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# New tennis coach ready to compete

By SEAN PETTY  
Battalion Staff

Many students at Texas A&M do not know much about the tennis program at the University or that the Aggies have a new coach or that Texas A&M has one of the best tennis facilities in the nation.

Well, Coach David Kent is out to educate those Aggies who know little about the tennis program, show the students that Texas A&M has one of the better teams in the Southwest Conference and introduce himself to students in the process.

Kent came to Texas A&M by way of West Texas State University where he coached for nine years. He has the credentials of a winner as his West Texas team won the Missouri Valley Conference six out of the last eight years and finished 20th in the nation in 1970.

Kent is very enthusiastic about continuing his winning ways at Texas A&M.

"I inherited a very good team from Coach (Richard) Barker and I feel lucky to be here at A&M," the new Aggie coach said. "I want to have a great team to go with our great tennis stadium that is just being finished."

"I really can't believe how lucky I am to be here. The facilities are fantastic, the players are good and the coaches and the athletic department are backing me all the way."

"I remember first coming to visit A&M after Marvin Tate (associate athletic director) called me," Kent recalled. "I hadn't been here in about seven or eight years and let me tell you, the campus sure has changed. I immediately fell in love with the campus, the students and the facilities. In fact, I didn't even want to go back to West Texas."

"When I got back to Canyon, I hadn't even got the job yet but I started packing up all the things in my office and told my wife that if I didn't get this job (at A&M) to just bury me in the front yard, that would be it for me."

Kent has set several goals for this year's team and the main one is to compete.

"I think before we can say that we are going to win the conference, we should show everyone that we can compete on the same level as anyone in the country," he said. "We have a very tough conference. SMU finished fourth in the nation last year so that shows what we're up against."

Although Texas A&M may be known a little more widely for its

football than its tennis, Kent feels he can start a new tradition at the University.

"The reason the Aggies have been so weak in the past is because the facilities up until now have been so poor," Kent commented. "The tennis coach has had to split his time between coaching and teaching P.E. I am the first full-time tennis coach A&M has ever had."

Kent is excited about the new facilities at Texas A&M, which are scheduled to be completed this semester.

"When I was at West Texas," Kent said, "we traveled all over the U.S. playing in different tournaments and no facilities can compare with A&M's when it is finished."

Another thing Kent noticed about Texas A&M was the Aggie spirit and tradition, which was lacking at West Texas.

"I just can't believe how great the students are here and how they support the school," he said. "I was at West Texas for nine years and never saw anything like this. I'm hoping I can generate enough enthusiasm in the tennis program to get the students to fill our new stadium."

"I just can't wait for the spring because we are going to have some great teams to show off here." So far Kent has scheduled matches with Clemson, Auburn and Oklahoma. "I hope people will come. Heck, I plan to go out on the day of a match and walk up to people and ask them to come and watch us play. Anyway I can get people into the stadium I will."

So if you are assaulted by some man in a warm-up suit next spring asking you to go watch the Aggies play tennis, it will probably be Kent.

Kent also plans to start tennis camps during the summer to help him in recruiting and promote interest in the team.

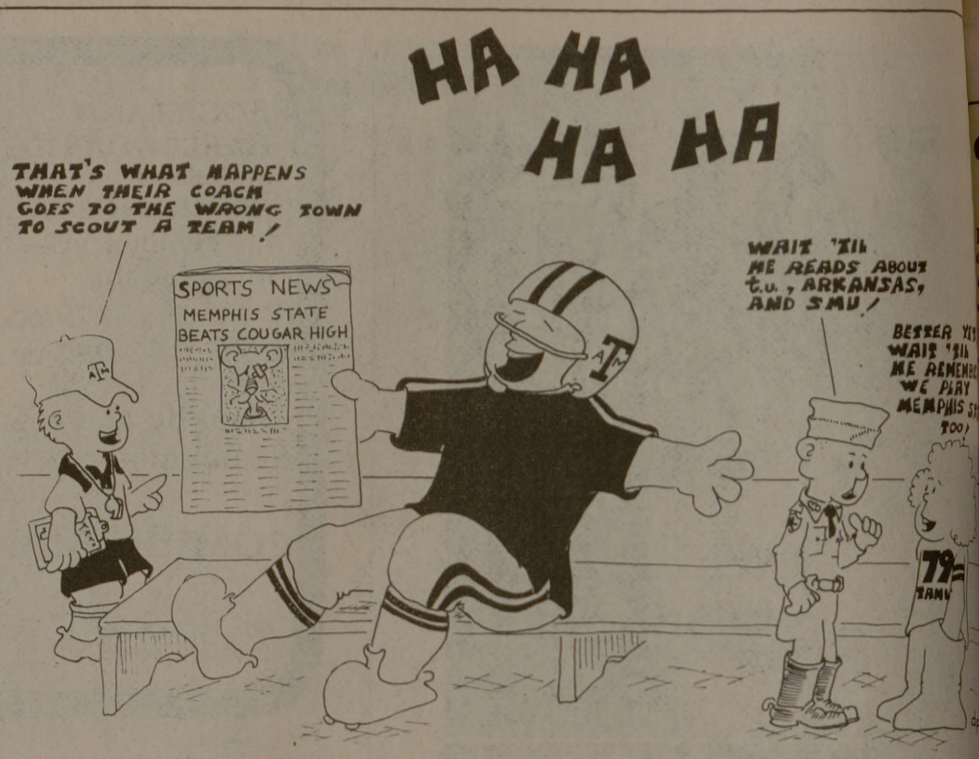
"If we can get a kid up here to see the facilities, I believe we can start getting the top talent in the state and really build-up our program," he said. "I want to try and get players from Texas but if I can't, I will go outside the state to get the best players because my job is to have a winning team."

Kent said that he is still adjusting to some of the trials and tribulations of a major college.

"I used to get upset if I didn't park my car right in front of my office at West Texas," said Kent, whose new office is in Rudder Tower. "Now, I felt I was lucky to find a place by KAMU."

"Another thing I noticed about A&M is that all the coaches seem to be going in the same direction. I mean there is no jealousy between coaches of different sports. Everyone pats each other on the back and I think it is just great."

So with the new coach and the new facilities, Texas A&M may be challenging the best teams in the country in years to come.



# No perfect season for Cowboys

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — Pat Haden hit Willie Miller with a 43-yard touchdown bomb with 7:13 remaining and Rod Perry ran back a Roger Staubach pass interception 43 yards for a touchdown with 3:21 left Sunday to give the Los Angeles Rams a 27-14 victory over the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys.

Perry also intercepted a Staubach pass that gave the ball to the Rams on their own 37 with 5:37 on the clock as the Rams improved their record under brand new head coach Ray Malavasi to 3-0 for a two-game lead in the NFC West.

The defeat left the Cowboys at 2-1 and dropped them behind Washington, 3-0, in the NFC East.

The Haden-Miller pass in the Dallas end zone snapped a 14-14 tie and rookie Frank Corral missed a 30-yard extra point attempt after a holding penalty by Carl Ekern.

Trailing 14-7 after three quarters, the Cowboys tied the score at 4-4 of the fourth quarter on an 18-yard touchdown pass from Staubach to Tony Hill.

The Rams moved 69 yards in four plays for their go-ahead touchdown. Miller, the 31-year-old Vietnam War veteran, beat Dallas cornerback Arron Kyle for the 43-yard score.

Corral made his first extra point attempt but had to try again after the holding penalty against Ekern. The Ram defense held the Cowboys to only 96 yards rushing. Dorsett, who averaged 6.6 yards per carry in the first two Dallas games this season, was restricted to 38 yards on 19 carries. He also fumbled three times and lost one of those to the Rams.

Haden completed 14 of 25 passes for 227 yards and two touchdowns. He was intercepted twice. Ron Jessie caught seven passes from Haden for 144 yards while Miller made five receptions for 68 yards.

Staubach completed 22 of 46 passes for 246 yards and two touchdowns.

The Rams took a 14-7 halftime lead with a 99-yard ten-play drive dimmed by a 21-yard touchdown

pass from Haden to Jessie just 47 seconds before the intermission. The first Los Angeles touchdown came after Simpson intercepted Staubach and ran it back 28 yards to the Dallas 37. From there, the Rams moved 37 yards on seven

plays, all on the ground, to a score at 3:36 of the opening on a 1-yard run by John Gary. A 14-yard pass from St. Billy Joe DuPree accounted for the first-half Cowboy touchdown of the second quarter.



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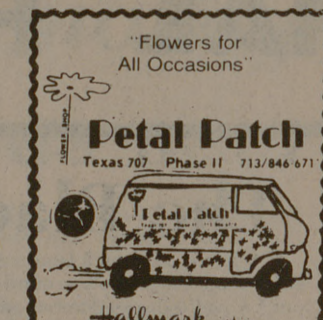


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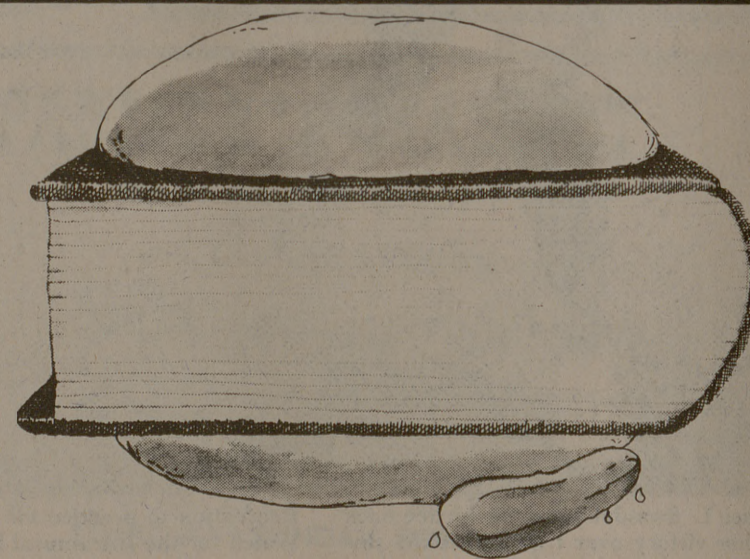
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