

# Tennis team's weekend is tough

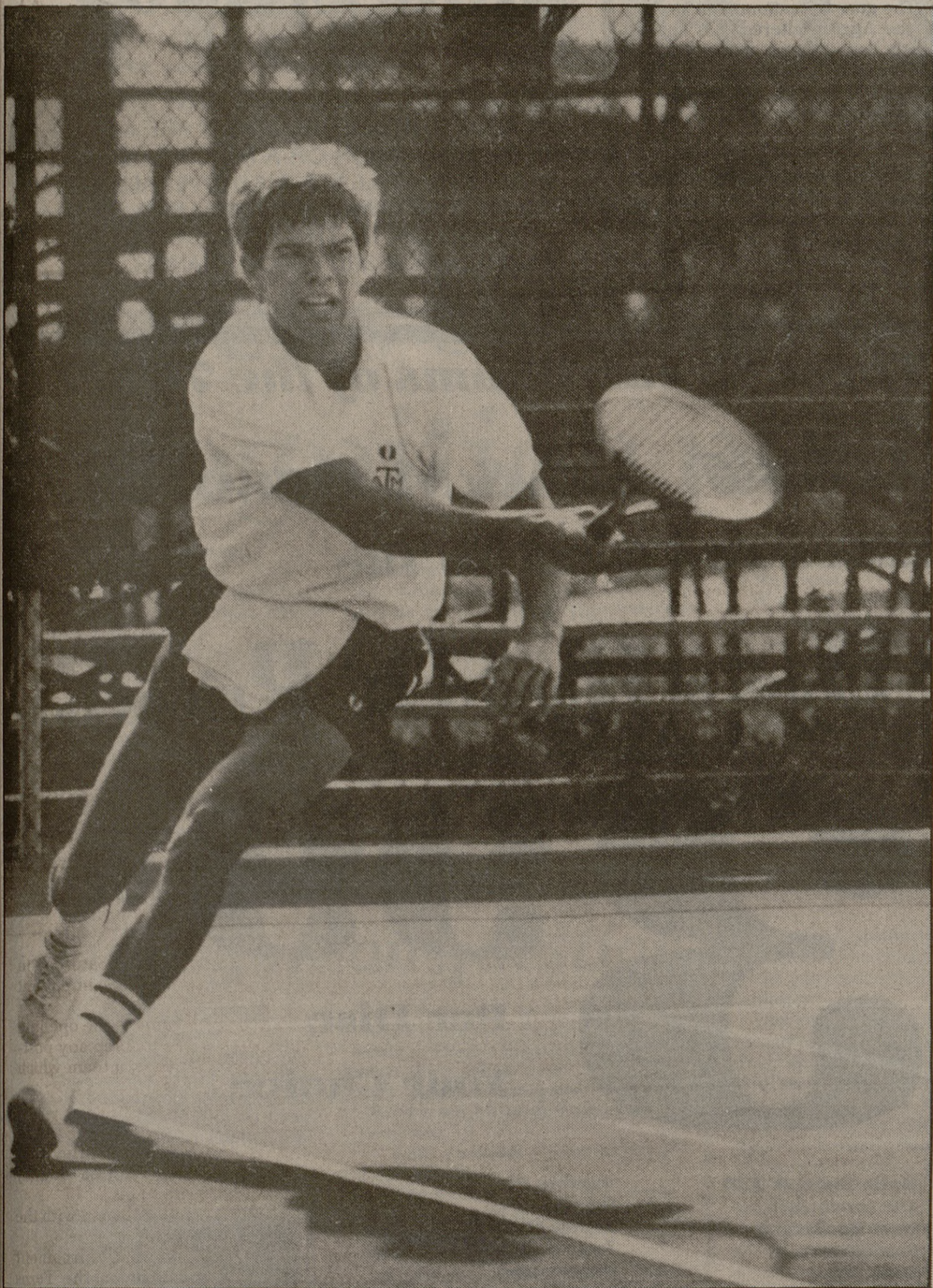


Photo by Margarita Jaime

Texas A&M's Leonard Smith follows through on a forehand during tennis action last weekend against East Texas State. Smith defeated John Forna of ETSU, 6-0, 6-1, as the Aggies won 8-1. The men's team faces Southwest Texas State and Southwest Louisiana on the Omar Smith Tennis Center courts today and Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

**By RICK STOLLE**  
Battalion Staff  
A tough weekend faces the Texas A&M University men's tennis team, according to Head Coach David Kent.

The Ags face Stephen F. Austin University Friday and Southwest Louisiana Saturday. Both matches begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Complex.

"Southwest Louisiana is looking to avenge last year's loss to us," said Kent. "They have improved a lot since last year, too."

The Ags beat Southwest last year, 9-0. Kent said it was a close match, however, with each set of the individual matches in doubt until the last minute.

Southwest has foreign players in four of its top six spots.

"They are all good, solid players," said Kent. "An Egyptian plays the number two spot for Southwest and he has been Egyptian national champion for a couple of years."

Kent said the Ags cannot look past Stephen F. Austin either.

"Stephen F. also has a couple of good, foreign players," Kent said. "We had better be ready both days."

The Aggies will go with a general lineup because Kent said the line-up could change by match time.

Reid Freeman, Brian Joelson, Max King, Trey Schutz, Ron Kowal and Leonard Smith are expected to be the singles players for Texas A&M.

The doubles team are scheduled to be: Kowal-Tom Judson, Freeman-Joelson and King-Schutz.

Kent said Southwest has been building a top-notch program for a long time and it has finally started to produce.

"But we have two advantages," he said, "we'll be playing at home with a good, Aggie crowd behind us and we have never lost to them (Louisiana)."

He said that is quite a psychological step for a team to overcome. It was tough when he first came to A&M to get the Aggie players to overcome similar barriers, he said.

"We'll be challenged at every position," Kent said. "From number one to number six, we'll have to play the best we can."

He said if the team continues playing well like it has in the past two weeks, the Ags will be able to challenge Trinity University, (ranked ninth nationally) when the Ags meet Trinity Feb. 19 in San Antonio.

"For the first time since I came here," he said, "we will be able to challenge them strongly."

"Last year we were outmanned, and the year before that we were soundly beaten."

He said the first obstacle to overcome, though, is Stephen F. Austin and Southwest Louisiana.

Admission is free to the Omar Smith Tennis Center located near the police station on campus.

## Astros trade Sexton, sell Bochy

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — The New York Mets Wednesday purchased the contract of catcher Bruce Bochy from the Houston Astros' Tucson farm club of the Pacific InterCoast League.

Also, Astros minor league infielder Jimmy Sexton Thursday was traded to the Oakland A's for a player to be named later or cash, the club said. Bochy, 25, was assigned to the Mets' Tidewater club of the International League but will attend the Mets' major league spring training camp as a non-roster player.

Bochy had been used sparingly during the Astros' drive to the top of the National League's Western Division last season. He had been the third catcher behind starter Alan Ashby and backup Luis Pujols.

## Detroit writer lauds Aggie fans

The Texas A&M University fans are becoming famous.

In a bits and pieces column in the Detroit Free Press earlier this month, noted basketball writer Dick Vitale spoke of the Aggie basketball fans in glowing terms after a visit to the University to see a ballgame.

The columnist wrote this to the University of Michigan basketball fans:

"I have never seen the kind of spirit and excitement I saw recently on a visit to Texas A&M. The Aggie fans stand from the opening tip, and the spirit that they exhibit, with their band playing in the background, is a sight to behold. Maybe U of M (Michigan) fans should take a lesson and prove that Johnny Orr was not correct in saying that football is the only sport people care about on the Wolverine campus."

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**PADDY MURPHY ESCAPES**  
ATTICA, N.Y. — Authorities at Attica State Prison in New York announced today the escape of the infamous criminal Paddy Murphy.

Murphy, first convicted in 1936 for 18 counts of murder, has been in solitary confinement for the last 24 years. Federal authorities made no comment as to how Murphy escaped, but did say he is armed and dangerous and believed to be headed south.

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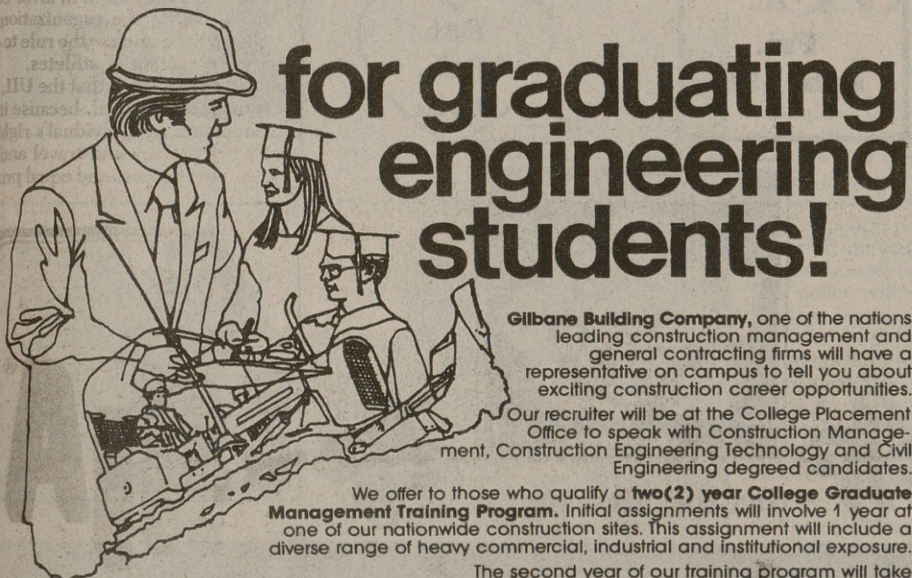
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