

Out of the Blue

By Rick Stolle



A&M men face toughest tourney

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

Going into the biggest college tennis tournament of the season, Texas A&M University tennis coach David Kent feels the pressure is on all the other top-rated teams to prove themselves.

"In a tournament of this caliber, anything can happen," he said. "It's a good place to go either up or down in the ratings."

Twelve out of the 24 teams in the Corpus Christi H.E.B. College Tennis Team championships are among the top 20 teams nationally.

Kent said it is the best tournament, besides the NCAA playoffs, this year.

"It is a tough tournament with a lot of top-rated teams," he said. "It will be a good gauge as to how we will do later in the conference season." The A&M could face a number of conference foes.

Arkansas, Texas, SMU, TCU, Houston and Texas Tech will join Texas A&M as the Southwest Conference member schools in attendance.

Among the top-ranked competitors are: the fifth-ranked University of Arkansas, sixth-ranked Clemson University, seventh-ranked University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan at eighth, Trinity University, ninth, the University of Houston, 11th, SMU, 14th, TCU at 15th, the University of Texas at 17th, San Diego University at 18th and Texas A&M with Wichita State University in a tie for 20th.

The four-day tournament, lasting today through Saturday, will feature some of the best college tennis players in the nation. But, as is common with so many good players, upsets become the norm.

"But for us to have a good tournament, we have to improve our

singles," said Kent. "Our doubles have always been good but the singles have just been inconsistent."

Kent said he has not been pleased with the top three singles matches in particular. The lower three have been much more dependable, he said.

Kent complimented Max King and Tom Judson on their recent good play and solid tennis for the past few weeks.

"They have been the most consistent players on the team," he said.

It will be a plus going into the tournament to have some depth. Kent said the A&M are lucky to have a team as equal in ability as the A&M are up and down the team ladder.

"We are not crippled if we lose anybody," said Kent. "With a lot of luck and some good matches for us, we could surprise a few people."

The tournament features seven of the nine conference members. Should conference foes meet, the results would not count in the SWC standings.

"It would be a confidence builder if we should meet and beat another SWC school," said Kent.

The general lineup for the matches will be: Brian Joelson, Reid Freeman, Trey Schutz, Tom Judson, Max King and Leonard Smith. The doubles teams will be Joelson-Freeman, Judson-Ron Kowal, Schutz-Smith.

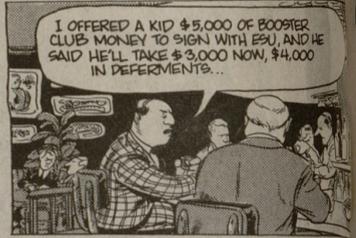
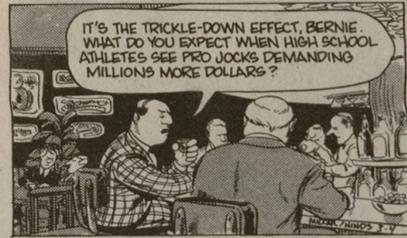
Kent said he will play around with the line-up trying to get the best matches out of his players.

"I also don't want anybody to be able to guess what we're going to do," he said.

The A&M are going into the tournament with a 9-1 record. The only loss came at the hands of Trinity, who beat Texas A&M 9-0.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Women's team travels

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

Looking for some experience, exposure and a national ranking, the Texas A&M women's tennis team travels to Provo, Utah today to compete in the Brigham Young Invitational Tournament.

The A&M will be competing against eight other teams, four of which are in the top 20 nationally.

In the first match, Texas A&M goes against the University of California at Berkeley. The 9 a.m. match on Thursday will only be the beginning of a tough tournament for the A&M.

"We will be playing a lot of tough teams," said coach Jan Cannon. "But we should beat a few and come back with a national ranking."

The teams in the tournament are: Cal-Berkeley; third-ranked BYU; fourth-ranked Arizona State University; TCU, ranked 13th, LSU, Colorado University and the University of Utah.

The A&M played ASU in a five-way tournament on Feb. 15.

"We should have beaten them,"

said Cannon, "but we were very tired and were ready to get home."

The A&M lost 7-2 to ASU.

Cannon said the line-up will vary in the tournament in order to get the best performances. Generally, she said, the line-up will be Liliana Fernandez, Pam Hill, Maylen Hooton, Amy Closs, Son-

ja Hutcherson, Laura Hanna, Judy Willard. Doubles team will be Closs-Hanna, Hill-Hutcherson and Hooton-Fernandez.

"We are very excited about and ready to play," she said.

The A&M are 7-2 on the season and Cannon believes the team will come back with a national ranking after the weekend.

Time changes Ag fans

Throughout the year, we have all heard about how bad things were when sporting events were held at other Southwest Conference schools.

Barnhill Arena in Arkansas has always been known for being a very rowdy place. You never knew who would be flying out of the stands next — ice, paper cups, and sometimes, even lids to Skoal cans.

Houston has been known to have a bad reputation as well. Last week, the women's tennis team suffered such bad treatment, obscene language and abusive manner, the Texas A&M coach threatened never to return.

A vocal minority always seemed to give the worst impression to visiting schools. They not only disrupt the game, they destroy the esteem of the university in the eyes of the other conference schools.

Aggies have always been proud of their teams. We have taken the derision other teams love to heap upon us with such zeal. But, the thing that made Texas A&M different, and gave it more class in many eyes, was the fact that we as Ags could take it and be above all the low-class antics other universities seem to relish in.

My grandfather had a great saying. Don't bother with the pigs... let them lie in their own slop.

But the changing face of father time has come to Texas A&M.

It seems as if the changes that have come to A&M have been for the worst, too. The fans were not only booing (which I really do not strenuously object to), but throwing ice, paper cups, newspaper and things out onto the court of the basketball game Monday night against TCU.

We did not let the pigs lie but joined them in their slop.

One of the yell leaders said it best when he pointed at a young man on top of the sound booth who threw ice and shouted, "Don't do it again, something like that reflects on all of us."

Being rowdy at the games and sporting events is one thing, I have always believed that A&M could use more rowdiness at its events — more spontaneous, heart-felt yells. Maybe a chant or two the fans could yell in between led yells. But when things get out of control, people get hurt.

And with something like ice being thrown onto the court, the only people we can hurt are ourselves.

Vernon Smith looked totally disgusted with the crowd when paper came flying onto the court.

It was something he had seen a lot of over the season... at Barnhill and such places. I feel very sad for him that the seasons he and Rynn Wright spent starting for Texas A&M had to end this way.

Coogs win two Tuesday

United Press International
HOUSTON — Rob Riley picked up his fourth win and Mark Lavespere extended his hitting streak to 10 games as the Cougars swept a doubleheader from Centenary Tuesday 10-0 and 12-2. Jeff Achilles pitched 5 innings and gave up just one hit in the first game.

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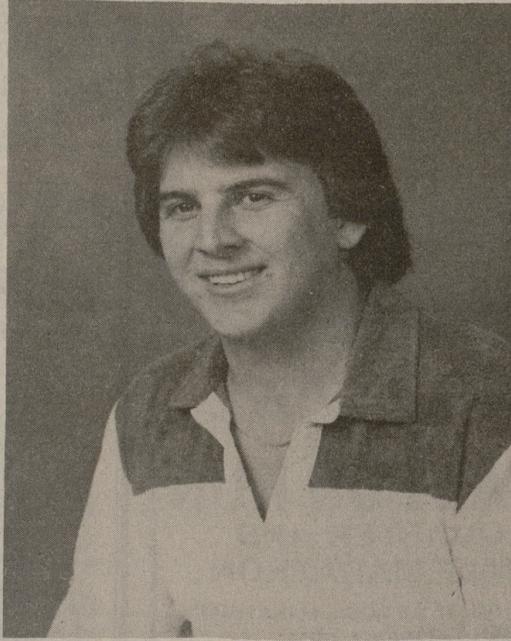
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