



2006 Big 12 Softball Championship ASA Hall of Fame Stadium Oklahoma City, Okla. ~ May 11

Game 7 -- #4 Texas A&M 5, #1 Texas 0

Designated hitter Jami Lobpries hit the first grand slam surrendered by Texas' Cat Osterman in her career to lead No. 4 seed Texas A&M (33-16) to a 5-0 shutout over No. 1 seed Texas (49-7). Leftfielder Ronda Smith started the A&M scoring with a solo shot in the fifth as the Longhorns were eliminated from the championship.

Lobpries' homer in the sixth was only her fourth of the season while Smith hit just her third. Pitcher Megan Gibson started the A&M sixth with a walk. With one out, Holly Ridley reached on a fielder's choice as Gibson advanced to second on a throwing error. Rocky Spencer then singled to right field to load the bases for Lobpries.

Gibson (16-4) gave up only four hits to Texas while striking out one with no walks. Osterman (32-2) pitched 5.1 innings with four hits, five earned runs, 12 strikeouts and three walks. Meagan Denney came in for the last 1.2 innings and surrendered a hit.

The runs were the first given up by Osterman in her four years of Big 12 Championship play. The last time she surrendered five runs in a game was in 2005 at Texas A&M.

The Aggies advance to play the loser of the Missouri vs. Kansas game Friday at 1:30 p.m. This is the earliest a top seed (0-2) has been eliminated in Big 12 tourney play. The previous two times were in Game 11 in 1999 (Texas Tech def. Oklahoma) and 2005 (Oklahoma def. Texas A&M).

Texas A&M Quotes

Coach Jo Evans

"We worked so hard during the last week on pressure situations and making the plays. I really felt good in the Oklahoma game and I thought they were ready to go. I was really surprised how it went. Defensively, we were unable to make the plays in that game. Afterwards I told them, 'Listen, we can get this done and beat Texas'."

"This is the best Megan has done, she was remarkable. She was ahead of hitters all day. This season whenever we have scored a bunch of runs in an inning she has stayed sharp through the rest of the game and has gotten the job done. We stuck to our game plan facing Osterman today. We made her work and made her throw a lot of pitches allowing us to get our timing down."

Designated Hitter Jami Lobpries

"I knew it was out, I was just hoping that it was going to stay fair. It shocked me at first. It is the farthest I have hit a ball, ever. A home run never crossed my mind, but I knew that we were up 1-0 and it would be huge to get another run. I was thinking get a hit, just put the ball in play, maybe get a sacrifice fly, we could get another run in."

Texas Quotes

Coach Connie Clark

"It was a disappointing loss, but you have to credit A&M. Yesterday and today we didn't bring what we needed to bring, unfortunately. Cat struggled a little bit. She missed some spots and seemed a little distracted. She has those outings every once in a while, but not often. I know she's disappointed but I just had to remind her we've done a lot of good things this year."