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# Hoover in SWC tennis finals

## Aggies singles star upsets seeded competition

By TONI GALLUCCI  
Staff Sports Writer

HOUSTON—Aggie Bill Hoover defied prediction in making mince-meat of the seeded competition and advanced to the finals of the SWC tennis tournament.

Unseeded Hoover advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating third-seeded Lee Merry of Houston on Monday.

In the quarters, Hoover defeated Texas' Dan Nelson, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

On Saturday Nelson beat A&M's Dan Courson in the top bout of the SWC dual match at A&M.

Hoover in the semi-final match, disposed of Rice's Alan Boss in a 34-game split set match, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4. Exactly half of the 34 games were service breaks.

Boss had a chance to win the match with two match points in the second set before losing.

Boss trailed in the first set, 1-5, but came back to win 7-5. Hoover

gathered steam and won the final two sets.

Only two seeded players reached the quarterfinals. SMU's George Hardie, Hoovers' opponent in the finals, downed Aggie Dan Courson in the semi-finals. Second seed Ross Walker of UH, was upset by Boss in a quarter-final match.

Hardie is the defending singles champion and is 16-2 on the season with one of those losses coming to eliminated second seed Walker.

Hoover will be meeting Hardie for the third time in his three year career at A&M.

Hoover beat Hardie as a freshman but lost last year.

Hardie comes to the tourney with excellent credentials, having beaten the defending National Singles Champion Baer of Stanford earlier this season.

"But Bill (Hoover) can beat him," said head coach Omar Smith. "He's had a good wind."

Looking back to Hoover's match with Merry, Smith said, "Bill just kept the pressure on and cooked him."

"We're real proud of Hoover, he's the first singles finalist we've had since Richard Barker (now Aggie assistant coach) in 1964."

Hoover could become only the second Aggie to win the title. Barker was the other.

"He's a strong, tough player, he has a lot of physical advantages," Smith said.

Courson, a senior, lost his semi-final match to Hardie, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, eliminating the chances of an all-Aggie final match.

According to Smith Courson was having trouble with foot blisters, and the tourney directors would not hold up for the Aggie to rest.

The chances of an all-Aggie doubles final bit the dust, as Charles Emley and Bill Wright lost to Texas' Nelson and Courson, 6-2, 6-4, and Courson and Hoover lost to Merry and Dale Ogedin, 6-4, both in semifinals matches.

"Dan Courson is glued together. His ankle is hurting, and taped it up to keep it together," said Smith. But Courson stays there, his final conference title as an Aggie.

"Emley played strong. Wright played well also."

The finals begin today at Rice's Jake Hess tennis stadium.

The Aggies must also win their rain-delayed match at Texas.

With the match tied at 2-2, Aggs must take the final matches in order to tie for in the conference with Rice, Texas.

Should Texas win one of three, the fifth singles and doubles matches, they would have sole possession of third, dropping the Aggies to fifth.

Texas' top doubles team edged A&M's same in the semi-finals of the SWC tournament on Tuesday.

In the three remaining matches only one set was finished before rain halted play.

In the fifth singles match, Courson won the first set, 7-6.

Courson got behind early but came on strong winning straight sets to win the set.

The two were tied at 1-1 in the second set when inclement weather halted the match.

Dan Courson and Hoover were behind 3-4 in the first set, Nelson and Whaling.

The match has been tentatively re-scheduled for Thursday at A&M varsity courts.

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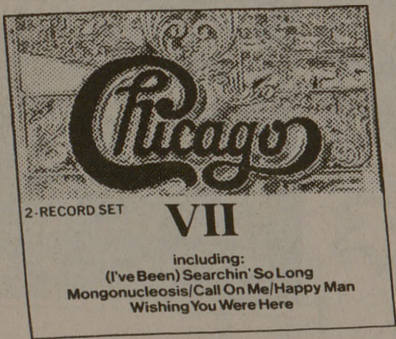
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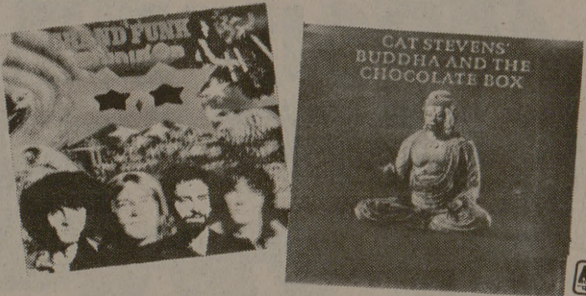
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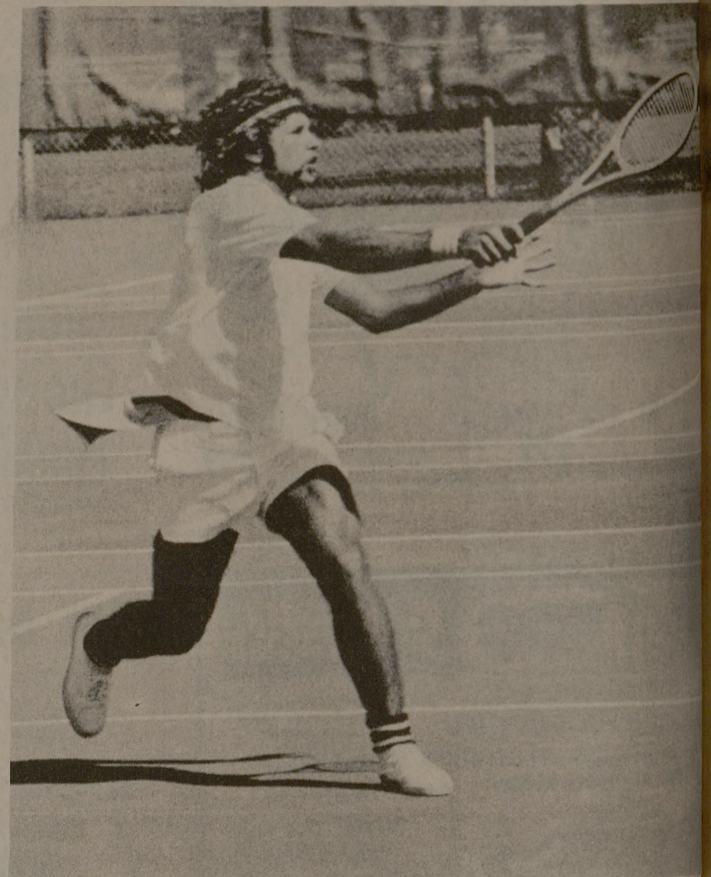


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ADVANCING TO THE FINALS of the SWC is Aggie Bill Hoover. Hoover is seen in action against Alan Ross of Rice in the semi-finals yesterday. (Photo by Kathy Curtis)

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