Tanner Garza — THE BATTALION

Aggies celebrate after sophomore **Regan Boenker** hit a triple early in the game against Houston Wednesday night.

Softball overtakes UH by three runs

By Milkyas Gashaw

▷ Even after sloppy play, the Aggies found a way to win.

The No. 22 Texas A&M softball team (13-4) defeated the Houston Cougars (7-12) by a score of 6-3 at the Aggie Softball Complex Wednesday night.

This victory has some retribution tied into it as the Aggies fell to the Cougars in Houston last April. Head coach Jo Evans was pleased with the all-around performance of the club Wednesday night.

"I'm always happy to get a win," Evans said. "We had a lot of opportunities to put our opponent away early, but kind of let them hang around. I'm not going to bemoan a win. It's always nice to get a win."

A&M got off to a hot start from the batter's box, with freshman Kristen Cuyos hitting a double down the left field line to put two players on base. Sophomore Reagan Boenker took full advantage of her opportunity, belting a no-doubt home run on the first pitch she saw above the scoreboard in left field.

"I went up [to the batter's box] knowing that I was going to be aggressive in my first at bat of the game," Boenker said. "When that first pitch came, I just swung and hit it."

Senior Rachel Fox got the call from Jo Evans, and she did not disappoint. Fox pitched a complete game, allowing three runs in the victory. Fox said her teammates pick her up when she doesn't have her best stuff at the mound.

"It's nice to have support," Fox said. "With getting games under our belt, we can understand situations where the other team will bunt or slap at our infield. We're only just going to get better."

The Aggies had a couple of blemishes in the third inning, with some errors from April Ryan and Cali Lanphear allowing the first runner to cross the plate for the Cougars. Lanphear redeemed herself with a two-RBI single on the first pitch in the fifth inning. In the bottom half of the inning, junior Selena Hernandez hit a similar double to the one that Cuyos hit a couple of innings prior that drew in another run for the Cougars.

The Aggies continue play this weekend at the Texas A&M Invitational at the Aggie Softball Complex. They open SEC play the following weekend against Kentucky in College Station.

SENIOR NIGHT
CONTINUED

A&M, according to ESPN.com, projects to be a 4-seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament in March.

A&M junior guard Courtney Walker garnered SEC Player of the Week honors for the second time this season for the role she has played in the winning streak. Walker shot 48.9 percent from the field and averaged 18.3 points per game in three of the four wins this week.

However, times have not always been rosy for this year's squad. A&M went on a stretch from Dec. 21 to Feb. 8 in which it dropped six games, five to nationally ranked opponents.

"I just think it just takes time for it to all come together," Blair said. "And we were good in November, December. If we would have won at Washington and the Texas game, everybody would have been saying the greatest things in the world. We'd probably only have two losses by now. But things happen. It's just basketball. You've got to give credit to your opponents. The opponents are pretty doggone good."

Tipoff is at 7 p.m.

Baseball beats Incarnate Word with freshman at the mound

By Andre Perrard

▷ Aggies freshman Brigham Hill made his first career start Wednesday night, and he did not disappoint.

Hill's 5 1/3 innings at the mound helped lead the A&M baseball team to a 7-0 victory over Incarnate Word (4-5).

Aggies head coach Rob Childress said he was impressed with his freshman, who allowed three hits while striking out nine Cardinal batters en route to A&M's second shutout of the season.

"I thought our pitching and defense was outstanding, and it all started with Brigham Hill," Childress said. "He retired, I think, 13 in a row after a leadoff single. Just a marvelous performance. I am very, very proud of him."

Hill said he enjoyed the start.

"It felt amazing," Hill said. "I was a little nervous at first, but it was nice with teammates making plays."

Offensively, Ryne Birk went 2-for-5 in the game. Birk now has a seven game hit streak, a span during which he is batting .433. Mitchell Nau also went 3-for-4 on the night, pushing his batting average to .560 on the season.

Incarnate Word (4-5) started poorly and a bases-loaded walk to Blake Kopetsky in the first inning gave A&M a 1-0 advantage.

The Aggies (9-0) loaded the bases again in the fourth inning, and a sacrifice fly from Jonathan Moroney gave him an RBI and a 2-0 lead for his team.

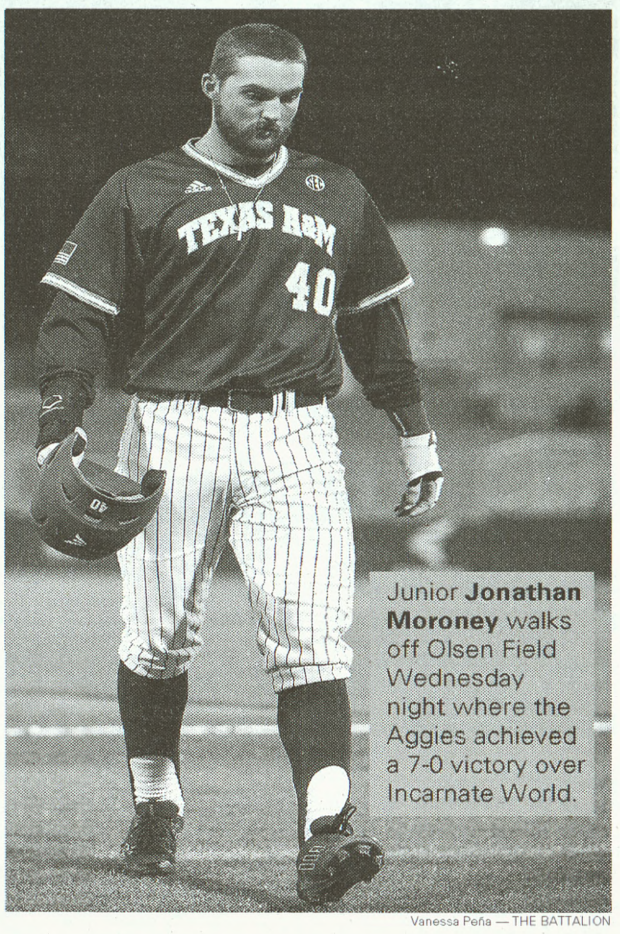
The sixth inning was the biggest for A&M, finishing with four runs. Cardinal mistakes led to two scores, and RBIs from JB Moss and GR Hinsley made it 6-0.

Ronnie Gideon hit his third home run of the year in the seventh to make it 7-0 A&M.

The bullpen came in behind Hill in relief and shut down the Cardinals, allowing only one hit and zero walks from the fifth inning to the end of the game.

"They were very good," Childress said. "Just like last night, I thought our bullpen has been flawless the last two nights and it was big for both games."

The Aggies will look for their third straight sweep of the season with their weekend series against Dartmouth, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday.



Junior **Jonathan Moroney** walks off Olsen Field Wednesday night where the Aggies achieved a 7-0 victory over Incarnate World.

Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

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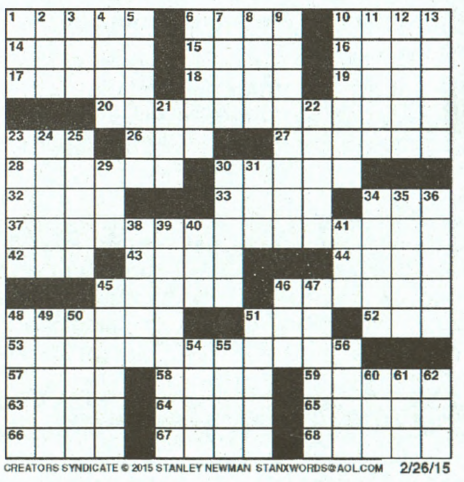
Newsday Crossword

AROUND THE ROOM by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Many Highlanders
6 Draws back
10 Yardarm support
14 Metal bar
15 Carbonated flavor
16 Enthralled with
17 Sculpture medium
18 Starting from
19 *South Park* kid
20 Corporate barrier of a sort
23 Federal health org.
26 Radar reading: Abbr.
27 Airline-lounge fare
28 Fanatic
30 Many a paper
32 Island near Corsica
33 Federal farming org.
34 P&L preparer, perhaps
37 Was overly anxious
42 QVC rival
43 Three-hour film, often
44 Watered down
45 Religious belief
46 Be empathetic
48 "About time!"
51 "Geese a-laying" count
52 Bobblehead doll movement
53 Spoke, as at a meeting
57 Mandolin kin
58 Neutral shade
59 Origami mishaps
63 *Otello* opener
64 As compared to
65 Spy's collection, for short
66 Unrepairable
67 Medley part
68 Broken in

DOWN
1 Karate uniforms
2 Aesopian insect
3 Psychoanalytic self
4 Protracted
5 Sailors' guardian
6 Cybermoney
7 One in charge
8 Legislative group
9 Riskless region
10 Lose momentarily
11 Prank
12 Played miserably
13 Bartender's tool
21 Liable
22 Acquired kin
23 From Brno
24 Wooded valleys
25 Astronaut's quarters
29 __ it (flee)
30 From Gouda
31 Hardwood tree
34 Dustless
35 Student of Socrates
36 "Since you __ . . ."
38 Savage one
39 Nicknames
40 Morse "E"
41 Saddlery tool
45 Improvise
46 South Atlantic port, for short
47 Uniquely new
48 Almanac section
49 Smidgen
50 State-run game
51 Catapulted
54 Recording effect
55 Actress Drescher
56 Clinton cabinet member
60 Casino convenience
61 Penalty caller
62 Shifty



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to todays puzzles

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