### Aggie Baseball blows past Houston



as A&M sophomore infielder **Cliff Pennington** steals third against the University of uston's senior third baseman **Nick Bott** at Olsen Field Tuesday night.

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The No. 15 Texas A&M baseball team played true small ball Tuesday night, beating the University of Houston 8-1 with singles, bunts and hit-and-runs.

The Aggies (30-9, 6-6 Big 12) collected eight singles in the game and used the hit-and-run, or sacrifice hit strategies, a number of times to gain the advantage over the Cougars (14-21, 7-5 Conference USA).

"We did a great job on the whole offensively," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "We hit some solid line drives up the middle and consistently put runners on base."

A&M sophomore Robert Ray helped the Aggies on the defensive side in one of his best outings of the season. Ray lasted five innings, struck out six batters and allowed no runs on four hits.

"The past month I kind of struggled a little bit, but me and coach have been working on the little things a lot recently," Ray said. "If felt good to go and really compete again."

Ray showed signs of struggle in the first inning, giving up a single to the first batter of the game and hitting the second in the back, the first of three Cougars beaned Tuesday. Ray was able to get out of the inning unscathed, getting the next three batters to ground or

fly out. Johnson was the first person to meet Ray in the dugout, offering words of wisdom.

"Coach (Johnson) came and said to me 'It's game time. It's time to go out there and get after them.," Ray said. "It seemed to really help for some reason."

The Aggie offense posted the first runs of the game in the first inning, later proving to be the only runs A&M would need to win the game.

Houston freshman starting pitcher Shea Hancock dug himself into a hole early in the game, putting the first two batters on base.

A&M freshman Austin Boggs came to the plate and lined a single up the middle that scored one run and moved the other runner to third base. Sophomore Coby Mavroulis then hit a ground ball to the right side of the infield that would allow the second Aggie run to cross the plate in the inning.

Hancock had more problems in the second inning, giving up two more runs off a double and a walk before being pulled by Houston head coach Rayner Noble. The Aggies added two more runs in the inning after sending a total of 10 batters to the plate, extending their lead over the Cougars to 6-0.

All but two of the nine Aggie batters collected a hit in the game, including

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# CU coach said football team is innocent

By Jon Sarche
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BROOMFIELD, Colo. — Insisting the Colorado football program does not condone sexual misconduct, suspended coach Gary Barnett said Tuesday there is "no question" there was misbehavior at a 2001 party at the center of a rape scandal — but everyone at the gathering shared the blame.

Barnett, questioned for nearly five hours by a panel investigating recruiting practices at Colorado, said there were 10 people at the off-campus party, including four football athletes. All of them lost their scholarships afterward and were charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor for providing alcohol.

"There is no question in my mind that inappropriate behavior occurred," Barnett said. "There is no question that the behavior of the 10 young people involved was the result of their own poor decisions and under the influence of alcohol."

Two women contend they were

See **Hearing** on page 7

### Women seek revenge against Baylor

By Ryan Irby
THE BATTALION

Whoever said revenge is sweet obviously knew what he was talking about. The streaking Texas A&M softball that will look to get revenge against Baylor University, a team that defeated the Aggies earlier this year.

A&M (25-16, 7-1 Big 12) is coming

A&M (25-16, 7-1 Big 12) is coming the game riding a wave that has mid the team through five straight is, including two series sweeps inst Iowa State University and the iversity of Kansas and a road mout over the University of Texas.

No. 20 Baylor (37-9, 7-2) is currently ing in third place in Big 12 standings,

one spot behind the hot-hitting Aggies. Baylor swept games from Texas Tech this past weekend in a rain-shortened pair, taking the first game, 4-0, and the second, 7-3.

Seeing the Red Raiders lose was not the only highlight of the past week for A&M. When weekly Big 12 honors were issued Tuesday, the Aggies swept the balloting. Freshman center fielder Sharonda McDonald was named Big 12 Softball Player of the Week, and senior pitcher Jessica Kapchinski was named Big 12 Softball Pitcher of the Week.

Kapchinski has won three straight contests, including the decision over Texas and both victories against Kansas. Last week, she held opponents

one spot behind the hot-hitting Aggies. to a .056 batting average, and compiled Baylor swept games from Texas Tech an ERA of 0.00.

"(Kapchinski) came up big for us," said A&M head coach Jo Evans about Kapchinski's pair of wins over the Jayhawks this past Saturday. "She has gotten more meticulous about hitting her spots and not just throwing the ball over the plate."

McDonald continues to simultaneously amaze and annoy the rest of the conference with her blinding speed. She stole home for the Aggies fourth run in the contest with Texas a week ago, and has gone 3-4 in stolen bases since then.

Not known as a power hitter, McDonald recorded her first extra-base

hit of the season, an RBI triple, in the second game against the Jayhawks

second game against the Jayhawks.
For the Aggies, this news could not have come at a better time. A&M needs a leader to carry the team into the trenches of the Big 12 battle.

"We are playing so well as a team," said A&M junior shortstop Adrian Gregory. "I can't think of any one person that did not take a part in our wins."

When Baylor pulls into College Station on Wednesday, the Aggies will have nothing on their minds but avenging their sole conference loss.

"Baylor is the team that gave us the

See **Softball** on page 7



Freshman pitcher Christina Smith at the Aggie Invitational in February.

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