

## A&M searching for conference win streak

### A day in the life of senior pitcher Justin Moore

By Jon Gilbert  
 THE BATTALION

Being a student athlete at Texas A&M, or any university, requires a devotion of time most students can only dream about. For A&M pitcher Justin Moore, being a student athlete isn't a burden — it's fun.

Moore, a 6 foot 4 inch right-hander from Katy, Texas, is one of eight seniors on the No. 9 A&M baseball team. Yet, Moore is not just a baseball player, but a college student like everyone else, trying to graduate and move on in life.

"(Student athletes) do a lot more than the average college student," Moore said. "When we get home at midnight it's hard to study. Studying is the last thing you want to do. You have to be structured and manage your time wisely. To do well you have

to be efficient in that area."

Moore gets up at 6:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday for his 8 a.m. class. He attends class non-stop until 3:35 p.m. and then rushes to practice. He has no time for a nap, no time to go home for a few hours, no time to just "chill." He gets out of practice at about 6 p.m., has dinner, then goes home to begin studying.

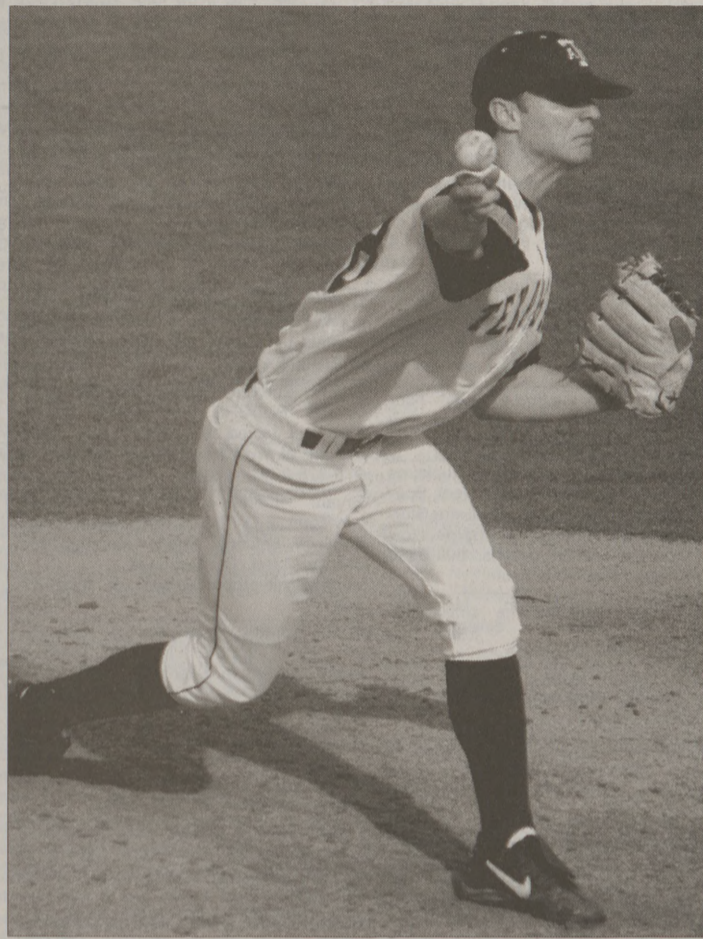
The effect of playing baseball for the Aggies goes far beyond books. Moore admits it's tough to find time to hang out with friends, see movies, hit up the town or basically do the things a normal college student does.

"You spend all your free time catching up with school," Moore said. "It doesn't leave much time for hanging out. I can't remember the last movie I saw."

Furthermore, athletes miss many classes, making it tough to excel in academics. Moore said there are also a number of professors who are unsympathetic to their schedules.

"Some are very nice and understanding," Moore said. "Others don't care about what you go through and will make the tests extra hard. Some are cool about it, though."

"Like, in one of my classes I had only been (to class) once since the last test. I showed up for class one day and realized that it was the day of a test and I had no idea. I went up to the prof and told him about the classes I had been forced to miss, and he was cool about it. He let me take it another time."



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Texas A&M senior pitcher Justin Moore delivers a pitch in A&M's 8-0 win over South Alabama on Feb. 21.

Those are all the cons involved with being a Division I student athlete. Moore's lifestyle, however, definitely has its share of pros.

For one, he gets to play baseball, the sport that he loves, every day. Also, being a baseball player at A&M carries a high status, which Moore welcomes. He said he acknowledges that some people recognize him as he walks across campus, besides

his friends of course.

"Some people come to me and will say, 'Justin, nice game last night,' and stuff like that," Moore said. "One time a guy came running up to me and started talking to me and handed me a bunch of little schedules where my picture was on the cover. So, that was kind of cool for him to do that."

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### Aggies prepare for tough test at Oklahoma State

By Brad Bennett  
 THE BATTALION

The No. 9 Texas A&M baseball team is traveling to Stillwater, Okla., this weekend for its first conference series away from Olsen Field this season. To add to the Aggies' already difficult predicament of playing an away series, Cowboy fans are expecting a lot from all their teams now that their basketball team has reached the Final Four.

"Their basketball team is in the Final Four and everybody is fired up about Cowboy athletics," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "We'll have our hands full."

Johnson said the Aggies will need to keep up with Oklahoma State's .322 team batting average. The Aggies have a .310 team batting average, but Johnson said his team is getting hits when it needs them most.

"If the top part of the order is not good then the bottom part is coming through," Johnson said. "We need some big hitters."

Johnson said road wins are especially valuable during conference play because of the near impossibility of going undefeated at home. He also said that his team is still looking for a series sweep during conference, which, especially on the road, can make up for home losses.

"The championship ballclub is going to look back and they got beat in some series, but they are going to have some sweeps," Johnson said. "It is a lot harder

on the road but usually your championship team is going to punch out some sweeps somewhere on the road."

Johnson said this early in the season he is not pressuring his team to produce a sweep.

The Aggies will be led by freshman Jason Meyer and junior Zach Jackson on the mound. Meyer and Jackson were the winning pitchers in A&M's two wins last weekend over Texas Tech University. Johnson said he will wait to announce who the starter is on Sunday because of how little game footage of the Cowboys he has seen.

"The teams that win, the pitchers step up and the defense stays solid," Johnson said. "But when you play teams that have a high batting average you are going to have to score some runs."

Johnson said that the Cowboys' pitching has been solid with junior catcher Jason Jaramillo calling the signals.

"Jaramillo behind the plate has been very steady for them," Johnson said. "He was very steady last year and got a lot of pre-conference publicity."

Johnson said the top of his batting order is starting to produce and may be the deciding factor, in what he described as an offensive game.

"We've been struggling some with our key hitters, but we saw some good signs Tuesday night," Johnson said. "It's not something you can just tell somebody to go out there and start hitting."

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Countdown to Student-Athlete Day <b>APRIL 6</b> |                            |
| 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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1. Enjoy shades, shorts, and sandals in Aggieland!

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