



Senior pitcher Rachel Fox pitches during the March 7th game against Kentucky.

Fox on the mound

By Milkyas Gashaw

Every time Rachel Fox trots out to the circle this season, she seems poised to finish the game.

The Aggies have leaned heavily on the senior from Sugar Land, Texas this season, and Fox has not disappointed. She leads the club with a 13-6 record and holds the lead in strikeouts with 110 and 127 2/3 innings pitched.

She has pitched two complete games of eight innings in wins against Penn State and No. 13 Kentucky. More impressively, she pitched another complete game of 10 innings in a 4-3 thriller against South Carolina two weeks ago.

Fox didn't start her career in Aggieland, as most Aggie softball players do. Like fellow pitcher Katie Marks, Fox transferred from the University of Texas after two years in Austin.

She was primarily used as the team's

Longhorn transfer takes on leadership role for Aggie softball team

No. 2 pitcher behind Blaire Luna in her time with the Longhorns. Fox posted a career record of 32-4 with a 1.72 ERA, striking out 212 and walking 76 in 243 2/3 innings while holding opposing hitters to a .214 batting average. Fox said Aggie head coach Jo Evans was a reason for the transfer.

"I firmly believe that Coach Evans is the best mentor and coach in the game right now," Fox said. "She's one of those types of people that you know that she's going to fight for you and be in your corner and I really needed someone like that."

Fox is known for her positive nature on the field and can always be seen encouraging her infield at the Aggie Softball Complex. Fox said she has grown as a leader in her time in Aggieland.

"As a pitcher, you kind of have to be that leader," Fox said. "You control the entire game. You have the ball on every single play. It's important for me to know that my infielders around me know that I'm playing for them and it's not just me out there chunking the ball and trying to strike everybody out. It takes all nine of us trying to get the job done on defense."

Junior Cali Lanphear said Fox brings an enthusiastic demeanor and constant encouragement to the team.

"She just has a dominant personality and that's awesome because she's a pitcher," Lanphear said. "She's a go-getter in everything she does. I can remember when she set the tone when she was transferring in. She needed a lot of credits in order to get in here and she took around 21 hours in the summer to be able to get here and compete. She began to set the tone early with that even off of the softball field."

Evans said she has seen Fox develop as a player during her tenure in Aggieland.

"I've seen her grow by leaps and bounds," Evans said. "I think her leadership has been really good. I think she's grown into that role. She's also been able to let her guard down and just have fun. I think she will leave here a better person than when she came. I think this has been a good fit for her."

Aggie track hops to California on Easter weekend for invitational

By Seth Stroupe

▷ The Texas A&M track and field team head west this weekend to spend Good Friday in the Bay Area running in this year's Stanford Invitational.

The No. 1 Aggies are fresh off a historic performance at the Texas Relays, they claimed an impressive 10 wins and the men were named Most Outstanding Team.

"[Our performance last weekend] may be the strongest showing any team has ever had in the history of the Texas Relays," head track coach Pat Henry said. "To go over there and win the 4x100, 4x400, 4x800 and the Distance Medley on the men's side — nobody's ever done that before. On the ladies' side we looked real good too. We got beat by about a foot by Texas in the 4x100, we won the 4x200 and we're just not healthy enough to run the 4x400. Overall, the team did very, very well in Austin."

Senior sprinter Deon Lendore and junior discus thrower Shelbi Vaughn earned SEC Athlete of the Week honors after their accomplishments at the Relays. Lendore, last year's Bowerman Winner, earned his first two career victories at the Texas Relay in anchor-

ing both the men's 4x100 and 4x400 meter relay teams. Lendore helped the Aggies set a collegiate leading mark of 38.91 seconds in the sprint relay and a world leading time of 3:02.19 in the 4x400.

Vaughn dominated the competition in Austin, as she finished a full 14.5 feet ahead of second place. Her toss of 201 feet, 8 inches was the third best mark of her career. Vaughn is currently the American leader in the discus.

"Shelbi is just a great competitor," Henry said. "When she gets in the ring, she's trying to be the absolute best that she can be. You know that about Shelbi every time. She's also learning how to throw the hammer right now and she's getting better at that all the time. She's putting a lot of effort into what she's doing right now. Shelbi is one of the truly great athletes at this institution. She probably has as good a chance of making the United States Olympic team as anybody we've got."

The Texas Relays in Austin is the closest thing the Texas A&M track and field team has to a home meet during the outdoor season, and now the Aggies will follow it up with one of their farthest road trips on the schedule.

A&M sweeps Stephen F. Austin in doubleheader



Freshman Kayla Ober looks to advance to third base in the doubleheader against Stephen F. Austin Wednesday.

By Milkyas Gashaw

▷ The Texas A&M softball team took both games of the Wednesday doubleheader against Stephen F. Austin with scores of 3-2 and 6-0.

The No. 23 Aggies (27-9, 7-5 SEC) got off to a slow start in their first game, with opposing sophomore Brittany Lewis hitting a leadoff home run off Rachel Fox to start the day.

The Lumberjacks (9-24, 2-9 Southland) continued their hitting in the second inning with Lindsey Campbell hitting a double off the wall, and a hit above second baseman April Ryan from Autumn Holloway extended the Jacks lead to two.

Shortly after, an hour-long lightning delay halted the game and provided some time for the Aggies to regroup. Freshman Tori Vidales began the comeback charge for the Aggies with a solo shot in the third off pitcher Callee Guffey to cut the lead to 2-1.

The speed of Brittany Clopton forced a throwing error to first base off a bunt to bring in Erica Russell for the game-tying run. A&M completed

its comeback with a sacrifice fly from Tori Vidales to seal the victory.

The Aggies began the second game with junior Katie Marks on the mound and she was effective, allowing zero runs in a complete game effort. Freshman Kristen Cuyos got the scoring started with her sixth home run of the season to jump the Aggies out to a 1-0 lead.

A&M tallied three runs in the third inning with a solo home run from Cali Lanphear, an RBI single from Abby Donnell and a wild pitch to bring Donnell home. The shot from Lanphear was her third home run in the last three games.

A&M continued its hot hitting with a double from Russell and a hit from freshman Ashley Walters to drive her in for the fifth run to extend the Aggie lead to 5-0. Donnell continued her great day at the plate with another RBI to bring Vidales home for the final run.

The Aggies are back in action at home at 6:30 p.m. Friday to open a three-game series against Georgia Tech.



Blake Allemand added a home run to the Aggies record-breaking 13-hit third inning against Sam Houston State.

BASEBALL CONTINUED

Tom leads the team in RBIs (30), batting average (.387) and has two home runs this year. He is also 10-for-10 when stealing bases.

Three Aggie hitters have more than 25 RBIs this season, while five others have more than 15. Mitchell Nau leads the team in RBIs (27), while Logan Taylor and Ronnie Gideon both have six home runs this year. Additionally, every Aggie in the lineup has hit at least one home run. Nick Banks has put on a hitting clinic lately, batting .435 with 20 RBIs.

On Thursday, Grayson Long will start for the Aggies. Long is 5-0 with a 2.50 ERA and 50 strikeouts. Kentucky will send Zack Brown to the mound. First pitch is scheduled for 7:05 p.m.

Friday night, the Aggies (28-2, 7-2 SEC) will send out Kyle Simonds for his second straight start. Simonds made his first career start last weekend against Missouri, and had an impressive debut, working five innings and allowing only three hits. He will face Kentucky's Dustin Beggs. Game time is set for 7:05 p.m.

Saturday, Matt Kent will get the nod for A&M. Kent has a 2.78 ERA with a 6-0 record. Kentucky will give Kyle Cody the start in the 1:05 p.m. game.

The Aggies' combined record away from Olsen is 6-1 this season. This is the first time the Aggie baseball program will travel to Lexington since becoming a member of the SEC in 2012.