

LEADING OFF

WHAT'S HOT
AND
HAPPENING
IN AGGIELAND

► OUTSIDE THE LINES

Alia Atkinson is a typical freshman who is bubbly and excited about being an Aggie. When it comes to swimming, however, Alia is calm and focused, fueled by her experiences as a 2004 Olympian. Much like her historic bobsledding countrymen, Alia is a proud Jamaican who definitely "feels the rhythm" when she jumps into the pool.

Anna Lubinsky: If I were vacationing in Jamaica where must I go?

Alia Atkinson: *Definitely to Ocho Rios. It is a gorgeous place of waterfalls.*

AL: What is your favorite A&M tradition?

AA: *The fight song. I absolutely love it, and I was taught the first day I got here about the rivalry between A&M and Texas.*

AL: Do you have any hobbies?

AA: *I like to read, write and doodle a little.*

AL: What is a favorite dish your mom used to make?

AA: *Sprite, a Jamaican fish, mixed with vegetables.*



PHOTO: texas a&m media relations

AL: What was the last song that played on your iPod?

AA: *"I'm Waiting," by All-American Rejects.*

AL: Which is worse in a race: water up the nose or water in your mouth?

AA: *I would have to say water in your mouth, because you are most likely to choke.*

AL: What is the best present you have ever received?

AA: *My father gave me an iPod with*

"Alia the Rising Star" inscribed on the back, which I carry with me to all our meets.

AL: Reggae or rap?

AA: *Reggae. I am biased. I like how Bob Marley just tells it like it is.*

AL: What is the weirdest thing about Texas?

AA: *(Radio) stations make a remix or techno version out of every song played on the radio, and that it is true what people say about everything*

► NUMBERS GAME

Times in 22 seasons that Gary Blair has coached a team to 20 wins, including the last two seasons at Texas A&M.

16

Players on the softball team hitting at least .300 through the first 10 games. Megan Gibson led the way with a .571 average.

6

Tennis standout Nicki Mechem set a school record by tallying her 101st career doubles win on Feb. 18. Earlier this season, Mechem also captured the school's career singles win record (96).

Top-ranked teams defeated by A&M on Feb. 11. Softball edged first-ranked Arizona, 3-2, while baseball posted a 4-2 decision over No. 1 Rice.

2

Razor-thin margin of victory for the women's swimming team in the Big 12 Championships.

1

► BIG DAYS

Warm air usually accompanies the month of March in Texas...get out and enjoy it!

3.2-4.07, Softball in Texas A&M Invitational
— Second tournament hosted by A&M this spring, with games against Illinois, Syracuse and McNeese.
3.2-5.07, Baseball in Dominoes Aggie Classic
— Aggies get two games against defending national champion Oregon State (Friday and Monday).

3.3.07, Men's basketball vs. Missouri
— Regular season finale that will certainly have Big 12 Tournament seeding implications.

3.9-11.07, Baseball vs. Florida
— Three game set against traditional SEC power.

3.9-11.07, Women's golf hosts "Mo" Morial
— Aggies will try to defend their team and individual titles at difficult Traditions Club in Bryan.



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amenities

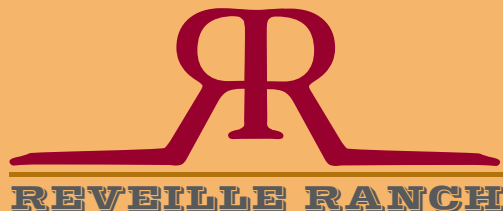
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