

Sports

THE BATTALION

Friday, March 8, 2002

Aggies host Southern Miss

By Micala Proesch
THE BATTALION

The No. 21 Texas A&M softball team is on a tear, winning 15 of its last 16 games and demolishing Stephen F. Austin, 8-0 and 6-1, in a doubleheader on Wednesday.

The Aggies hope to extend their current winning streak and defend their home turf tonight as they host Southern Mississippi in a doubleheader at 4 p.m.

The Aggies (18-4) are undefeated at home where head coach Jo Evans said the team feels more comfortable playing.

"We always enjoy playing at home and not having to travel," Evans said. "We were disappointed that we didn't get to play more games in the tournament here last weekend."

Despite the cancellation of most of last weekend's Verizon Aggie Invitational II, the Aggies won both games they played, including a come-from-behind upset against University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

The win helped the Aggies in the national rankings, moving up from No. 23 to No. 21.

In Wednesday's doubleheader, the Aggies jumped out early in the first game, ripping SFA pitcher Traci Moore (2-8), who gave up seven earned runs in 5 1/3 innings. Senior second baseman Lisa Klam pounded her first homerun of the season and senior first baseman Kelly Ferguson added two hits to A&M's offensive production.

Sophomore pitcher Jessica Slataper (9-2) threw the game for the Aggies, allowing only one hit and striking out 10 in the opener.

The offensive production lagged in game two as SFA held a 1-0 lead going into the fifth inning. Freshman phenom Adrian Gregory, the Aggies' right fielder, came through for the Aggies with a two-run double, which led to a six-run inning for A&M.



A&M freshman infielder **Jana James** makes it into third base ahead of the throw against the Boston College Eagles on Feb. 16 at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Lindsey Wilhelmson (4-1) recorded the victory, as the Aggies held off the Ladyjacks, whose record fell to 4-23 and extended their losing streak to 11 games.

"Offensively, we hit the ball well the first game, but not so well in the second game," Evans said. "However,

we are continuing to play well and find ways to win games."

Southern Miss (9-9) rides into Aggeland having beaten formidable opponents in Mississippi State, Missouri and Long Beach State.

First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m. at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Men's tennis starts spring break with O

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The No. 25 Texas A&M men's tennis team will begin its Big 12 Conference schedule Saturday when the Oklahoma Sooners visit the Varsity Tennis Center for a 1 p.m. matchup.

The Aggies (9-2) will enter the match on the heels of a solid performance against the No. 21 Louisiana State University Tigers (3-4) on Wednesday.

Despite losing the doubles point to the Tigers, the Aggies rebounded with victories in the first three singles matches. LSU pulled the match to 3-2 when Bryan Fisher defeated A&M freshman Lester Cook on court No. 3. However A&M sophomore Khaled El Dorry won his eighth-straight match clinching the fourth and final point to decide the contest.

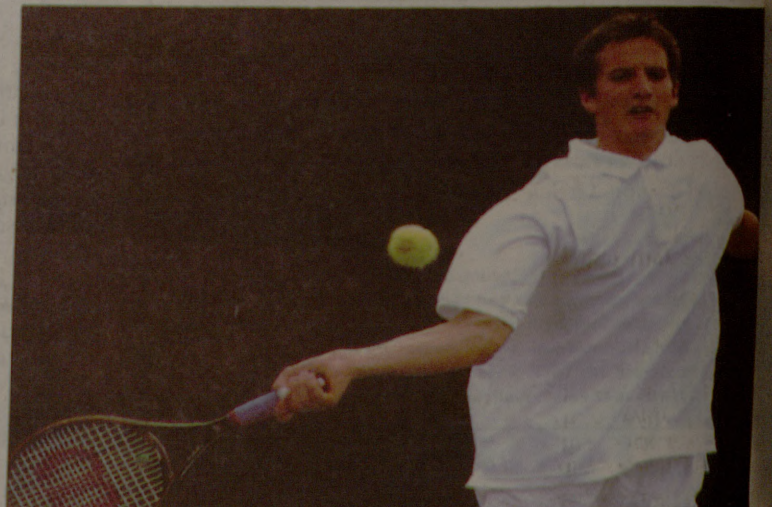
"Texas A&M is definitely a quality opponent," said LSU head coach Jeff Brown. "It's always a huge

rivalry whenever we play them. We had some extra motivation because they beat us last year. I think we played a great point, but a couple of guys gelled for us in singles."

Also scoring wins in singles competition for the Aggies was senior Ryan Newport, senior Kaleb and freshman Ante Matijevic. Senior Jarin Skube's match was postponed after El Dorry clinched the match for A&M.

"We have a young team," A&M head coach Tim Canaway said. "We battled back after losing the doubles point (at LSU) was important for us. It is a tough match to play, and I think our guys did it well."

The Sooners will be entering on Friday for a matchup in against No. 14 University of before traveling to College Sta face the Aggies on Saturday.



A&M freshman **Ante Matijevic** hits a forehand against the Auburn University on Feb. 17 at the Varsity Tennis Center.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Red Raiders end A&M's season

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Andy Ellis scored 27 points and Andre Emmett added 24 as Texas Tech beat Texas A&M 80-71 on Thursday in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament.

Texas Tech (22-7) led 68-66 when Emmett, a first-team All-Big 12 selection, hit two field goals and one free throw and blocked an Aggie shot to put the Red Raiders on top, 73-66. After another Texas A&M

miss, Kasib Powell put the stick-back for a 75-68 lead. Then with 31 seconds left, Nick Valdez hit two free throws to make it 77-68.

In Friday's quarterfinals, the Red Raiders will face No. 12 Oklahoma State, which they split with in regular season, winning 24 at home and losing two on the road.

A&M (9-22) had a 10-0 lead at 39-38 on Jesse King's 10-footer, then Ellis drove in two free throws and led a 9-0 run that put the Raiders in command.

The lead reached 11-0 as junior guard Bernard King hit two 3-pointers and two free throws to make it 53-30.

Bernard King finished with 26 points for the Aggies. Jesse King chipped in 11



KING



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