

Ag golfers ranked ninth in the country

By STEVE SISNEY

Following a ninth-place finish at the 26th Intercollegiate All-America meet in Houston last weekend, the Texas A&M golf team, ranked seventh in the nation, is gearing up to compete in the Southwest Conference Championship April 18-20 in Tyler.

Steve Bowman shot a 67 in the final round in the Houston contest, and finished fourth in the individual standings with a 287. Oklahoma State captured the meet title.

Competing for Texas A&M in the SWC meet will be All-America selections Bowman, David Ogrin, and Richard Cromwell, along with Brad Jones and Jay Kent.

Trying for the sixth slot on the Aggie squad will be Dan Briggs, Gary Krueger and Kel Delvin on a 72-hole qualifying test later this week.

In the conference meet, a team can enter six and count the low four scores at the end of the 54 holes of play.

"The conference meet is going to

be tough," said head coach Bob Ellis. "It will be a toss up between A&M, TCU, Texas and Houston."

Texas A&M is followed in the national rankings by Houston at eighth, and both Texas and TCU in the top twenty. Houston won the conference crown last year, while the Aggies were runners-up.

"This is the best team in over six years," said Ellis. "They're good players, they work together hard, and believe in each other and themselves."

Playing a demanding 20 tournament schedule throughout the year, remaining on the Aggie golfers' schedule are the Southern Intercollegiate Meet May 1-3 in Athens, Ga., and the NCAA championship May 28-31 at Ohio State University.

Texas A&M has proven itself on the collegiate circuit this year, capturing the Border Olympics in Laredo, winning a tournament in Guadalajara, Mexico, and tying with Houston for first at the fall conference tournament.

They were also able to take the

second place trophy at the Pinehearst Tournament in North Carolina March 11-13, and third at the Harvey Penick Intercollegiate tournament in Austin.

At both Guadalajara and Pinehearst, the Aggies defeated Oklahoma State, the current No. 1-rated team in the nation.

In Guadalajara, Cromwell, Ogrin, and Bowman all tied for medalist, but all were unable to win the competition as it went into extra holes.

The golf team will be losing two of its top players, Ogrin and Bowman, this spring to graduation.

"We are going to have to get some good players if we are going to do as well next year as we are now," realizes Coach Ellis.

There are two outstanding freshmen on this year's squad, Gary Krueger from Valpariso, Indiana, and Dan Briggs from Paris, Texas.

Yanks take Rangers

United Press International ARLINGTON — Oscar Gamble singled in one run to highlight a four-run fifth inning Sunday night to send the New York Yankees an 8-2 victory over the Texas Rangers Sunday night and a sweep a two-night double-header.

In the opener, Jim Spencer pounded a grand-slam and Gamble hit a two-run single during a six-run fifth inning to lift New York a 9-4 decision. Luis Tiant went 6½ innings to pick up the victory and Steve Comer took the loss.

The Rangers had a 1-0 lead going into the fifth inning of the second game when Bucky Dent and Ruppert Jones singled. Gamble drove in Dent with a single. Jones scored when Pepe Frias bobbled Reggie Jackson's slow grounder. Starter and loser Gaylord Perry, 0-1, walked Bob Watson to load the bases.

Reliever Dave Rajisch made a wild pitch that allowed the runners to advance and catcher Dave Roberts threw wildly, allowing two runs to score.

Ags thrash UH

Tennis team upsets Cougars, 5-2

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Editor

Backed by a raucous crowd, the Texas A&M tennis team pulled off a major upset over 13th-ranked Houston Saturday at the varsity courts.

The Ags, No. 20 in the nation, had clinched the team victory, leading 5-2, when play was stopped due to darkness.

Houston came into town with high hopes of an easy victory over the Aggies, who had lost a heart-breaker to TCU, 5-4, the day before. But freshmen Brian Joelson, Tom Judson and Ron Kowal have yet to be psyched out this season and responded with fantastic play Saturday.

Judson, the only singles victor over TCU, blew Houston's Mike Liushitz off the court in the No. 5 seed duel, 6-2, 6-0. The Fort Worth resident is the team's only walk-on and coach David Kent is elated with his play.

"Judson is the best walk-on in the nation," Kent said. "No one wanted him and he has turned out great."

Joelson's and Kowal's singles victories were a little more dramatic.

Joelson, the Ags' No. 4 four seed, dropped the first set to Houston's Juan Ayala, 7-5, but rebounded to take the second and third sets by identical scores of 6-4. The third set was a thriller, with Ayala pulling out to a 4-1 lead. But Joelson, stomping around the court yelling at himself, broke Ayala's serve in the sixth game and fought his way back into the match. With Ayala's spirit broken and the crowd of about 50 backing up Joelson, the Oregon freshman breezed in to win the match.

After Joelson's match, the crowd marched over to court six, where Kowal was involved in an even closer match with Houston's Van Manning. Manning won the first set 6-4 and Kowal took the second by the same score. In the third set Kowal raced out to a 3-0 lead before Manning rallied to tie it up. The two remained deadlocked after twelve games and a nine point tie-breaker had to be played. The two continued to play even and with the score tied at four apiece, Manning served for the match. Manning, whose serving stance and ensuing grunt had an ape-like appearance, got

his first serve in but Kowal, the Illinois high school champion last year, returned a low, hard shot to Manning's backhand and the Cougar hit his return into the net, giving the Aggies a 4-2 lead.

Kowal and Judson then teamed up to win the only complete doubles match. They beat Liushitz and Ayala, 6-1, 7-5. The other two teams of Reid Freeman-Joelson and Jim Grubert-Trey Schutz were leading their matches when play was stopped. The unfinished matches will be played at Corpus Christi on April 24.

After the Aggies' first two players, Schutz and Max King went down in straight sets, the Cougars did not win another match. Kent was ecstatic with the team's play, as well as the crowd's backing.

"The crowd made the difference," Kent said. "We wouldn't have won without them."

One of the leading cheerers was Mike Moss, who played four years of tennis for Texas A&M before graduating last fall. The crowds at the Aggies' matches this season have been relatively small and rather sedate, and Moss said it's completely different at

other schools.

"All you have to do is imagine what it would be like if we were Houston," Moss said, after a yell. "At other schools, the spectators are really rowdy, creating Aggie jokes during matches and clanging the fences while we were trying to serve."

Kent couldn't be happier with the type of play he's getting from his freshmen.

"The fearless freshmen are thriving on competition. This is our best match of the season."

The Ags' next match will be Friday against Pan American here. Pan American defeated Ags 5-4 in a match earlier this season.

The women's tennis team played what Kent called their best match of the year when they beat Houston 5-4 at Texas A&M courts Saturday.

When Kathleen Sisson and Alexis Heffley won their doubles match in straight sets, the Ags had avenged an earlier 5-4 setback to the Cougars earlier this season.

The women's team will be the AIAW state meet in Fort Worth next weekend.

Women's athletic program growing at Texas A&M

By KATHLEEN McELROY
Sports Staff

Just like its athletes, the women's athletic program is young but improving, said its director, Kay Don.

"We've had several new coaches and have had mostly young teams," she said. "We're still in the building stage."

However this has been a pretty

good year for the nine teams in the program — basketball, volleyball, tennis, track and field, golf, softball, gymnastics, swimming and cross-country.

"Right now, our softball team is ranked fourth in the nation, and hopefully we'll finish that high or higher," Don said.

The cross-country team finished third in the state and fifth in the Association for Women in Intercollegiate Athletics Southwest regional which includes Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

The AIAW is the governing body for women's collegiate sports, and like the NCAA sponsors regional and national championships.

The volleyball team, after a slow start and coach Dave Shakel's res-

ignation at mid-season, finished sixth in the state.

"We had a real good comeback in the regionals — we ended up fourth and we were seeded eighth," she said.

Next year's coach is Terri Condon, currently teaching at the University of California-Bakersfield. She will assume the leadership of a team which is so young there are no seniors on next year's squad.

However, things went better for first-year Cherri Rapp and her women's basketball team, which won 19 and lost 12.

The Texas A&M gymnastics team was the most successful of the teams that have completed the season — it was first in the state.

Four sports haven't competed in

the state championships yet —

tennis, track and field, and swimming. The swimming team, Don had a new coach and quality enough athletes. Only nine were on this year's team and were trying to compete against the likes of University of Texas and the University of Houston, teams deep with outstanding swimmers.

"We need more bodies, and hoping to recruit some good ones," she said.

Recruiting used to be a problem for Don, who came to Texas five years ago to build the program from scratch. AIAW forbidding schools to pay for campus recruiting were a major year and a half ago.

"Now we can provide financial coach," she said. "There's still a restriction, but the change is a real

The college coach recruitment the campus can only talk to the school coach, not the recruit. Luecke another rule change has made it easier for the student to get in contact with the coach — school can provide meals and living expenses for recruits who pay many pit own way to get to the campus. Sophomore Softball has benefited from a change more than any other sport at Texas A&M. Of the 14 athletes on the team, only six are from Texas.

Don said she realizes the men's athletics has some ways to go to get it's close to the men's sports.

"It's still a changing time," said, but she added, "I think exciting time."

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Astros clip plac

United Press International HOUSTON — Ken Griffey stroked a two-run single and scored seven hits Sunday to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 4-2 victory over the Houston Astros.

Houston took a 3-0 lead in the second. Singles by Jose Cruz, Walling and Enos Cabell produced one run. Jeff Leonard singled to the bases and Forsch followed with a bloop single. Houston made the third when Terry Puhl drove an infield hit for first on a scored on Cabell's infield hit.

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