seasons with the New York Jets, including under Parcells from 1997-99. He chose Dallas over New England, whose staff also has several ex-Jets coaches from Parcells' tenure.

A sixth-round pick in 1993, Anderson has played 134 games, starting the last 64. He made the Pro Bowl in 2000 after catching 88 passes, fourth-most in team history, and his blocking also has been credited with helping Curtis Martin run for 1,000 yards the last five seasons.

It's unclear whom he'll block for in Dallas. The Cowboys last week released NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith.

As a rusher, Anderson has 722 yards and two touchdowns on 191 carries. He's caught 305 passes for 2,449 yards and 10 touchdowns.

# Baylor

Continued from page 5

Baylor is 2-6 on the road this year but did pull off the upset in Stillwater, Okla., against Oklahoma State, handing the Cowboys their first loss at home this season.

"They have an inside-outside game and their game is clicking," Watkins said. "That makes them a very dangerous basketball team and that's how they won a couple of games on the road including at Oklahoma State."

Baylor Head Coach Dave Bliss said that as much as the Bears depend on Roberts and Lucas, he is hoping for a big game from junior R.T. Guinn.

"Guinn will have a good game and we play well; he'll have a not so good game and we don't play well," Bliss said. "We need him to play well in order for us to succeed."

Watkins said that he is looking forward to the end of the season and the excitement surrounding March Madness around the country.

"You're looking at what's going on around the country and all the talk about March Madness and it doesn't get any better," he said. "You just want to put yourself in a position to be talked about and be a part of (the postseason) and we feel like we're right there."

# Tennis

Continued from page 5

match at a 2-2 stand still. It was all TCU Head Coach Dave Borelli and Kleinecke could do to sit still, as both anxiously coached from the sidelines.

A&M junior Jessica Roland gave the Aggies some breathing room on court number one as she pushed her winning streak to seven matches in the midst of beating back to back ranked opponents.

"Ever since the middle of the indoor tournament, she has really turned up her game," Kleinecke said.

The match came down to the pairing on court No. 4 between senior Aggie Ashley Hedberg and Karla Mancinas. Hedberg gave up only two games and closed Mancinas out 6-0, 6-2.

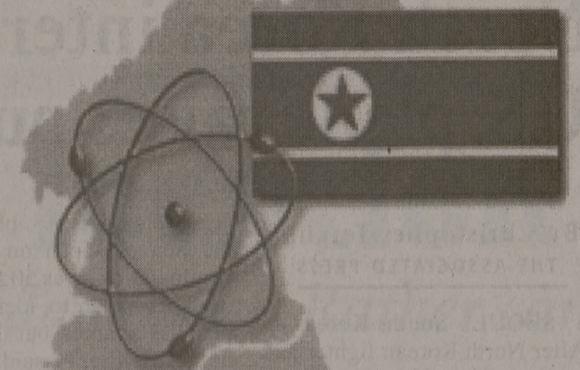
"After losing in doubles to start, my confidence didn't return until late in the first set, Hedberg said. "But I tried to keep her off guard the whole time. I didn't want to lose and I didn't want the team to lose."

The Aggies hit the road for their next three matches, and square off against Duke March 10.

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