

SPORTS

Aggie Baseball Tuesday
7 p.m.
vs. Texas State
Olsen Field

THE BATTALION

Page 8 • Tuesday, April 27

Cutting archery good for athletics

Whenever an intercollegiate athletic department cuts the funding to a program under its umbrella, it stings. Nothing is different with Texas A&M



TROY MILLER

Athletic Director Bill Byrne deciding to put the A&M archery program under review.

Feelings are hurt – student athletes, coaches and administrators alike – but in the end, running an athletic department is a business.

And in the business of cutting funds to archery, Byrne is right.

Since archery and equestrian were elevated to varsity sports in 1999, equestrian has shown promise of expansion – maybe growing into an NCAA-sponsored sport soon. Thirteen schools sponsor the sport with more on the verge of doing so, including Big 12 rival Kansas State University, which will sponsor equestrian as soon as next year.

Archery, on the other hand, has not grown in the past five years – only A&M, James Madison and Columbia have teams.

"When we added archery and equestrian to varsity status, both sports were considered emerging sports for women and we hoped both would be added to the list of NCAA-sponsored championships," Byrne said. "Since

that time, equestrian continues to expand while archery has remained with only Texas A&M, Columbia and James Madison as sponsors."

In the college athletics business, success is measured by championships; specifically, NCAA championships. Points are given to each school based on its performance in each sport sponsored by the NCAA. The school with the most points at the end of the academic year wins the Sears Cup – the crowning achievement of success in intercollegiate athletics.

Archery has won many medals and has represented A&M admirably on the national and international stages. Senior Mary Zorn, for instance, is the reigning world compound champion.

But none of these championships are sponsored by the NCAA, and with the lack of growth in archery, it won't be sponsored any time soon.

As a club team, archery can still compete in the same events as it has over the past five years including world championship events. In fact, present archery events aren't composed of solely collegiate archers. Although some compete, a majority of the competition is self-sponsored archers of high school age or other archers not in college.

The only difference for the

Texas State rolls into Olsen

By Staff & Wire
THE BATTALION

Coming off a shortened weekend series against the University of Missouri, the No. 14 Texas A&M baseball team will host Texas State University at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Olsen Field on 50-cent Slovac sausage night.

The Aggies (33-12) are coming off a good weekend as they took two games from the University of Missouri before rain cancelled Sunday's series finale.

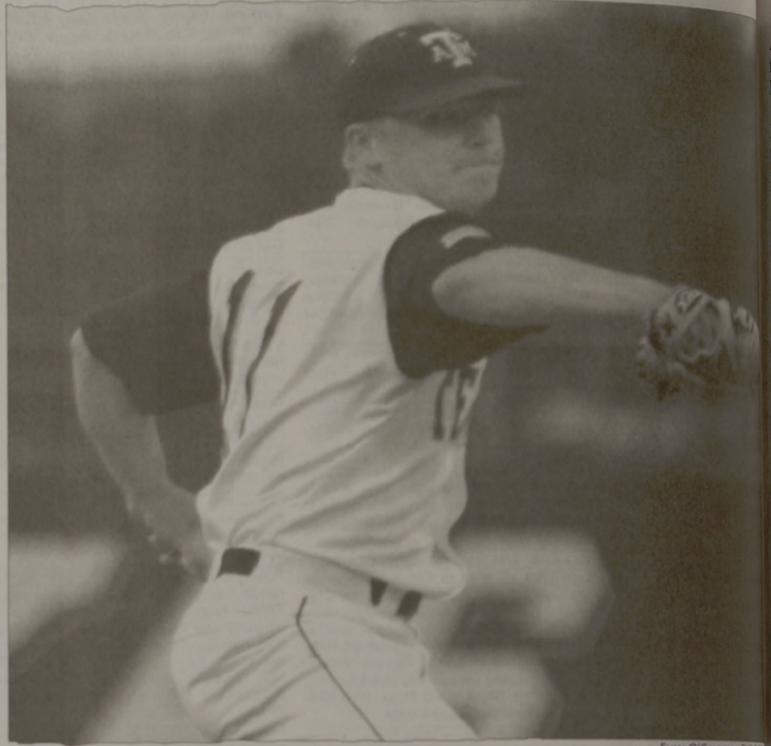
In the first game of the series, A&M freshman pitcher Jason Meyer (8-0) showed his nerves by holding a 1-0 lead for a complete game shutout of the Tigers. It was Meyer's first complete game of the year as he allowed seven hits while striking out eight batters. The Aggies' only run came in the second inning when senior right fielder Cory Patton hit a solo home run, his fourth in five games.

"I thought Jason Meyer really stepped up," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "He got to the ninth inning, and I thought he rose up in the ninth inning."

Pitching was the story again in the second game as junior Zack Jackson (8-3) led the Aggies to a 7-1 victory by allowing one run on seven hits while striking out 11 in 7.1 innings.

"The biggest thing was working on my secondary pitches, just fine-tuning my slider and throwing my change-up a lot more and working it in there," Jackson said. "It just makes my fastball that much more effective."

While the Friday and Saturday starters looked impressive again, Johnson was still unsure about his Sunday starter before the rain-out prevented the decision.



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M redshirt freshman Jason Meyer delivers a pitch Friday at Olsen Field in A&M's 1-0 win over Missouri. Meyer pitched the first complete game shutout of his college career. A&M will face Texas State at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Olsen Field.

"We'd like to go with (senior left-hander Dan Donaldson) or Patton and see if they can do it," Johnson said. "We've been snake-bitten a little bit on Sundays."

Because of the rain-out, the Aggies will now turn to Donaldson for Tuesday's game. This will be Donaldson's fourth start of the season, as he has compiled an ERA of 5.32 in 22 innings of work.

Texas State (24-19) is also coming off a successful weekend, as it took two of three

games from the University of Texas-Arlington in a Southland Conference match-up. The first game was key, as the Bobcats collected 11 hits and handed UTA starter Michael Gardner, who came into the game with a 9-0 record, his first loss of the season, 6-5.

"Some of the other hitters and I were talking about that and we wanted to make sure we put one in the loss column for him," said Texas State first baseman Mark Cooper. "We

didn't try to over-swing, we didn't try to do too much, we just got good swings and what we needed to do."

In their first contest since the season, which was held at the Diamond in Round Rock, the Aggies prevailed, improving their all-time margin to 30-8.

Texas State will take the lefty of its own in junior Hurley, who is 1-4 with an ERA in 39 innings.

A Cinco de Mayo Celebration!
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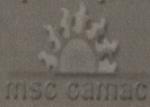
When: Sunday May 2nd

Time: 1:00PM till the mic turns off (7:00PM)

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