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Sports

Women's tennis team in Austin

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

Coach Jan Cannon takes her women's tennis team to Austin today for the first meeting of all the South-west Conference teams at the SWC Invitational at the Lakewood Country Club.

All SWC teams with the exception of Baylor are expected to attend. Baylor has no women's tennis program.

The tournament is scheduled to begin Friday and last through Sunday. The format of the tournament is a dual-match, team competition.

Each team will play as a team. Individuals will win, lose and move up in the tournament as a team. This is a change from most fall tournaments in which competition is as singles and doubles teams.

The competition will be in the form of eight singles and four doubles matches. In the event of a tie, the number of sets won by a team

during the match will be the basis for advancement.

A&M drew Texas Tech University as its first round opponent. They begin play at 9 a.m. Friday.

The University of Texas will play Rice University; Southern Methodist University will go against the University of Houston and the University of Arkansas will play Texas Christian University. Texas and Rice begin play at 9 a.m. Friday while the other two matches will begin at 1 p.m.

The winners of the A&M-Tech match and the Texas-Rice match will meet each other on Saturday at 9 a.m. The losers will play at 1 p.m. The format continues with the winners and losers of the other two matches.

The championship match will be on Sunday at 9 a.m. and the eventual champion must win all three matches to claim the title. Every team will play throughout the tournament. There will be no eliminations.



Lilianna Fernandez

"It is a great idea for a format," said Cannon. "That way nobody will travel hundreds of miles to play only one match."

She said the tournament will help decide the rankings and seedings for

the spring season. All the fall matches add up, she said, but without a doubt, the outcome of this tournament will have the most bearing on the spring season.

"This will be a good tournament," Cannon said. "If nothing else, we will get a good look at our competition for the spring."

She said TCU is the team to beat at the invitational. SMU, Texas and A&M are close behind.

"On the basis of won-loss record, TCU is the best team," she said. "They have already beaten Trinity in a dual match, and Trinity has a darn good tennis program."

She said SMU, Texas and A&M have not met a very good team head-to-head yet. The records are similar and she has not been able to tell just how talented they are yet.

"I'll get my chance this weekend," she said. "I haven't the foggiest notion how we're going to do. I'll just wait and see."

The Ags as singles are: Lilianna Fernandez, Pam Hill, Maylene Amy Closs, Sonja Hooten, Laura Hanna, Judy Williams, Ferol Hinkle. Fernandez is a senior mark due to a sore shoulder. Cannon said she would watch how Fernandez felt before she comes out on the court.

"I can't afford to lose Lilianna," she said. "If she can't go, I'll default her matches and go on."

The doubles teams are: Fernandez-Hill, Hooten-Hooten, Closs-Hanna, Willard-Mary Cannon said she is waiting to see how she will play Hinkle and Hill. "I might play Ferol singles," she said. "I haven't made up my mind yet," she said.

The only member not going to Austin is Terri Nuetze who is in hospital with an undisclosed injury. Nuetze has been out of camp for two weeks.

Jackson finishes second in votes

Baseball writers name MVP

United Press International
NEW YORK — The news was about as big an upset as the sun's rising in the east. But George Brett, the

Kansas City third baseman who hit the ball better than any major leaguer since Ted Williams in 1941,

said he was happy the wait finally was over.

The slugging lefthander, who hit .390 and drove in more than one run per game this season, Tuesday was named the most valuable player in the American League by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

The announcement had a therapeutic effect on Brett's golf game. Brett was playing a leisurely 18 holes with his brothers and Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner in Palm Springs, Calif., Tuesday when he received word of the award on the ninth hole.

"I shot 51-41 (92), but on the front nine I was thinking about (the award) too much and I was playing atrocious," Brett said in a telephone interview.

"I didn't know who was voting. I knew I had a chance to be in the top five. I won all the other awards and I figured I had a good chance at this one. But I didn't want to be too sure and then get let down."

Brett, 27, never had to worry. He swamped his competition, collecting 17 of a possible 28 first-place votes (two writers from each AL city) and 335 points. His nearest rival, Reggie Jackson of the New York Yankees, received five first-place votes and 234 points.

The other top vote-getters were Kansas City's Willie Wilson, Milwaukee's Cecil Cooper, Baltimore's

Eddie Murray, New York's Cerone, Kansas City's Dan O'Leary, Baltimore's Steve Swartz, Oakland's Rickey Henderson and Cerone each received one place ballot.

Brett's season was made more incredible because he had 45 games with assorted foot and ankle injuries. He knocked in 113 runs, 117 games, the first major league drive at least one run per game since Boston's Walt Dropo in 1950 (136 games).

Brett also led the AL in batting percentage (.664) and blew home runs, 33 doubles and triples among his 175 hits. He had 15 bases and scored 87 runs.

His flirtation with the .400 mark was cut short by an injury to his hand and a slump in September.

"I can't look back and say the jury deprived me of chances .400," Brett said. "I was hitting through the first part of the season (through May 21). That was my nail in the coffin. Another injury when I was swinging bat better than I ever had in my life."

His menacing bat never was in evidence during his summer hitting streak. Brett hit 132-for-298 for a .443 average, but was hitless in only six of 74 games.

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