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**BAY CITY'S ELCIA OLIVO** signs an NCAA Letter of Intent to play softball for Southern Arkansas University while her parents and coaches look on.

# Olivo joins Southern Arkansas

## TRIBUNE STAFF REPORTS

**BAY CITY** – Elcia Olivo signed an NCAA National Letter of Intent to play softball at Div. II Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark. last Thursday evening.

Olivo was a Ladycat softball player for two years and has played for the Texas Challengers select softball team for the past eight years.

She was recruited by Columbia University, Boston University and Schreiner University before settling with SAU.

“When I took my visit to SAU, I found coach (Jenifer) Pagni and her staff very professional. I spent the afternoon with the players on the team and they made me feel very welcome,” said Olivo.

“I liked the fact that Magnolia is involved with SAU in all areas of the university.”

Olivo started for the Ladycats as a freshman under head softball coach Jesse Stone.

She earned an all-district honorable mention as a second baseman and was on the All-Academic team.

As a sophomore, she earned

second-team all-district honors as a first-baseman and was on the All-Academic team.

During her junior year, she was selected for the Who’s Who Among American High School Students Sports Edition.

During the past eight year with the Challengers, Olivo has played in seven National tournaments and traveled to six states.

Olivo will participate in the Friendship International Tournament in California in the summer of 2005.

The Challengers will play teams from Japan, Korea,

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# ...Olivo

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Mexico, Australia and other countries.

SAU's Lady Muleriders, headed by Pagani, were 23-17 last year and went 13-10 in Gulf South Conference-West Division.

"I would like to thank several people that have assisted me in getting as far as I have. First, thanks to all of my coaches throughout the years. Thanks to my parents for always being there and supporting me every step of the way," said Olivo.

"Thanks to coach Joe Garcia and Missy, they have been with it the longest...both of them work so hard helping the softball team."