

the sports

Ags get big win

By KURT ABRAHAM
Battalion Reporter

had seen them lose four out of their last six outings.

The most impressive match of the day came when the Aggie pair of Reid Freeman and Alberto Jimenez outlasted the nationally ranked duo of Juan Farrow and Arjun Fernando, 7-6, 7-5, in the top seeded doubles event.

"I'd have to call that the most impressive doubles win in A&M history," said Texas A&M Coach David Kent. "I say that because not only

did our guys stay even with the best doubles pair in the nation, they managed to hang on and beat them. Our team obviously was doing something right and I can't give them enough credit."

There is indeed more than a little justification for Kent's bubbling attitude. The duo of Farrow and Fernando have been the No. 1 doubles team in the NCAA's Division II this year and were ranked among the top five in Division I. Farrow is also the singles and doubles champ in Division II as well as being named an All-America for Division I.

Southern Illinois never was able to get untracked and managed only two wins, both coming in singles action as Farrow beat Freeman and Fernando disposed of Jimenez. But the Ags took it from there with four straight wins, including the crucial match at the No. 3 seeded position.

"That win at three by Mike Moss was very crucial for us," said Kent. "He got our momentum going and helped us pick up a big win that should get us back on the track now."

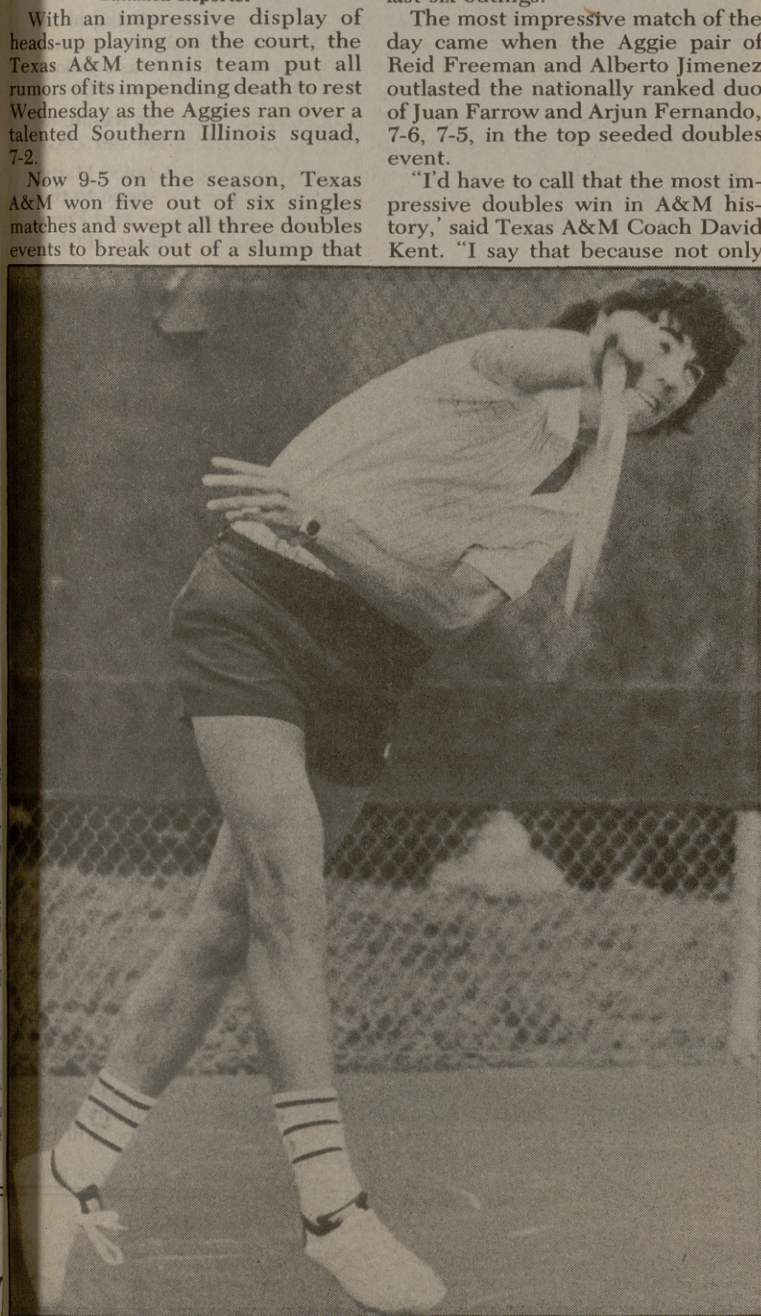
Kent said he was also pleased with the play of Jim Grubert, who has taken the place of ailing Max King.

"Jim has been our most consistent player over the last four matches," Kent said. "I'm really impressed with the way he's come in and taken up the slack by winning four games in a row."

Asked if he thought the win was an upset, Kent said he felt Southern Illinois had played just as well as they always have.

"I think it was a case of our players just doing extremely well along with a little help from Lady Luck," he said. "I don't believe Illinois let down at all."

The Aggies will need more than a little luck as they prepare for their next matches with North Texas State and Texas. After losing 9-0 to Texas A&M early in the season, North Texas will be much improved when they come to College Station on Tuesday. If they survive that meeting, the Ags will have little time for rest as nationally ranked Texas visits on March 31.



Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Aggies' Reid Freeman serves up a victory.

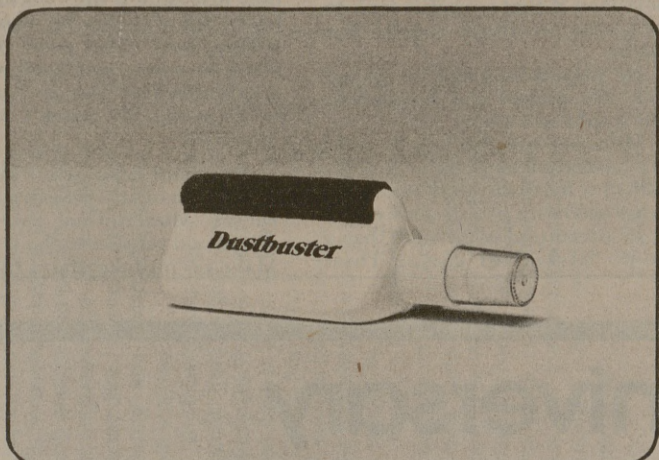
Thomas signs with Packers

United Press International
GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers said Wednesday they have signed running back Duane Thomas, who was a star for the Dallas Cowboys on Super Bowl teams in 1970 and 1971.

Thomas, 31, has been out of football since 1975, when the World Football League folded. He played with the Cowboys and Washington Redskins before going to the WFL's Hawaii team.

He tried out with Green Bay last fall — a move that brought attention to the Packers and Coach Bart Starr because of accusations Green Bay was violating the National Football League stashing rule. Starr, for a time, refused to talk to reporters following stories saying Thomas had been in the Packers camp for a longer time than was allowed.

Thomas, 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds, gained 1,596 yards in two seasons with Dallas. Used sparingly at Washington, he picked up 442 yards in two years.

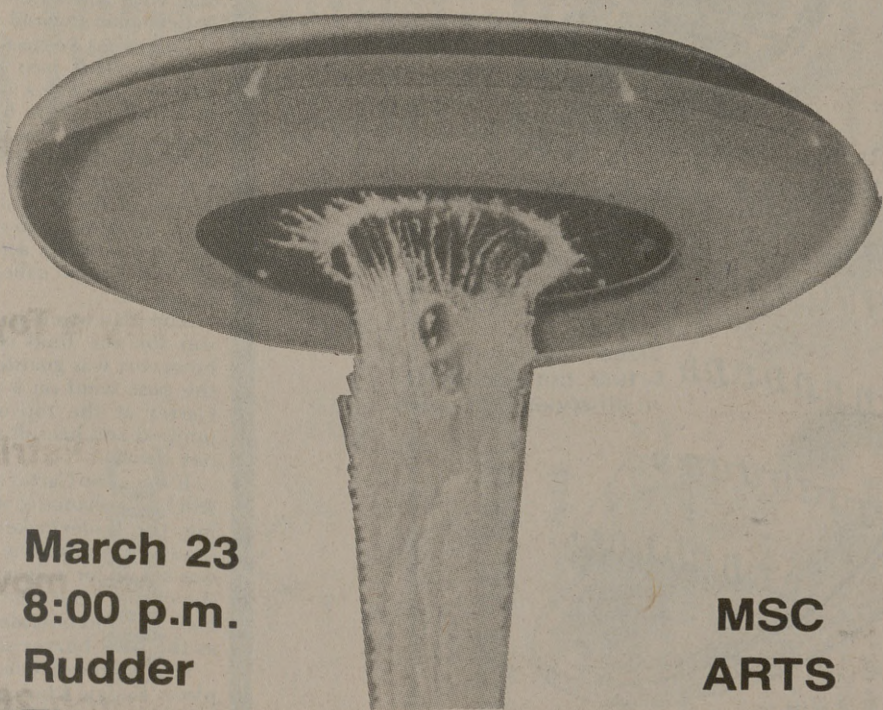


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