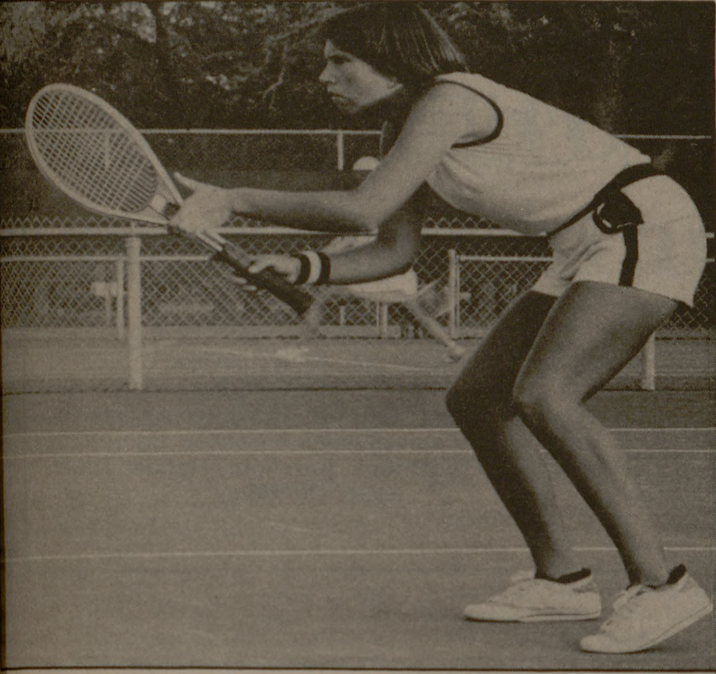


the sports

## New tennis courts christened

# Ag netters defeat Cougars



Battalion photo by Bill Wilson

Texas A&M's Judy Willard prepares to receive the serve of a Houston Cougar opponent in Wednesday's dual match at the Aggies' new Tennis facility. Willard won her singles match 6-2, 6-1. She also won her doubles match with her partner Kathleen Sissom 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

By SEAN PETTY  
Battalion Staff

Many students may not realize it but Wednesday afternoon was a big day for tennis at Texas A&M University.

Wednesday marked the first time the new varsity tennis courts were used in match play. The A&M women's tennis team played the University of Houston in a dual match and inaugurated the stadium the right way with a decisive victory over the Cougars.

Although there was no big ceremony complete with cutting of the ribbon, pictures and many smiling faces, it was a milestone for tennis at Texas A&M.

The fact that the Aggies now have an excellent facility to play in is reason enough for tennis coaches Ellen Buchanan and David Kent to celebrate.

"I think it is just great," Buchanan said. "We have waited a long time for these new courts and now that they are here, we can't wait to put them to good use. I have no complaints about the courts, they have been such a long time coming I can't say enough about them."

"One of the great things about the new courts is that the girls now have a better mental attitude. If you know that you have a good facility to play in, it just makes your game that much better. We really have something to be proud of now."

Work on the new stadium is not quite through, but the facility will be completely ready for the spring matches. Construction is still being done on the area under the stands where some offices and dressing rooms will be. Each court will also have a scoreboard so that fans can see the different match scores.

The stadium holds approximately 500 people and offers a good view of four of the new courts.

Most of the Aggie women completely dominated their Cougar opponents in singles play. They played the best two-out-of-three sets.

Maylynn Hooton won 6-1, 6-0; Judy Willard won 6-2, 6-1; Susan Schilling won 6-1, 6-3; Pam Hill won 6-3, 6-2; Mary Guerra won 1-6, 6-2, 6-4; and Kathleen Sissom lost 6-2, 6-3.

In doubles play, the team of Schilling and Hooton lost 4-6, 2-6. The team of Sissom and Willard won a tough match 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 and the team of Guerra and Hinkle lost 6-2, 3-6, 2-6. The Aggies won the dual match against the Cougars 6-3.

"Today was the girls' first home match this year and they were a little nervous," Buchanan said. "They have been playing very well all fall, especially in the singles play. The girls really played the singles very well today, in fact, I think they got so excited with their singles play that they couldn't concentrate on doubles."

The new courts should boost the A&M tennis program immensely and help in recruiting for both the men's and women's programs.

"The courts will definitely make a big difference," Buchanan said. "When we can bring a girl over here and show her our facilities, it really makes our recruiting job a lot easier."

"A unique thing about the new courts is that they are strictly varsity courts. We do not have to compete with the P.E. department or intramurals for court space. This really helps us because now we can bring one of our players out here anytime of the day and work with them individually and that, of course, makes your team a lot better."

Although the stadium was not filled to standing-room-only capacity, there was a group of approximately 50 people who were very courteous and appreciative of the good tennis they were watching. The small crowd was quiet but applauded both Texas A&M and Houston players on shots well made.

"We really want to fill the stadium in the spring," Buchanan said. "I hope we can get a lot of people out here to watch because we do have a very good team and a great place to watch it from."

"I really hope we can fill it against LSU so we can show them what good fans are. When we have been down there (LSU), their fans

applauded whenever another team did something bad which is really poor sportsmanship."

"I really appreciated the fans who came out today because they were very courteous and showed respect for both teams," she added.

The A&M women played very well against the Cougars and showed that women's tennis is just as fast moving and exciting as men's.

"I am very optimistic about this team," the Aggie coach said. "We should finish in the top five in Texas in the spring, which is pretty good considering that we have no conference and that we play schools like Trinity and Lamar, plus all the Southwest Conference teams. There are a lot of teams in Texas and we should be right in there."

The women will travel to Dallas Friday for their last match of the fall season.

"I can't wait until spring because the girls have been improving each week. But after Friday, I'm going to let the girls study for the rest of the semester," she said.

So tennis at Texas A&M looks like it has no way to go but up. The coaches and players are very enthusiastic and excited about the new tennis courts. And for good reason: it is a very good facility and Texas A&M has much talent to build a good program with.

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## Zachery divides time

The federal government ever issued a patent for the ultimate invention, James Zachery would stand a good chance of getting it. After all, how many people have a formula for eating Father Time?

Actually, Texas A&M's big defensive end's formula involves nothing more than a lot of hard work and dedication. During the last two years, Zachery had divided his time between going to class, playing football, and participating as the football team's only member in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M.

Although he is not in the Corps this fall, Zachery plans to rejoin the Corps later on after making "a

uniform. I also had to make sure that my shirt was tucked in right so that it wouldn't pull out. Then there was breakfast to worry about, too. Just getting the day going right was really tough."

Still, he said, being in the Corps was an enjoyable experience.

"It wasn't something my father wanted necessarily, but something I wanted," he said. "I always gave it my best shot because anything you're involved with that stresses pride should make you try your best."

The 6-2, 236 pounder played linebacker two years at Midland High School while making all-district and all-state at that position. Upon arriving at Texas A&M, Zachery was shifted by Aggie coaches from linebacker to defensive tackle position. Last spring, Zachery was shifted again from defensive tackle to defensive end. So far this season, he has played at end exclusively and seems to be doing well.

"I think being a defensive tackle has made me more capable of being a good defensive end," he said. "Really, just moving around has helped me at all positions. When I moved to tackle, that let me know what it's like to be on the line. I made me more aware of how valuable the defensive tackle position is."

Zachery sees the Texas A&M defense as well prepared for the upcoming game with SMU and expects no major changes in the defensive alignment to be made by new head coach Tom Wilson. "Because we've played Baylor and Rice which are good passing teams," he said, "we ought to do good against SMU. After all, we've got a good defensive line."



James Zachery



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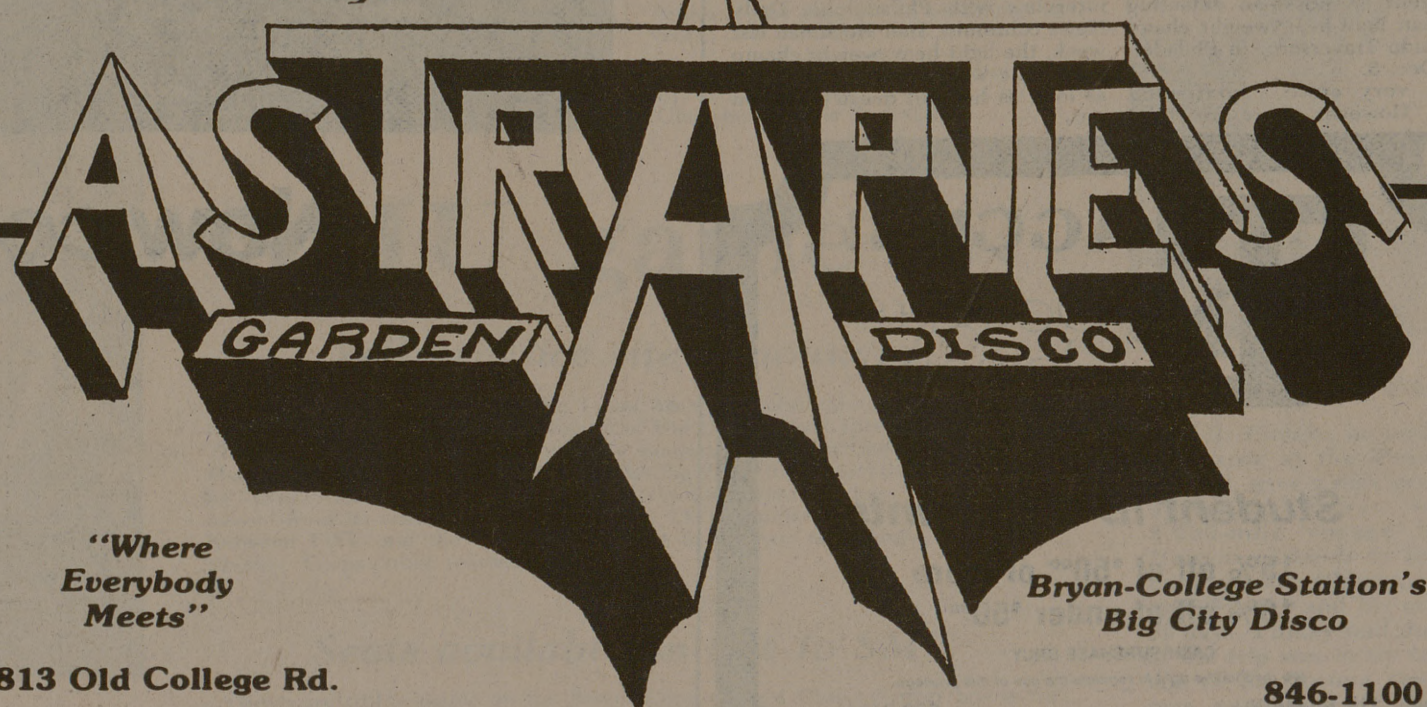
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