

# LONE STAR CONFERENCE SOFTBALL WEEKLY RELEASE | MARCH 10, 2015

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## LSC SOFTBALL

Mother Nature has limited the start of Lone Star Conference action with 18 league games being cancelled in the past two weeks.

West Texas A&M and Texas Woman's have started league play undefeated at 4-0 and 2-0, respectively.

This week's conference match-ups include West Texas A&M at Angelo State, Texas Woman's at Midwestern State, Texas A&M-Kingsville at Cameron, and Eastern New Mexico at Texas A&M-Commerce.

LSC teams are playing a single round-robin schedule with a four games against each league opponent. The four-game series shall consist of a doubleheader Friday and a doubleheader Saturday.

The overall LSC Champion will be the team(s) with the best winning percentage in regular-season conference games, while the winner of the postseason championship will be recognized as LSC Tournament Champion and receive the league's automatic qualification into NCAA postseason. The single-elimination championship will be played May 1-2, at the No. 1 seed.

LSC softball teams are 112-58 overall this season. In the NCAA South Central Region, the group is currently 34-18 combined versus Heartland Conference teams and 36-11 against the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

## **PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

#### HITTER

## Nicole Nordie, Texas Woman's University, SO, UT, Sanger, Texas, Sanger HS

Nordie single-handedly helped the Pioneers to a 3-0 record with a team-best .750 batting average, 1.833 slugging percentage, .769 on base percentage, 7 runs, 10 RBI and 4 home runs. She tied the Lone Star Conference record with three home runs in a game in an 8-3 win over Southwestern Oklahoma State on March 3 and then hit a walk-off grand slam in the 10th inning against Tarleton State in an 11-7 win on March 8. Nordie then started in the circle in the second game of the doubleheader against TSU and tossed four shutout innings while allowing just one hit in a 10-2 run-rule win in five innings. She currently has a six-game hit streak and ranked 4th in LSC in batting average (.492) and tied for 2nd in hits (29) and tied for 6th in home runs (6).

#### PITCHER

Rita Hokianga, West Texas A&M University, SR, Pitcher, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, Hukarere Girls College Hokianga continued to dominate in the circle for the #1 Lady Buffs this past weekend as the senior lefty tossed a pair of gems against rival Midwestern State to post a 1.40 ERA with two complete game wins as she allowed just five hits and two runs in her 10.0 innings of work with 10 strikeouts and one walk. The Hawke's Bay, New Zealand native was almost un-hittable on Friday night in the series opener as the senior carried a perfect game into the top of the fifth inning before a leadoff solo homerun ended her perfect night, but Hokianga responded to get three straight outs to pick up the win.

## **OTHER TOP PERFORMERS**

Kaisha Dacosin, West Texas A&M University, had a breakout weekend for the top ranked Lady Buffs as the senior infielder hit .636 at the dish with seven hits in 11 at-bats including a pair of homers to drive in 11 RBI for an incredible slugging percentage of 1.182 as WT used four run-rule victories to sweep past rival Midwestern State at Schaeffer Park in Canyon. The Kanoehe, Hawaii native had her best outing on Saturday afternoon as Dacosin went 2-for-3 at the plate with a three run homerun to drive in 4 RBI in a 9-1 run-rule victory as the Lady Buffs went a perfect 4-0 in Lone Star Conference play to begin the defense of their league title.

Lauren Renneker, Cameron University, has homered five times in her last four games with three of those coming in a doubleheader against Newman last Tuesday. In her last two at-bats in game one she hit a solo homer in the fourth and a two run blast to run-rule the Jets in the fifth. During game two, Renneker was hitby a pitch in the first inning before hitting another two run homer in the second inning and in her final at-bat she was intentionally walked. She would bat .600 with a .714 on base percentage, and had a 2.400 slugging percentage against the Jets. Presently, she is tied with two of her CU teammates for the LSC high in homers this season.

Amanda Martinez, Eastern New Mexico University, turned in a stellar series against sixth-ranked Angelo State, with a .600 batting average, a double and three runs batted in. She hit safely in all four games and batted six-for-seven with two runs scored and two RBIs over the last two. In Eastern's win over the Rambelles, she batted three-for-four with a RBI and made a homerun saving catch in centerfield.

Rachael Longoria, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, paced Texas A&M-Kingsville at the plate by going 4-for-7 in two games against Texas A&M-Commerce. She hit her first collegiate home run in the first contest. Longoria followed with a 3-for-4 performance in the second game. Her .571 on-base and 1.143 slugging percentages were also the highest by a Javelina. Serving behind the plate, she made 14 putouts and recorded three assists while throwing out two Lions trying to steal.

Megan Granado, Angelo State University, hit .500 last week at the Rambelles went 5-1 last week. The senior was tops on the team with 10 hits and six RBIs. She recorded two doubles and two home runs with a team-high .900 slugging percentage. The Lubbock native also drew three walks and stole a base.

Tori Bice, Texas Woman's University, picked up two of the Pioneers' three wins last week. She appeared in all three games and posted a 1.91 ERA while holding the batters to a .103 average. Bice led the team with five strikeouts in 11.0 innings. On the season she has a team-best six wins and 33 strikeouts in 62.1 innings. Bice is also batting .283 on offense with 5 doubles, 2 home runs and 9 RBI.

# **STANDINGS**

School	LSC	Overall	Streak
West Texas A&M	4-0	17-2	W7
Texas Woman's	2-0	10-10	W3
Angelo State	5-1	18-2	W1
Texas A&M-Commerce	1-1	12-8	L1
Eastern New Mexico	1-3	13-7	L1
Texas A&M-Kingsville	1-3	7-8	L1
Cameron	0-0	13-2	W6
Midwestern State	0-4	13-8	L4
Tarleton State	0-2	9-11	L8

## **SCHEDULE**

## Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Tarleton State at Texas A&M International, 1 p.m. Tarleton State at Texas A&M International, 3 p.m. St. Mary's at Angelo State, 3 p.m. Cameron at Texas A&M-Commerce, 3 p.m. St. Mary's at Angelo State, 5:30 p.m. Cameron at Texas A&M-Commerce, 5 p.m.

## Friday, March 13, 2015

- \*Texas A&M-Kingsville at Cameron, 1 p.m.
- \*Texas A&M-Kingsville at Cameron, 3 p.m.
- \*Eastern New Mexico at Texas A&M-Commerce, 4 p.m.
- \*Texas Woman's at Midwestern State, 5 p.m.
- \*West Texas A&M at Angelo State, 5 p.m.
- \*Eastern New Mexico at Texas A&M-Commerce, 6 p.m.
- \*Texas Woman's at Midwestern State, 7 p.m.
- \*West Texas A&M at Angelo State, 7:30 p.m.

## Saturday, March 14, 2015

- \*Texas A&M-Kingsville at Cameron, 12 p.m.
- Texas-Permian Basin at Tarleton State, 1 p.m.
- \*Eastern New Mexico at Texas A&M-Commerce, 1 p.m.
- \*Texas Woman's at Midwestern State, 1 p.m.
- \*West Texas A&M at Angelo State, 1 p.m.
- \*Texas A&M-Kingsville at Cameron, 2 p.m.
- \*West Texas A&M at Angelo State, 3:30 p.m. Texas-Permian Basin at Tarleton State, 3 p.m.
- \*Texas Woman's at Midwestern State, 3 p.m.
- \*Eastern New Mexico at Texas A&M-Commerce, 3 p.m.

All times are CST; \*denotes LSC game

## LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Complete results at lonestarconference.org.

# **WEEKLY AWARDS**

Pitcher

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hitter</u>
F-10	Katelyn Conlee, Tarleton State
F-17	Renee Erwin, West Texas A&M
F-24	Katy Vandewater, Midwestern State
M-3	Kyra Sirag, Eastern New Mexico
M-10	Nicole Nordie, Texas Woman's

Date	TILCHEI
F-10	Brandy Marlett, Angelo State
F-17	Rita Hokianga, West Texas A&M
F-24	Kelsey Watson, Cameron
M-3	Kenedy Urbany, Angelo State
M-10	Rita Hokianga, West Texas A&M (2)

Vanessa Ramirez, Eastern New Mexico University, made three appearances against sixth-ranked Angelo State and allowed just three runs over six innings. In the third game of the series, she blanked the Rambelles on two hits over 2.2 innings to notch her second save of the season. The victory marked the first time ENMU posted a home win over ASU since the 2006 season finale.

## NOTES (Submitted by LSC SID's)

#### **Angelo State**

The Rambelles are 18-2 on the year and 4-1 in the Lone Star Conference ... ASU went 5-1 last week as Megan Granado led the way with a .500 average with 10 hits ... The senior recorded a team-high six RBIs while hitting two doubles and two home runs ... The Rambelles pitching staff is tops in the LSC in ERA (1.25), shutouts (7), runs allowed (28), strikeouts (100) and opponent batting average (.213) ... Micherie Koria is the conference leader with eight sacrifice hits and 20 stolen bases ... Brandy Marlett (1.11) and Kenedy Urbany (1.44) are No. 1 and No. 2 in the LSC ... Marlett also leads the conference with 67 strikeouts ... ASU will host No. 5 St. Mary's on Wednesday at Mayer Field and No. 1 West Texas A&M on Friday and Saturday.

#### Cameron

Cameron went 2-0 last week with a doubleheader win in Lawton against Newman. The Aggies took game one in five innings, 12-4, and took the nightcap 9-3. Through 15 games, CU has 33 total home runs which is fourth best in the nation, and they have the second highest slugging percentage (.719). Additionally, the Aggies have the fourth best batting average (.395) in NCAA division II softball through Monday's statistical release. Paige Daino, Tara Martini, and Lauren Renneker all are tied for the LSC lead in homers and they are tied for fifth in the nation; with 29 RBI Daino is sixth nationally and second in the LSC. Cameron will face Texas A&M-Commerce in a non-conference match up on Wednesday before hosting Texas A&M-Kingsvile in Lawton this coming Friday and Saturday.

## **Eastern New Mexico**

The Eastern New Mexico University softball team snapped a six-game skid against sixth-ranked Angelo State, with their first win in the head-to-head series since March 16, 2013. The Rambelles claimed the other three games of the hard fought series, but Eastern picked up its first home win over ASU since the 2006 season finale. ENMU held a slim .352-.350 edge at the plate over the four games with Amanda Martinez leading the way with a .600 batting average. She also made a leaping catch in the victory, to take away a two-run homer. Audrey Velasquez had a three-run homer in the victory. Vanessa Ramirez paced the pitching staff with a 3.50 earned run average and picked up her second save of the season. Angelo State swept the opening day of the series by scores of 6-3 and 6-4. Eastern picked up a 5-2 win in the third contest, but the Rambelles came back for a 12-3 win in the finale. This weekend, the Zias will visit Texas A&M-Commerce.

## Midwestern State

Midwestern State suffered a four-game sweep at West Texas A&M to fall to 13-8 on the season and 0-4 in Lone Star Conference play... The Mustangs had won 10 consecutive games heading into weekend play... MSU accounted for five runs dropping all four games via the rule as three of the five runs were scored on solo home runs... Senior shortstop Katy Vandewater paced the MSU attack going 3-for-10 (.300) at the plate hitting her team-best eighth home run of the season... Vandewater's home run moved her into a tie for fourth place on MSU's all-time homer list with Mallory Mooney (2009-12) and Rachael Jackson (2004-06) with 28... Junior Katelyn Vinson struck for her 41st career home run in the series finale... Senior third baseman Kelley Shaefer hit her first home run of the season to break up a perfect bid in the fifth inning of Game 1 on Friday... The homer was Schaefer's 32nd career shot...

## **Tarleton State**

0-2 last week.

## Texas A&M-Commerce

1-1 last week.

## Texas A&M-Kingsville

Texas A&M-Kingsville went 1-1 this week against Lone Star Conference foe Texas A&M-Commerce. The Lions won game one 7-2 but the Javelinas took the second contest 7-6 as they won on a walk-off two RBI single by Haley Boyeet to cap off a five run seventh. Sunday's doubleheader was canceled because of rain. Rachael Longoria led the Javelinas with a .571 batting average, .571 on-base percentage, 1.143 slugging percentage, four hits and two runs. She hit her first collegiate home run in the first game versus the Lions and followed with a 3-for-4 performance in game two. Five other Blue and Gold batters had two hits on the day as well. In the circle, Karri Smith started and completed her seventh game of the season. She struck out five but allowed seven runs, three of them earned, on eight hits. Carlie Clark went 6.2 innings in her start with eight strikeouts. Bella Rosas earned the win, recording the final out of the top of the seventh as she struck out A&M-C's top hitter Luci Ponce. This week the Javelinas then travel to take on Cameron in a four-game series on Friday and Saturday.

## **Texas Woman's**

The TWU softball team improved to 10-10 on the season with three straight wins including a doubleheader sweep against Tarleton State. The Pioneers defeated Southwestern Oklahoma State, 8-3, on Mar. 3 before sweeping TSU, 11-7 (10) and 10-2 (5), on Mar. 9. Sophomore Nicole Nordie single-handedly helped TWU to 3-0 record with a team-best .750 batting average, 1.833 slugging percentage, .769 on base percentage, 7 runs, 10 RBI and 4 home runs. She tied the Lone Star Conference record with three home runs in a game in



LSC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP MAY 1-2 | NO. 1 SEED



an 8-3 win over Southwestern Oklahoma State on Mar. 3 and then hit a walk-off grand slam in the 10th inning against Tarleton State in a 11-7 win on Mar. 8. Nordie then started in the circle in the second game of the doubleheader against TSU and tossed four shutout innings while allowing just one hit in a 10-2 run-rule win in five innings. She currently has a six-game hit streak and ranked 4th in LSC in batting average (.492) and tied for 2nd in hits (29) and tied for 6th in home runs (6). Senior Kendra Sancet batted .500 with 2 home runs and 6 RBI while junior Tealey Farquhar hit .636 and junior Laura Mabary batted .545. Sophomore Tori Bice picked up two of the Pioneers' three wins last week. She appeared in all three games and posted a 1.91 ERA while holding the batters to a .103 average. Bice led the team with five strikeouts in 11.0 innings. On the season she has a team-best six wins and 33 strikeouts in 62.1 innings. Bice is also batting .283 on offense with 5 doubles, 2 home runs and 9 RBI.

## West Texas A&M

The top ranked Lady Buffs of West Texas A&M began the defense of their Lone Star Conference championship in style this past weekend as they hit .511 as a team to outscore the rival Mustangs of Midwestern State, 47-5 in four run-rule wins at Schaeffer Park in Canyon. WT was led at the plate by Kaisha Dacosin who hit .636 with two home runs and 11 RBI while junior shortstop Stacey Ramirez hit .625 on the weekend. In the circle, Rita Hokianga went a perfect 2-0 with a pair of complete game wins to post an ERA of 1.40. The Lady Buffs return to Lone Star Conference play this weekend as they head to San Angelo, Texas for a four-game series against the rival #6 Belles of Angelo State starting on Friday night with doubleheader action at Mayer Field followed by the final two games on Saturday starting at 1 p.m.