

Aggies lose to Houston

By KEVIN PYLE

The Aggie tennis team lost a dual match to The University of Houston by a score of 8-1 Wednesday at Oak Village Racquet Club.

The lone victory for the Aggs came in the No. 1 singles match in what was as much a verbal contest as it was a tennis match. A&M's Reid Freeman played the Cougar's Nduka Odizar, who is from Nigeria, in a match marred by disputed line calls from both players.

In the first set there wasn't much arguing as Freeman won it 7-5. In the second set things began to heat up a little when in the third game with the set tied at one all, Freeman broke Odizar's serve. This was the first of many arguments by the two.

Odizar had hit what he thought was a winner of a drop volley but Freeman scooped the shot up and

came away with the point much to the displeasure of Odizar. This set up a heated battle the rest of the way.

With the set tied at four all, Odizar called out a shot that Freeman thought was a clear winner and this set off another argument which ended in Odizar winning the point and eventually winning the game. Because of the number of disputed calls a volunteer linesman was dispatched to the court. Odizar broke Freeman's serve and won the second set 6-4.

With things cooling down a bit in the third set, Freeman played very aggressively and went on to close out the match winning the set 6-2.

It was a big win for Freeman, a freshman from Dallas, as he beat a player who has beaten some of the top men in the country this year, including four all-American players. The other Aggies were not as for-

tunate as Freeman. It was Houston's Dan Valentincic over Mike Moss, Dennis Cahill over Max King and Robert Buchalter downing Trey Schutz. Also it was Joel Hoffman beating Robin Baker and Hans Rusley downing Jim Grubert.

In doubles action it was a Houston shut-out with Cahill and Valentincic beating Freeman and Moss 6-4, 7-5, Odizar and Rusley over King and Schutz 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, and Buchalter and Hoffman toppling Baker and Grubert 6-4, 7-5.

A&M's record in conference play dropped to 25 wins and 20 losses with each match counting one point. The Aggies next home match will be against TCU at the Oak Village Racquet Club on next Wednesday. TCU is ranked in the top ten in the nation which will make them the Aggies third opponent in two weeks to be so ranked. The other two were Trinity and Houston.

By Mark Patterson

One last basket

One of the best basketball coaches in Texas has decided to remain as a coach in this state. Bill Blakeley, head coach at North Texas State University in Denton, has turned down the head coaching position at the University of Wyoming.

In his three-year tenure at NTSU Blakeley has a 65-16 record with three straight 20-game winning seasons. His remaining at North Texas can do nothing but help the basketball image of the teams in the southwest. . . . Bill Walton's record for most points in an NCAA championship game will stand at least one more year, but it came dangerously close to being broken in this year's title game. Kentucky's Jack "The Golden Goose" Givens came within three points of Walton's 44-point record that the Portland Trailblazer center set in 1973 against Memphis State. Givens racked the Duke Blue Devils for 41 points hitting 18 of 27 shots in Monday's championship game at the Checkerdome in St. Louis. . . . And even though Walton hasn't have to worry about Givens returning next year (he's a senior), he still has to worry about the entire Duke team challenging it as the Duke Devils return all five of their starters for next season. . . . And speaking of the NCAA tournament, Kansas finally took revenge on the Fighting Irish from Notre Dame.

For the first time since 1970, when Texas defeated the Irish in the Cotton Bowl, a Southwest Conference team has beaten Notre Dame at something. And the Arkansas victory saved face for SWC basketball and proved that Houston's performance in the opening round of the tourney had to have been a fluke. Conference sports teams just aren't that bad, but I'm sure the Irish wouldn't mind playing Texas in the Cotton Bowl every year, ya think? . . . With Arkansas' victory in Monday's semi-final game, the Hog's end the season with a 32-4 record equaling the modern-day record for most wins in a single season set by North Carolina in 1957 and tied by Indiana in 1976. The victory also gave coach Eddie Sutton a 94-24 four-year record as head mentor at Arkansas. . . . And congratulations goes out to Texas' head basketball coach Abe Lemons for being name co-winner of this year's National Association of Basketball Coaches coach of the year. Lemons shares this year's title with coach Bill Foster who led his Duke team into the NCAA finals. . . . It does help to be the coaches son. Billy Allen, whose pop is head coach at SMU, has said he will accept the scholarship offered to him by the Mustangs. Billy, a starting guard at Highland Park High School, was

highly recruited by many teams throughout the nation but chose to stay at home to play for his dad. . . . And SMU has gotten a big jump on the rest of the conference with their basketball recruiting this spring. To go along with Billy Allen, the Mustangs have landed Brad Branson, a 210-pound 6-foot-9 forward from Edison Junior College in Fort Meyers, Fla. Branson, a JC all-American and a B-plus student, has given SMU a "definite verbal commitment," says head coach Sonny Allen. Carrying a scoring average of 25.6 points and 13 rebounds per game last year, Branson was offered between 150 and 175 scholarships but chose SMU and Dallas because "of the business opportunities offered in the city." . . . And one final thank you goes out to Al McGuire for the excellent job he did on the NCAA tourney games. His color commenting on the TV broadcasts was an excellent addition to each telecast. The college coaching profession's loss was the TV audience's gain.

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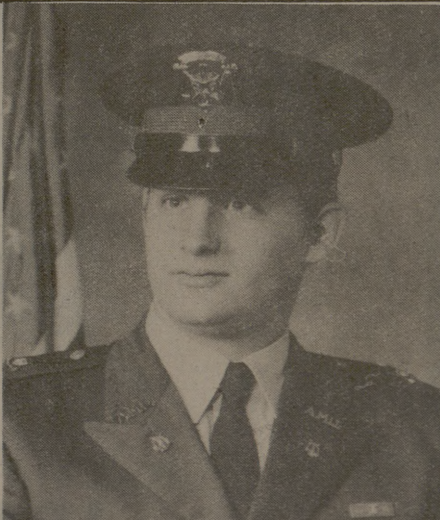
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