

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Football opens spring practice

The Texas A&M football team will begin its 15-day spring drill schedule today at 4 p.m.

The Aggies finished last season with an 8-4 record and wrapped up the year with a 28-9 win over TCU in the Galleryfurniture.com Bowl in Houston.

A&M returns 17 starters, including 10 on offense. The lone loss on offense is graduating senior center Seth McKinney, who started 50 games for the Aggies at center. Senior wide receiver Bethel Johnson will return for the spring after suffering a ruptured spleen in the second game of the season and missed the remainder of the season.

A&M will hold the Maroon & White Game Saturday, April 6 at 1:30 p.m.

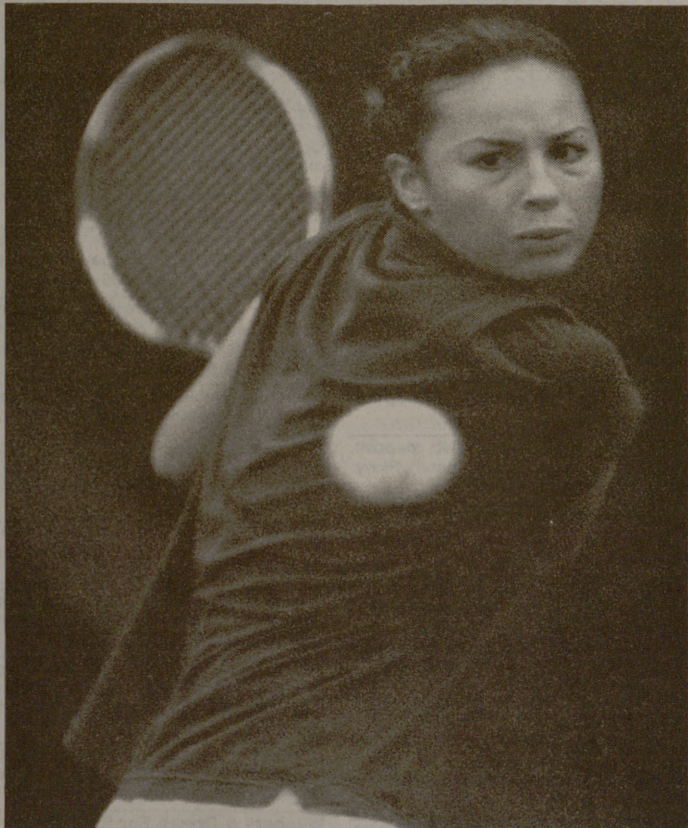
Four qualify for NCAA finals

Three-time Big 12 champion senior Meghan Zack turned in a second-place finish on the three-meter springboard and a sixth-place finish on the platform to capture the No. 2 qualifying spot in the 2002 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships.

In addition to Zack, sophomore Katie Williams and junior Callie Petroff also earned a spot in the NCAA Championships after placing

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Aggies blow past Hurricanes, 4-1 A&M calms Miami's storm in Bryan



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore Jessica Roland recorded wins in singles and doubles Sunday during the Aggies' 4-1 win over Miami.

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

The No. 24 Aggies made the Miami Hurricanes look like an afternoon shower on Sunday, knocking off the "Canes 4-1 in front of 336 fans at the Bryan Indoor Tennis Center.

The Aggies had not played since beating Nebraska the previous Sunday and showed no signs of rust as they jumped to an early 1-0 lead after sweeping the doubles matches.

A&M is impressive this season in doubles and are 12-0 when winning the doubles point.

No. 14 sophomore Jessica Roland and junior Ashley Hedberg led the way in doubles, winning easily against Igna de Villiers and Sara Robbins, 8-4. No. 59 seniors Leah Killen and Martina Nedorostova also won against Marcy Hora and Staci Stevens, 8-1.

"We need to improve our doubles," said Miami head coach Paige Yaroshuk. "We were simply outplayed by A&M."

Roland fell out of the rankings

this week after losing a tough match in Nebraska last weekend but bounced back on Sunday to knock off No. 53 Mari Toro of Miami in straight sets 7-5, 6-4.

"I thought I played well," Roland said. "I was more aggressive today, which is one of my goals for the season."

"I was very impressed with our play today. Our intensity level was high and we fought hard in every match."

— Bobby Kleinecke
A&M women's tennis coach

"It's nice to play well and get a solid win, I was disappointed last week to lose in Nebraska, because I thought I played well but still came away with the loss."

Senior Olivia Karlikova had her nine-game winning streak

snapped on Sunday by Miami's Staci Stevens who won the match 6-4, 6-2 on court No. 2.

"I didn't think about the streak going into the match," Karlikova said. "You never want to lose any match. [Stevens] was a great player and just outplayed me today."

"I was extremely proud of [Karlikova's] effort," said A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke. "Stevens is a great player and it was a great matchup, we just didn't come up with the right points at the right time."

Senior Majorie Terburgh and Ashley Hedberg each won their match for the A&M victory, 4-1.

"This was a very hard-fought team win for us today," Kleinecke said. "I was very impressed with our play today. Our intensity level was high and we fought hard in every match. It was nice to get the win indoors because last time we played here our intensity wasn't as high as it was today."

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McGhee carries Oklahoma into Sweet 16

DALLAS (AP) — Had Aaron McGhee stayed at Cincinnati, he would be out of the NCAA tournament — and Oklahoma might not be playing next weekend, either.

McGhee left the Bearcats after one season fearing he would not get enough playing time. He latched on with the Sooners two years ago and his career has been on the rise ever since.

The bulky forward with the soft out-

side touch scored 25 points Sunday, leading Oklahoma past Xavier 78-65 and sending the Sooners to the Midwest Regional semifinals.

OU (29-4) won its 10th straight, and 14th of 15, proving again why it felt it deserved a No. 1 seed, instead of a 2. The one they likely lost out on went to McGhee's old team, which was eliminated Sunday by UCLA.

McGhee took no satisfaction in the

turnabout. His joy was strictly about getting the Sooners one step closer to a national championship, and a giant leap from the memory of their first-round wipeout last season, his first at OU.

"I just wanted to go out and have one of my best games," McGhee said. "It was because this is the farthest I've advanced in the NCAA tournament."

The Sooners are the fourth Big 12 team among the 16 playing next week-

end. They will play Arizona (24-9) in San Jose, Calif., on Thursday.

McGhee, who scored 26 points in the first round, mostly inside, stretched his game to avoid an inside battle with Xavier big man David West.

Although he has the body of a banger — including tattoos such as a flaming basketball, an ace of spades and the

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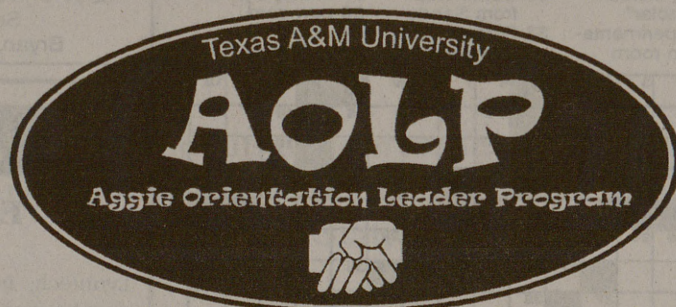
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