



J. R. Hinsley slides safely into base.

Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION



Tanner Garza — THE BATTALION

Cancer survivor gets hero's treatment with baseball team

Dartmouth visits undefeated A&M for weekend series

By Seth Stroupe

▷ The Texas A&M baseball team has been dominant in the young season and sits at a perfect 9-0 with an average margin of victory of more than seven runs per game, which is why it may seem odd that the program is now looking for some outside help for this weekend's series against Dartmouth.

Elias Gomez, who signed an official letter of intent Thursday with Texas A&M, is not your typical division one baseball recruit. For one, he's only in the eighth grade. Gomez is a student at College Station Middle School, who readily admits that he has little experience in the game of baseball.

Even though he calls himself a fan of the Aggies, he says he's never really followed the sport and doesn't have a favorite player. When asked if he'd rather be a pitcher or a position player, he says he's really only interested in hitting.

But proficiency in the sport of baseball is not the reason that the Aggies have brought the young Gomez on board. Instead, the Aggies were won over by his story and his courage. Gomez, who was put in touch with Texas



Elias Gomez

A&M through Team Impact, is a cancer survivor. And although his attributes might not show up in the box score this weekend, head coach Rob Childress is certain that Elias already exemplifies everything he wants in a player.

"Our definition of the word relentless here at Texas A&M is this — we are physically and mentally tougher than all others at all times, even in the midst of adversity," Childress said to Gomez at the presser. "That's something that has really stood out to me in learning your story is that word, relentless. You are relentless and we feel very honored that you're a part of our program."

Childress said he is certain Texas A&M's newest addition will be a game changer for the Aggies.

"We feel truly blessed that we found somebody that can take us from being good to really being great," said Childress.

"We now have someone in

Elias Gomez who has the potential to be a real impactful part of our program"

In an extensive Q&A session conducted by his new teammates, Elias revealed that his favorite TV show is "Adventure Time," his favorite food is pepperoni pizza and his favorite subject is science. Gomez even went as far to imply that he is already very intrigued by the prospect of potentially pursuing further studies in the realms of biochemistry and engineering.

But that is for another day. Today Elias is an official member of the Texas Aggie baseball team and he's up for whatever challenge or responsibility that title may bring.

"I'm honored to be here because Texas A&M has been my favorite university for a long time," Gomez said. "I like to try new things and I think that this will be a really great experience for me."

Gomez will be on hand Friday as the Aggies host the Dartmouth Big Green in what will be the visiting team's season debut.

Junior AJ Minter will get the start on the mound at 6:30 p.m. at Blue Bell Park. Two more weekend games are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday. All three games are available to be streamed live on SEC Network Plus.

Rachel Fox delivers a pitch during a complete game win Wednesday.

Softball preps for final stretch before SEC play

By Milkyas Gashaw

▷ The Texas A&M softball team will play their final string of games this weekend before the start of SEC play as they host the Texas A&M Invitational.

Boston University (0-5) is up first in a double-header starting Friday. The Terriers do have familiarity on their side as they played the Redbirds of Illinois State last weekend, but fell 6-5. The Aggies will play them again at 5:15 p.m. Friday.

Illinois State (6-9) is the second game of two Friday, and it enters the tournament losing two of its last three, however,

one of its losses came in a 4-1 defeat at the hands of No. 1 Florida. On Saturday, the Redbirds kick off the second Aggie double-header at 3 p.m.

UTSA (12-4) will face A&M once at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, and the Roadrunners have gotten off to a solid start this season.

Their most notable victory came from Texas Tech in their second game of the season. The Roadrunners have a trio of batters in Kendall Burton, Courtney Buchman and Megan Low who are all tied for the team lead in home runs with five, one less than SEC leader and Aggie Tori Vidales. Jade Smith leads the club

with a .477 batting average.

The No. 23 Aggies (13-4) rebounded quite nicely after its loss to No. 2 Oregon, winning six straight contests. The freshman duo of shortstop Kristen Cuyos and third baseman Tori Vidales have been more than able to carry the load for Head Coach Jo Evans, with Vidales leading the SEC with six home runs.

A play to watch could be sophomore Abby Donnell — a usual relief pitcher — who went 3-for-3 from behind the plate with a double this Wednesday.

First pitch against BU begins at 3 p.m.

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS
1 It's south of Libya
5 Ballroom attire
9 Family-room fixture
14 Camera setting
15 Desperate Housewives role
16 Word often modifying "contested"
17 Soda can abbr.
18 Very well
19 Great quantity
20 "Rabbit of Seville" antagonist
22 Leaf on the cover of a Joplin rag
23 Spherical starter
24 Batman after Michael
25 Strand in St. Moritz, maybe
29 Anchor's venue
34 Subject of the musical George M!
35 Cough-syrup ants.
36 Agcy. concerned with hazmat
37 Far beyond annoyed
38 Way to go: Abbr.
39 Antecedent
40 Cost of leaving
41 Hidden bug
42 Make sense
43 Bold challenge
46 Long suits
46 Portrait on paper yuan
47 Apple array
49 Head cover of a sort
52 DVD format
57 Texting alternative

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2 Nutshell
3 Physics focus
4 Nod off
5 DreamWorks cofounder
6 Detestation
7 Musical pipes
8 Grave
9 Locomotive of 1st TV
10 Anatomical pipes
11 Small progress
12 Airline name derived from Hosea
13 River rising near Edinburgh
21 Strasburg's river
24 Bugs on wheels
25 Bookstore section
26 Aerospace warning org.
27 Second word of Gene With the Wind
28 Urban pipes
30 Fall relative
31 Out of one's thoughts
32 High-volume comment
33 Woodpile coverings
35 Small band
39 So last year
41 Rocky Mtn. state
44 Baby living on a cliff
45 Does, as a play
48 Depleted
49 Mark for removal
50 Karl's role in Patton
51 Drops from the sky
52 Bounding stride
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