

Ag netters rip TCU, nab 2nd at UT

Busy week finds Baylor, Texas here for matches

The A&M tennis team, playing enlightened tennis, demolished TCU 7-0 to up its SWC record to 16-19.

Behind the strong effort of three upperclassmen and two freshmen, the team romped to the victory without losing a single set.

Coach Omar Smith was delighted. "The guys played great. Tut Bartzon (TCU coach) said A&M looked better than anyone else they've played this year."

In the top singles match Bill Wright defeated TCU's John Poppell, 6-2, 6-1.

Dan Courson knocked off Jim Hansen, 6-0, 7-5, while Bill Hoover beat Jack Irvine, 6-1, 6-3.

Freshmen Charles Emley and Tom Courson beat Tom Harris, 6-2, 6-1, and Max Falls, 6-4, 7-6.

In doubles, Dan Courson and Hoover downed Poppell and Irvine, 6-3, 6-1.

In the second match, Smith noted that Wright and Emley "really played well" in defeating TCU's Falls and Harris 6-0, 6-2.

The Ags just back from a long roadtrip to Oklahoma and Dallas, left two top players at home for a rest, then continued on to Austin to compete in the Texas Relays tourney.

Dan Courson and Emley were left in College Station while the rest of the regular team went to the tourney.

Four teams were entered; fourth-ranked Houston and seventh-ranked Trinity, both of whom have beaten A&M in dual matches, tied for first with 18 points, while A&M tied 11th-ranked Texas for second with 16 points.

Assistant coach Richard Barker said, "We just didn't win enough close matches." Barker noted that Dan Courson's and Emley's non-presence might have hurt team standings but that they needed a rest and "We wanted to give the younger players a chance to play."

No. 2 player Hoover beat Texas freshman, Stewart Keller, who has "a fine record and a fine reputation," to highlight the top matches.

Barker noted that the freshmen, who played higher than accustomed, "played extremely well."

Tom Courson split the first sets with Texas' Graham Whaling but lost the close third set. In another match, Courson lost to John Burrman who plays No. 1 for the highly-ranked Trinity netters.

Mark Silberman played very well against Houston All-American Dale Ogden but lost 6-3, 7-6. Silberman also played very well against Trinity's David King losing 6-3, 6-4. King and Silberman played each other in the Trinity-A&M dual match earlier in the season and Silberman lost that match 6-0, 6-0.

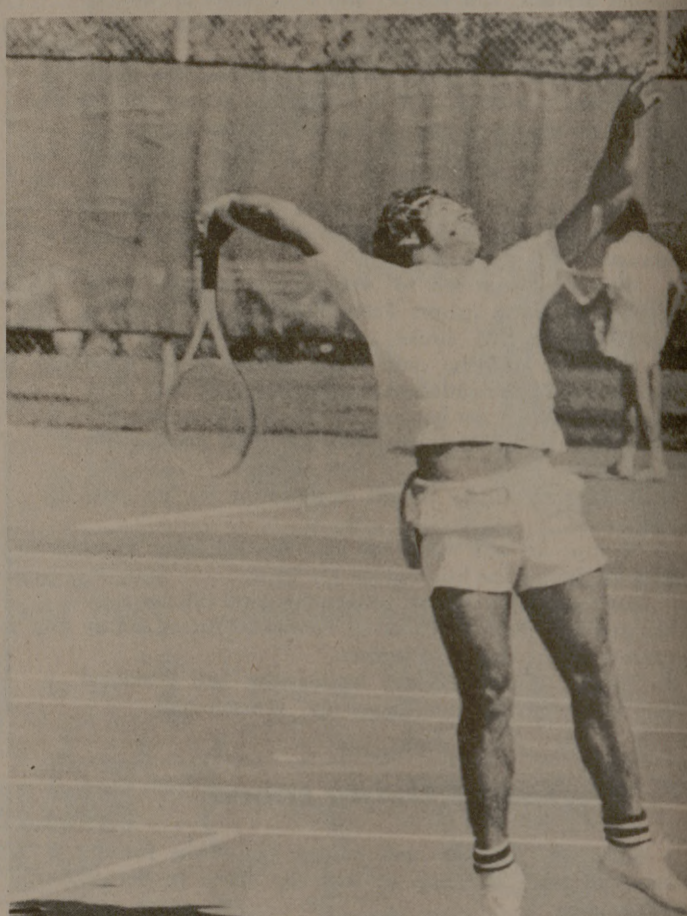
A&M played Wisconsin today at the varsity courts and will host Baylor on Thursday and Texas on Saturday.

Smith is very optimistic about the Aggies chances. "If we should beat Texas and Baylor, 7-0, we should finish third. It's not going to be easy, it's a long uphill climb."

"Texas has only beaten us once in 12 years and we'll be keeping that in mind."

Houston, barring any overwhelming upsets, is headed for the conference crown with Rice, Texas and A&M will fight it out for third place.

The Conference meet will be Monday through Wednesday at Rice to determine individual champions.



BILL HOOVER prepares for Thursday's Southwest Conference tennis match with Baylor. The match is slated for the varsity courts at 1:30 p. m. (Photo by Kathy Curtis)

Shipman returns to contact drills

Quarterback David Shipman, freshman from Odessa Permian, saw his first contact duty of spring training Tuesday as the Texas Aggies entered their next-to-last week of football practice.

In a 15-minute session running the second unit, Shipman was a bit rusty and fumbled some but backfield coach Chuck Moser said he wasn't surprised. "I knew he was nervous and the fumbling didn't surprise me. It's better for him to get this behind him now than to wait until next August. He'll get better in a hurry, I think."

Shipman injured a knee in practice last fall and later underwent surgery. He has been running plays this spring but Tuesday was the first time he'd been in a scrimmage.

The fumbling, too, could have come from the fact that his center, Rocco Wiest, was just returning to duty after having been out with a hurt knee. As Wiest returned the other second-team center, Henry Tracy, was on the sidelines with a hurt knee received in last Saturday's scrimmage.

The first unit, with another freshman, David Walker, at quarterback, looked sharp in a passing drill. The southpaw from Sulphur, La., hit both tight end Richard Osborne and split end Carl Roaches with regularity.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the field, the defense worked on pass defense against pro set and drop back passes. Defensive coordinator said the first two defensive units looked sharp. "Of course, we have all our people back and it's a carry-over from last year but they were picking up things very well."

Cornerback Pat Thomas had to leave the drill with a back problem. He's having muscle spasms after having hurt it in last Thursday's drill.

The Aggies will practice against Wednesday and Thursday and then will stage another full-scale scrimmage Saturday.

Spring practice ends with the Maroon-White game at 1:30 p. m., Saturday, April 27, at Kyle Field.

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