

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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## A&M softball faces Nebraska in two-game series for Big 12

By Nikki Knight  
THE BATTALION

The No. 23 Texas A&M softball team will travel to Lincoln, Neb., to face the No. 13 University of Nebraska this weekend in a two-game series that will ultimately decide the Big 12 champion.

The Aggies are 5-9 this season against top-25 teams.

Aggie junior infielder Adrian Gregory said that Wednesday night's 11-1 run rule win over the University of Texas continued the team's momentum and will be a major asset this weekend.

"We couldn't have more confidence going to Nebraska," Gregory said.

A&M head coach Jo Evans said she is impressed with the way her team is playing right now.

"I can't ask for anything more than what they're giving and what they've given the past six to six weeks," Evans said.

"What made me the most excited was that when we made mistakes, we didn't panic. We really stayed focused."

That focus will be key going into this weekend as the Aggies (21-16, 13-1 Big 12) look to reach first place in the Big 12.

Nebraska is a close second however, taking its first and only conference loss Wednesday night from the University of Kansas, 3-1.

After a winning streak that lasted all through conference play, the loss to Kansas was tough for Nebraska (36-13, 12-1).

Cornhuskers head coach Rhonda Revelle was not available for comment Thursday.



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M junior **Jana James** throws from left field during A&M's 2-0 win over Missouri last Saturday at the Aggie Softball Complex. A&M will play two at Nebraska this weekend.

A challenge the Aggies will face in Nebraska is the consistency in offense that the Cornhuskers have shown in conference play. The team's batting average is .301 going into this weekend.

Junior second baseman Anne Steffan and Nicole Trimboli lead the team with .365 and .322 batting averages.

Nebraska senior pitcher Peaches James has earned

run average of 0.69, slightly worse than Aggie senior pitcher Jessica Kapchinski's 0.27, the current best in the league.

A&M junior outfielder Jana James, who hit the game-ending walk-off home run Wednesday night against Texas, is excited about the matchup this weekend.

"We're feeling really good about ourselves after scoring all those runs," she said. "We're

taking that to Nebraska."

The two games this weekend will determine the final league standings for the Big 12 and the team placement heading into the Big 12 Tournament.

Kapchinski said the morale is high going into this weekend.

"We just need to keep it simple," she said. "We gotta get up to Nebraska and take care of business."

## A&M travels to Oklahoma for Big 12 Outdoors

By Craig Martin  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M track and field team will travel to Norman, Okla., this weekend to compete in the Big 12 Outdoor Championship. The annual event is the most important of the season and will showcase each of the 12 teams in the conference.

Last year, the University of Texas won the Big 12 men's championship, with the Aggies taking a close second place, narrowly edging out the University of Nebraska. The A&M women's squad took sixth place overall.

A&M head coach Ted Nelson said he feels his team is more than ready for this weekend's event.

"I am expecting the team to compete hard and represent Texas A&M well. I think the men's team will be in contention for the championship and could take home first place," Nelson said. "I'm also looking for the women's team to place anywhere from third to sixth place which would be

very good for us."

The Aggies will be competing in every event with the exception of the men's hammer throw.

This year's conference championship is taking place three weeks ahead of schedule due to graduation and various final exams taking place at some of the schools. The event

**"It is the most important meet of the season and we have so much on the line. We really want to win."**

— Andrew Gamble  
Texas A&M  
junior field athlete

will be held at the brand-new track facility at the University of Oklahoma, which is less than a week old.

The new track's installation, which was completed last Sunday, forced additional teams

to travel to College Station for the Texas A & M Invitational two

weeks ago. Oklahoma was scheduled to have a meet the same weekend as the A&M Invitation meet, but due to the unfinished construction on the track, had to move it to College Station.

Junior Andrew Gamble will compete in the triple jump and long jump for A&M and is looking to finally show the rest of the

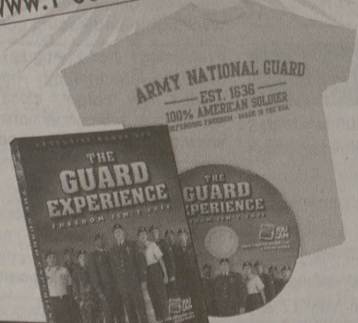
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