

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggie baseball wins two of three against Kansas

The No. 15 Texas A&M baseball team dropped the final game of a three-game series against the University of Kansas, 9-7, Sunday at Hoglund Ballpark in Lawrence, Kan., after winning the first two games of the series, 14-4 and 4-0.

Kansas (24-16-1, 2-7 Big 12) used a four-run sixth inning to gain the lead for good. A&M senior pitcher Justin Moore, who took over for sophomore starter Dan Donaldson in the second inning, began the inning on the mound.

By the end of the inning Kansas had marched through four Aggie pitchers. Juniors Kyle Marlatt and Blake Rappleye couldn't record an out through four batters, as Marlatt was credited with allowing two runs. Freshman Austin Creps finally got the last two outs to end the inning with the Jayhawks leading 7-6.

Kansas added two more runs in the eighth inning, giving the Jayhawks the insurance they would need after A&M would score a run in the top of the ninth.

A&M sophomore first baseman Coby Mavroulis led the Aggies (29-9, 6-6) at the plate by going three-for-five with a double and two RBIs.

The Aggies will return to College Station to face the University of Houston at Olsen Field at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

A&M softball sweeps Kansas in doubleheader

The Texas A&M softball team took both games of a doubleheader Saturday over the University of Kansas, 8-0 and 7-3, at the Aggie Softball Complex.

A&M senior Jessica Kapchinski threw a six-inning no-hitter as the Aggies (25-16, 7-1 Big 12) run-ruled the Jayhawks (23-19-1, 2-6) in the early game. Kapchinski also came on in relief for senior pitcher Lindsey Wilhelmson in the second game, pitching four more no-hit innings.

Kapchinski struck out nine batters in the first game and three more in the second as she increased her streak of innings without allowing an earned run to 39.2 innings.

The Aggies used a five-run third inning in the first game sparked by junior shortstop Adrian Gregory's bases loaded single to left field that scored sophomore outfielder Rocky Spencer and freshman center fielder Sharonda McDonald.

Tied 3-3 in the bottom of the fifth inning of the second game, A&M junior catcher Nicole Robertson put the Aggies up for good with a three-run home run, giving A&M a 6-3 lead.

A&M will host No. 20 Baylor at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Freshman swimmer has standout year

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

Rebecca Sturdy is the average 19-year-old college freshman. She likes to watch movies, has posters of Tom Cruise on her dorm room wall, would rather do anything but wash her ever-growing pile of laundry and couldn't live a day without instant messaging.

When it comes to swimming, however, Sturdy isn't so average.

In her first year on the Texas A&M women's swimming team, Sturdy has already broken seven individual school records and has been a member on a relay team that has broken 10 relay school records. She has been named Big 12 Swimmer of the Month twice and earned Big 12 Newcomer of the Year honors.

Sturdy also helped the Aggies achieve a 16th place finish at the NCAA swimming and diving championships this year, A&M's second highest finish ever at the championships.

"We've had a number of girls who have had a good year that has gotten the team to where it is," said A&M head coach Steve Bultman. "You throw Rebecca in that mix, and it makes the team's success that much easier to come by."

Sturdy's fondness for swimming began at an early age. Entered in a swimming class for young children by her parents, Sturdy immediately took to the water as compared to many of the other children who were reluctant to jump in. As instructors led activities to acclimate the children to the water, Sturdy would wander off to the far end of the pool, jumping in repeatedly without any guidance.

"I'm surprised she wanted to stick with it," said Rebecca's mother, Karen Sturdy. "She would always shiver so

much after getting out of the pool, but I guess she wasn't miserable."

Sturdy progressed in her early teenage years under the guidance of her father Gary Sturdy, who served as her coach for many years and still provides the occasional words of wisdom.

"My dad was very nit-picky," Sturdy said. "But I guess it turned out to be good that he was."

Around the small island town of Anacortes, Wash., Sturdy is well-known. Mention the words Texas A&M and swimming, and most residents know who is being talked about. In her four years at Anacortes High School, Sturdy set or broke every school swimming record. Occasionally, Sturdy is teased by friends and relatives that she doesn't own the diving records as well.

Although Sturdy made many accomplishments during her high school years, Anacortes High head coach Leslie Mix isn't so quick to accept any accolades.

"I take no credit for how well and how fast she swims," Mix said. "She always wants to be perfect in what she does, so that's what makes her so good."



Texas A&M freshman **Rebecca Sturdy** celebrates after winning the consolation heat of the 100-meter backstroke, placing ninth overall, at the NCAA Championships at the Texas A&M Student Recreation Center Natatorium March 19.

Sturdy was highly recruited by many colleges including A&M, which gave her the first recruiting call. She visited many of the colleges that showed interest in her, but it was a visit to College Station that helped her make a decision.

"At first, I didn't really think I was even remotely going to come here, but my dad insisted that I still go see it," Sturdy said. "I just instantly bonded with the coaches and the team. It was the overall package that got me here."

Gary Sturdy said he didn't try to

influence his daughter's decision in choosing a school, but was also the most impressed by A&M.

"You've got a lot of good athletes at this level," he said. "There's a lot of people who try to be the top dog on the team and only care about themselves, but I really didn't sense any of that here."

And apparently, that team unity that Gary Sturdy sensed has rubbed off on Rebecca. When asked what she hopes

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Mickelson wins Masters

By Doug Ferguson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Finally!

Phil Mickelson's agonizing pursuit of a major ended Sunday at the Masters when he made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole, a spectacular conclusion to a back-nine duel with Ernie Els.

Gone is that ugly streak of being 0-for-42 in golf's biggest events. Gone are questions about Mickelson's game and whether it could stand up to the scrutiny of a major championship.

He delivered a command performance to the very end, with two birdies on the final three holes for a 3-under 69 that gave him a one-stroke victory over Els.

The putt curled into the back of the hole, setting off an enormous cheer. Mickelson jumped and thrust his fists, then kissed his ball when he plucked it from the cup.

"Oh my God!" he said as he walked off the green and into the arms of his wife and three children.

Until Sunday, he was known as the best player to have never won a major.

Now, he's simply one of the best in the game.



ERIK CAMPOS • KRT CAMPUS

Phil Mickelson saves par with a putt from off the 18th green during the third round of the Master at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga. The Masters win was Mickelson's first major win in 43 tries.

His awesome skills were on full display along the back nine at Augusta National, and they had to be. Els was flawless, making two eagles in his round of 67 that looked as though it would be enough to get the

green jacket he covets, and the third leg of the Grand Slam.

But Mickelson was more determined than ever.

He rattled off three straight

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Weather shortens A&M Invitational

By Craig Martin
THE BATTALION

Weather cooperated for most of Saturday in College Station, but in the end the lightning proved to be too much. Officials were forced to cancel this weekend's Texas A&M Invitational track and field meet at around 5 p.m., two hours before it was scheduled to end.

"I knew that once we called it, the weather would clear up," said head coach Ted Nelson.

The Aggies played host to 20 schools this weekend, including Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas.

The University of Oklahoma was scheduled to have a meet this weekend, but because of construction, moved its meet to College Station to coincide with the Texas A&M Invitational.

The Aggies had an "up and down day," according to Nelson. Nelson said the weath-

er contributed negatively to much of the athletic performances, hampering the field of competitors. The windy and humid conditions caused slower track times and shorter throws in the field events.

Although Saturday's weather conditions proved difficult, a few Aggies were able to finish with excellent results, including two who took home gold.

A&M senior Melissa Gulli took first place in the women's 1,500-meter race with a time of 4:28.79, qualifying her for the regional meet later this season.

Also finishing first was sophomore javelin thrower Rachel Walker. Her throw of 147.6 feet not only won her gold but, like Gulli, also qualified her for the regional meet.

The men's 4x100-meter relay team ended the day with a close second-place finish with a time of 40.52 seconds, just .27 seconds behind Houston. The final baton

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