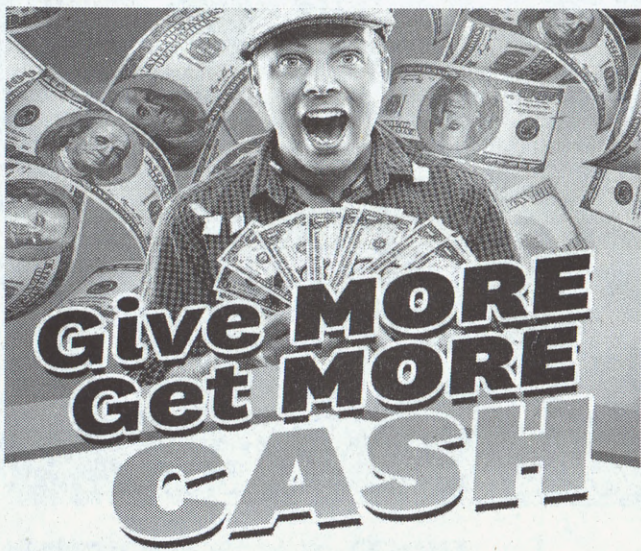




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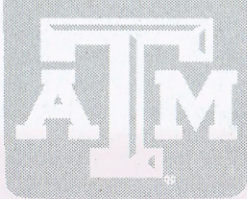
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## A&M softball to face Lamar after weekend loss

Senior Rachel Fox projected to take the mound

By Milkyas Gashaw

After a 2-1 loss over the weekend, the Texas A&M softball team lines up for a midweek visit from Lamar on Wednesday at the Aggie Softball Complex.

The No. 23 Aggies (32-12, 8-7 SEC) fell 2-1 in their previous series against No. 6 Auburn. The pitching was inconsistent all weekend, but a bright spot in the circle was freshman Kayla Ober, who took over on Friday after Auburn blasted senior Rachel Fox for seven runs in three innings.

Head coach Jo Evans praised Ober and her ability to come into a tough situation and perform well.

"I thought she was terrific," Evans said. "She's effective because she keeps the ball down and she's not afraid to throw strikes to hitters. I'm pleased with what I saw, it was exactly what I anticipated. I thought she'd be effective against Auburn and she went out and did a good job. We always talk about being ready for your opportunities and after what she did tonight ... we know we can put her out there. She wasn't intimidated at all by them and she made good plays defensively."

The Cardinals (21-19, 12-6 Southland) got off to a rocky start to their season, losing eight of their first 11 games. They have since begun to turn their season around by winning seven of their next eight.

The Cardinals are led on the circle by Laura Napoli, who leads the team with 17 complete games and 15 wins.



The No. 2 starter for Lamar is Lauren Dannelley, who has only pitched a total of 74 innings this season compared to Napoli's 154.

Lamar sports a balanced offense, with six of its players driving in at least 20 runs this season. Junior Stephanie Meeuwse leads the club with a .381 batting average and senior Casey Cromwell is not too far behind with a .356 average.

The Aggies are projected to send senior Rachel Fox to the circle on Wednesday. Fox has pitched admirably this season with an 18-9 record and a team-high 17 complete games. Junior Katie Marks has been an excellent complement to Fox, posting an 11-1 record of her own.

First pitch is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.



Senior Rachel Fox (right) will pitch Wednesday in a bid for her 19th win.

### BASEBALL CONTINUED

State.

Logan Taylor has been a home run hitting machine for the Aggies. During the series against Mississippi State, Taylor had two home runs, and now has eight on the season.

The Aggie pitching staff is the best in the country in team ERA (2.07). They feature a few aces and a strong bullpen behind them. Wednesday evening, Turner Larkins will likely get the nod for A&M on the mound.

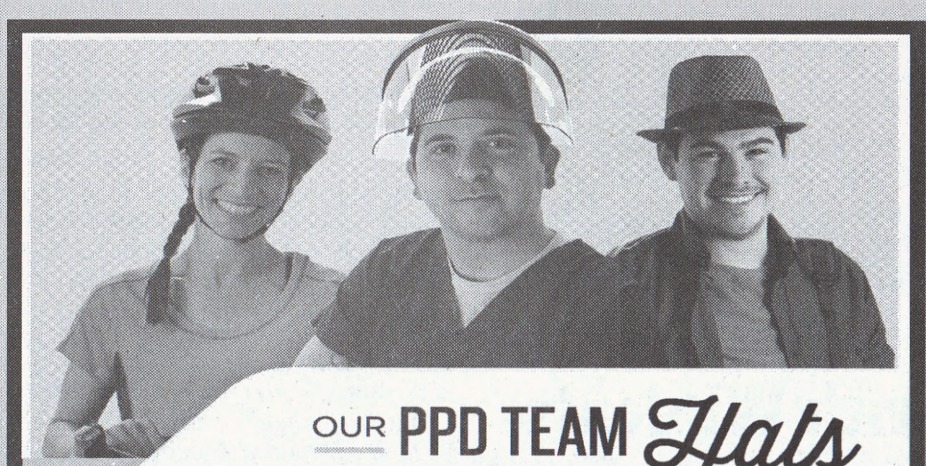
In his last start, Larkins worked 4 1/3 innings, allowing three earned runs on five hits last Tuesday against Rice. Larkins has a 3.43 ERA this year and boasts a 4-1 record in his nine starts on the year.

A&M has never lost to the Wildcats in three all-time meetings. In their last meeting in 2014, the Aggies won 20-2. A&M is 25-2 within the friendly confines of Olsen Field this year, while the Wildcats are 4-14 when playing on the road. First pitch is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.



Tanner Garza—THE BATTALION

The Aggies line up for the National Anthem against Rice April 7. First pitch against Abilene Christian will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Olsen Field.



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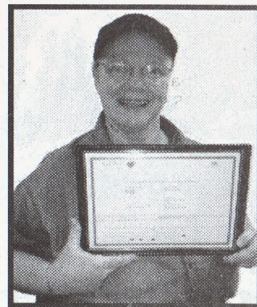
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Thank you, PJ, for all your hard work and dedication to the the Maintenance Team!

**BATT**

Mark Doré, Editor in Chief

**THE BATTALION** is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Offices are in Suite 1400 of the Memorial Student Center.

News: *The Battalion* news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in Student Media, a unit of the Division of Student Affairs. Newsroom phone: 979-845-3315; E-mail: [editor@thebatt.com](mailto:editor@thebatt.com); website: <http://www.thebatt.com>.

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