

sports

Oakleaf seeks handball titles

By STEVE SISNEY
Sports Staff
Fresh off a first place finish at the Texas A&M University Handball Tournament, junior Sue Oakleaf continues sweeping her way toward

the National Open Handball Championships in June with one victory after another.
Named the national champion at the National Intercollegiate Handball tournament at the University of

California in Irvine in March, Oakleaf has captured five tournament titles this year.

This was the first year women have competed at the National Intercollegiate Championships. Oakleaf is also the Southwest Divisional Champion and a two-time state champion.

"Her technique is the best of any girls I have ever seen," said head handball coach Lance Lowy about Oakleaf's game.

No less impressive is the fact that Oakleaf is the first person from Texas A&M ever to take a national championship since Ozzie Burke took the National Intercollegiate Doubles Championship in 1969.

The San Antonio City Tournament this weekend will be the next stop for Oakleaf. She is currently the defending champion at the tournament.

Oakleaf isn't the only talented player on the Aggie handball team as witnessed by the fact that teammates Gloria Motel and Jill MacAluso, at the national tournament, finished third and won consolation.

Both Oakleaf and Motel will go to the National Open Championship in Tucson, Ariz., in June. The tournament will draw the top players in the nation.

Lowy feels "that with the university talent, and interest, A&M has to be considered to have one of the top five handball programs in the country."

Lake Forest College in Chicago is the perennial national power, closely followed by the University of Texas. Lake Forest is the only college that awards handball scholarships.

"We're building right now," Lowy said. "We should be at the level of UT in one to two years."

Due to the demand for court space, the Aggie handball squad does not get to practice as often as it wishes.

"The situation is such that with the amount of people wanting to play, and with the number of courts available, things could be better," said Lowy.

Fourteen new handball courts are scheduled to be added in the new addition of G. Rollie White Coliseum. Coupled with the 14 existing courts at DeWare Fieldhouse, there should be enough court space to alleviate the current over-crowded conditions.



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Rangers blank Indians; Niekro knuckles Braves

United Press International
Jon Matlack threw a five-hitter Tuesday night, running his scoreless inning streak to 18, in pacing the Texas Rangers to a 3-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

It was the first victory since last June 26 for the left-hander, who had his 1979 season all but wiped out by

elbow surgery. Texas scored its first run in the second with Buddy Bell lining a double down the rightfield line, moving to third on a groundout by John Ellis and coming in on a sacrifice fly by Billy Sample. Singles by Ellis, Sample and Jim Sundberg accounted for another Rangers' run in the fourth and Bump Wills singled in Sundberg from second with the Rangers' final tally in the seventh.

In Houston, Joe Niekro tossed a six-hitter and Jeff Leonard singled twice and scored two runs in the first three innings Tuesday night to lead the Houston Astros to a 6-2 victory over the winless Atlanta Braves.

Niekro, 1-0 and a 21-game winner last year, struck out six and walked none in pitching his first complete game of the season.

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Kent signs three-time state champion to tennis team

By RICK STOLLE
Sports Reporter
The Texas A&M tennis team has signed highly-recruited Sonja

Hutcherson of Memphis, Tex., to a letter of intent. She is three-time Class A women's singles champion and is going for her fourth title this spring.

Hutcherson has won 10 of the 13 matches she has competed in since last summer.

"Sonja is a real find," said David Kent, Texas A&M tennis coach. "She is a fine athlete and will improve greatly."

He said she has tremendous potential.

"She has the ability, attitude and agility to play winning tennis for A&M," he said.

She plays a very well-rounded game, he said, with a good serve, solid volley and great competitive spirit.

"She is an investment for the fu-

ture," said Kent.

Kent feels Hutcherson is the strength of the Texas A&M tennis team. She gives the team leadership and power, he said, than it has had in years.

"She will be a great one who will practice and a few good matches last season."

The 5-foot, 6-inch Westboro, Mo. Champion said she is excited to be coming to Texas A&M and to help the team with her ability to play modern tennis.

Her addition as well.

"She not only knows a lot about tennis," said Kent, "but she knows how to win."

The women's tennis team at A&M is coached by Hollis Kent, who heads the tennis program at the University, coaches men's tennis. The women's next match is against the TAIWA state meet Thursday in Odessa.

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