

Freshman tennis player helps Ags

By JANA THIEME
With the help of Reid Freeman, the Texas A&M University tennis team hopes to do well in the upcoming conference tournament and the players qualifying for the NCAA Tournament.

Texas and Nduka Odizar, a freshman rated number one at the University of Houston.

Freeman likes to travel and has been in such places as Ohio, Michigan, California, Kansas, Oklahoma and all over Texas competing in tournaments.

The conference tournament is next week in Corpus Christi. The nine conference teams will play their number one players against each other. The number two players will play against each other and so on. Whoever wins the tournament will qualify for the NCAA Tournament, held later this spring.

The A&M team is currently in sixth place in the conference. The top five teams in the Southwest Conference are among the top 20 teams in the nation. Those teams are Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas, the University of Arkansas, the University of Houston, and Texas Christian Uni-

versity. Other top rated Texas teams in the nationals are Trinity University and Pan American University.

Freeman said he practices three hours a day, six days a week, and his strategy basically consists of ground strokes.

"I almost always let the ball bounce on the court before I hit it," he said. "I like playing in the backcourt and making my opponent run for his shots."

Freeman said he admires the top-ranked Swede, Bjorn Borg, whom he feels is everything a tennis player should be. "He's got a good attitude, dedication, the desire and has the best overall game of any player I know," he said.

Freeman said he likes playing both singles and doubles and that each has their advantages. "Doubles are a lot more fun," he said, "but in singles you get a lot more recognition."

Crowd attendance is important in any college sport, tennis included. Because of the new tennis court

construction going on, the team has been playing at the Oak Village Raquet Club in Bryan. The attendance at the matches has been low but Freeman said the matches are not publicized enough. "They just do not know about the matches," he said.

According to Freeman, college crowds are rowdier than crowds at professional matches. "The more rowdy the home crowd is, the more home court advantage the home team player has," Freeman said.

"That's what helped the top five teams in the conference get to the national top 20. They had such great crowd participation."

The new Texas A&M tennis courts will be located between the KAMU-TV station and the police station.

This summer, Freeman said he wants to travel to California to perhaps qualify for some of the professional tournaments and gain some recognition. He hopes to turn professional someday.

Foyt returns to speedway

By MARK PATTERSON
A preview of the Indianapolis 500 race into town this weekend, with the show being held at the Texas World Speedway outside of town.

The Coors 200, one of the final races for the Indy-type cars before the May 28th race, will be run Saturday with race time scheduled at 3:30 p.m. Practice will be at 12:30 a.m. with qualifications to begin at 12:30.

With the Indy date closing in, most of the top drivers will be in attendance in an attempt to work out final problems before the May 28th race. Such notables as A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Bobby and Al Unser, Johnny Rutherford and Gordon Johncock will fire up their engines and make a run for the championship and first place points towards the Citicorp Cup Championship.

The drivers Saturday will attack the world's fastest speedway in an attempt to break Mario Andretti's record of 214.15 m.p.h. set in 1973 for a single lap around the two-mile oval. The record for a 200-mile race is held by Gary Bettenhausen at a speed of 181.91 m.p.h. set also in 1973.

Local hero A.J. Foyt from Houston will be going for his 60th championship racing victory when he has the track Saturday. Foyt took a victory home his last start at the speedway, the AggieLand 250 this past March 12th. With his experience on the fast track, Foyt feels the record held by Andretti might be broken this weekend.

His (Andretti) record is well within reach of this field of drivers," said Foyt. "With the cars and the adjustments that have been made in the last few years, I wouldn't be surprised to see it broken near 228.

But with those speeds, I'll probably scare the hell out of myself 10

or 20 times during this race."

Thirty drivers are entered in the qualifying rounds in hope of making one of the 22 starting spots available.

Each car is allotted 360 gallons of gas to complete the race. Broken down, each car must average more than 1.8 miles per gallon over the two-hundred mile course.

The Coors 200 will be carried live nationally on the CBS Sports Spectacular, but will be blacked out in

most parts of Texas.

The racing weekend will continue into Sunday with a "Battle of the Bands" scheduled for Saturday night following the race. Local bands will compete against each other for a chance to go head to head with last year's winner, Hidden Image, on Sunday afternoon.

Motorcycle races are scheduled for Sunday at the speedway with a 2:30 starting time.

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