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sports

Aggie tennis coach Kent trying to build tennis powerhouse

By RICK STOLLE
Sports Reporter

David Kent is a man who enjoys his work. He not only enjoys his work but lives it as well. Kent loves

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his job, his family and his program — all of which have to do with tennis.

Kent is the first full-time tennis coach at Texas A&M University. He spends most of his time, day and night, thinking and working tennis. His wife and children all play tennis so he does not "escape" his job when he comes home at night.

"I fell in love with A&M when I first visited it," he said. "I told my wife to bury me in the front yard if I didn't get the job."

Kent was the tennis coach for West Texas State University before coming to Texas A&M.

"When I asked recruits to visit the campus of WTSU, they said 'Where?'," he said, "but now when I ask recruits to visit A&M, they ask, 'When?'"

The Aggie reputation and tradition helps recruiting tremendously, he said.

When looking at a recruit, he said he looks at grades first because Texas A&M is such a hard university scho-

lastically. Ability is important but the players have to attend class as well as play, he said.

Kent graduated from Texas Tech University in 1959. He attended on a tennis scholarship. He was captain of the Tech team in 1956-58. He won 15 straight singles matches during his senior year.

The second-year coach said he felt he had done all he could for the program at WTSU. He needed a new goal, he said, and a challenge to test his ability.

"The Southwest Conference is the tennis conference in the nation," he said.

SMU is rated fifth, Arkansas ninth, Houston 13th, Texas 15th, and TCU 17th, in the nation.

He said he wants Texas A&M to break into the top 20, improve the conference standings and have a winning season. A&M was 11-11 for the fall season. The Ags are 9-2 for the spring season.

"Breaking into the top 20 will be easier than improving our confer-

ence standings," he said. The Ags finished sixth in the conference last season.

Kent said he is optimistic about the future of Texas A&M tennis.

"We have the best freshman crop A&M has ever had," he said. Brian Joelson has only one loss on the season. Ron Kowal, Tom Judson and Boyd Bryan are also playing ex-

tremely well, he said.

"We're trying to make A&M tennis hub of this region," he said. "We have the weather, campus facilities."

"We have had a bit of success believe in the snowball effect."

With a little luck and work said, Texas A&M will be an example of a fine tennis school.

Swimmers shaving head, bodies, time for nationals

By CAROLYN TILLER
Sports Reporter

Aggie swim team members are trying to shave seconds off their times by shaving their bodies.

The A&M men's and women's swim team went all season without shaving body hair, but since the national qualifying meets have come up, team members have gone razor happy.

The women competed in the Texas Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (TIAIW) Championships in Fort Worth last week. The men are swimming today, Friday and Saturday in the Southwest Conference Championships in Dallas.

Tracy Johnston, a national qualifier, said, "When it comes around to shaving, we can't wait."

"Hair acts as a drag," Hill said. "When you've got hair on your legs and arms, it's kind of like running

with ankle weights."

Besides the physical advantage, shaving also gives swimmers a certain psychological advantage.

Johnston will represent women's swim team in the breaststroke and the 100-yard breaststroke. She qualified for the year for the 100-yard event qualified in Fort Worth for the yard.

Johnston beat the qualifying by two-tenths of a second in events. Her time in the 50-yard breaststroke was 31.0 and she led a 1.17.4 in the 100-yard event.

Shirley Hill qualified in events during the TIAIW meet. 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle.

The women's free tye relay also is going to nationals in the 200-, 400-yard events.

Nationals will be held in Vegas, Nev., March 17-28.

Myers, Allen job-hunting

United Press International

Two Southwest Conference basketball coaches are reportedly looking at head coaching jobs outside the conference.

Sonny Allen, former Southern Methodist University basketball coach, was interviewed Wednesday as a candidate for the head basketball coach's job at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Allen has an overall record of 242 wins and 171 losses in 15 years. Last season, SMU had a record of 16-12. The team finished 6-9 in the Southwest Conference.

A Lubbock newspaper reported Texas Tech basketball coach Myers, whose Red Raiders finished their worst season since 1971, was in Ames, Iowa, Wednesday interviewing for the job.

In an opinion piece in the book Avalanche-Journal, Chuck McDonald speculated Myers may have grown disaffected by the 10,000-seat coliseum the team plays its home games. McDonald's salary, attendance at basketball games and complaints from some fans about the Red Raiders' liberate style of play.

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