

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Long Days

A day in the life of Aggie thrower Jamie Riojas

By Craig Martin
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M junior discus and hammer thrower Jamie Riojas is practicing hard this week with the Texas Relays starting Thursday in Austin. Even with a hard week of practice, Riojas can't allow herself to be devoted only to her on-field exploits.

When Riojas isn't practicing or studying, she serves as the president of Aggie Athletes Involved, a service organization composed of 650 student athletes. As president, Riojas is in charge of overseeing and planning community service projects such as helping to repaint the Boys' and Girls' Club, working with The Big Event and tutoring young children. Jamie said she likes to be involved in at least one large community service project every other week.

"My life (always) moves at 100 miles per hour, but I wouldn't have it any other way," Riojas said.

From the moment she wakes up in the morning until the moment her head hits the pillow at night, Riojas is one of the busiest students on campus.

Riojas said she strategically planned her class schedule this semester to include no early classes, allowing her to get a much needed extra hour of sleep by waking up at 8 a.m.

An hour later, Riojas is in class working on a degree in Ag economics. She is taking 15 hours this semester and attends



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M junior track and field thrower **Jamie Riojas** stands on the second floor patio of the Bright Athletic Complex overlooking Kyle Field. Riojas is an Ag economics major and the president of Aggie Athletes Involved.

class every day in blocks between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Once classes are over for the day, Riojas heads to Cain Hall to dine with her fellow track and field teammates. In the two hours between lunch and practice each day, she balances her time between team meetings, interviews and serving on panels such as the Texas A&M Women's Athletic Panel.

When all of her meetings have ended, Riojas heads over to the Aggie Track and Field

Complex to begin her practice for the day. Practice usually runs from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday and consists of practicing her throwing technique and lifting weights. On the days she does not lift weights, Riojas participates in team bonding and sprint drills to enhance her speed.

Riojas said she has been throwing discus since she was a

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Softball falls late to Baylor, 1-0

By Ryan Irby
THE BATTALION

Being on the losing end of a one-run victory is something the Texas A&M softball team knew nothing about until Wednesday night.

After dealing out two straight one-run losses to No. 9 Oklahoma, the Aggies (20-16, 2-1 Big 12) dropped a thriller to No. 19 Baylor, 1-0.

With the teams deadlocked in a scoreless tie going to the bottom of the seventh inning, Baylor (34-6, 5-0) came through.

Baylor senior center fielder Kelly Levesque led off the seventh with a dribbler to second base that scooted away from A&M senior second baseman Sherah Atkins, putting Levesque on first base representing the winning run. Atkins' error proved to be costly as three batters later, Baylor head coach Glenn Moore went to the bench for a last-ditch effort in freshman pinch-hitter Chelsi Lake.

With two outs and a 2-2 count, Lake laced a single past A&M junior shortstop Adrian Gregory to score Levesque, who had advanced to second on a fielder's choice.

"Lake was highly recruited as a hitter, and she's got tons of confidence," said Baylor head coach Glenn Moore. "I felt she had a good chance of putting the ball in play."

Baylor freshman pitcher Lisa Ferguson (14-1) went the distance on the mound, tossing a one-hit shutout for her 11th consecutive victory.

"I'm not sure we always swung at the pitch we wanted," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "(Ferguson) did a great job of hitting her spots, but we didn't make a great adjustment at the plate."

Moore said Ferguson has pitched beyond her years this season.

"Lisa was one that we saw a lot of potential in," Moore said. "She has thrown some great innings for us this year, probably because she has no fear. She doesn't know she's a freshman, and I'm not going to tell her."

A&M senior pitcher Jessica Kapchinski allowed five hits in the contest, striking out six and not allowing a single walk.

"You win some, you lose some," Kapchinski said. "We came to play today, we played hard and we kept our composure in doing the things we needed to do. It's the small things that are going to decide it."

In the end, though, it was Baylor who was able to capitalize in the seventh on Atkins' error, her third of the season.

"We have to be fundamentally sound, regardless," Evans said. "If we make that play, we are out of the inning. We just got careless on a routine play."

With A&M's first loss in a young Big 12 season, Evans believes the Aggies are still on track.

"We still firmly believe we have a chance to win the conference championship," she said. "That's our goal, and we've gotta take that one game at a time."

Countdown to Student-Athlete Day APRIL 6	
A day in the life of...	
MON.	• Lester Cook Tennis
TUES.	• Jennifer Jones Equestrian
WED.	• Jana James Softball
THURS.	• Jamie Riojas Track & Field
FRI.	• Justin Moore Baseball
APRIL 5	• Dylan Leal Basketball
APRIL 6	• Terrence Murphy Football

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