Tennis team wins again

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

Despite having a tough match with five of the nine games going to three sets, the nationally ranked Texas A&M University men's tennis team held off a furious rally by the University of Oklahoma to beat the Sooners, 6-3, Wednesday.

The win brings the Ags season record to a fine 13-3 but the team has to go to Houston for two tough matches over the weekend.

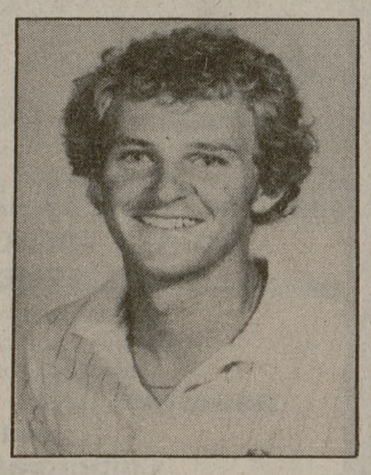
Kent said the win was a very good one for the Ags.

"OU has a very good team and we were lucky to have a few players who were ready to assume the leadership role," he said.

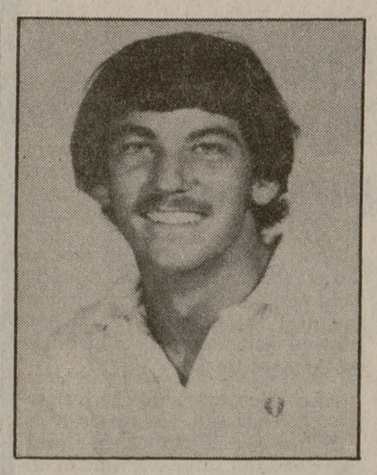
Kent especially complimented senior captain Reid Freeman for his fine efforts on and off the court.

"Reid held everybody together with his encouragment when he wasn't in there," said Kent. "I believe he played one of his best matches of his career here."

Kent said Freeman's style is better suited to the faster courts at the Royal Oaks Raquet club where the match was held.



Ron Kowal



Reid Freeman

In singles: Brian Joelson lost to Dennis Wall 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; Freeman beat Rob Braver 6-1, 6-2; Trey Schutz defeated Mark Justus 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; Tom Judson lost to Joey Braver 1-6, 6-2, 6-0; Max King beat Peter Smythe 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 and Ron Kowal defeated Billy Cannon 6-3, 6-3.

"Max and Ron are playing exceptional tennis," said Kent. "Kowal has come on like gangbusters. I think he has won seven out of his last eight matches."

In doubles: Freeman-King defeated Wall-Smythe 6-4, 7-5; Kowal-Judson beat Braver-Justus and Schutz-Leonard Smith lost to R. Braver-Cannon 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

He said he took Joelson out of the doubles because he seemed "mentally down" about something and could not concentrate on the game.

"That's where it is nice to have somebody like Max around," Kent said. "Max picked up the slack well."

The Houston and Rice matches will be tough ones, said Kent. The Cougers won the Corpus Christi H.E.B. College Tennis Team tournament by defeating Trinity and Clemson. Trinity is ranked ninth in the nation (and is the only team to beat the Ags 9-0 this year) and Clemson is rated sixth.

"Houston looks like the favorite in the SWC," said Kent. "And to make matters worse, they will want to avenge the 7-2 loss we handed them last year."

He went on to say that Rice will also be tough. The Ags squeaked by last year, 5-4.

"We have to go into Houston relaxed and play our best tennis," he said.

Kent said he thinks the team is ready but they will have to play each match one at a time.

TANK McNAMARA by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Tracksters divide for meet

Texas A&M's men's track squad will be divided this weekend, with six athletes competing in the NCAA Indoor Championships in Detroit and another 28 representing the school in the two-day Rice Invitational in Houston.

Coach Charlie Thomas has the indoor group, which includes high jumper James Howard, pole vaulters Randy Hall and Rob Montgomery, 60-yard hurdler Mike Glaspie, 440-yard star Leslie Kerr and 60-yard sprinter Rod Richardson.

The Aggie entrants, by events:

1,500-meter run — John Bleyl, Andy Elliott, David Nelsen.

110-meter hurdles — Billy Busch, Rick Thomas, Craig Moody, Kevin Stevenson.

400-meter dash — Floyd Furlow, Ed Guillen.

100-meter dash — Larry Kerr, James Washington.

800-meter run — Darryl Shoemake, John Sexton, Kyle Beall, Bill Roberts.

400-meter hurdles — Thomas, Bart Daniel, Busch, Moody.

200-meter dash — James Washington, Larry Kerr.

5,000-meter run — Jim Bolleter, Jimmy Sterling, Ray Muenich.

Shot put — Kevin McGinnis, Robert Windsor, Mark Isenmann.

Discus — McGinnis, Windsor, Isenmann.

Pole vault — Mike Mullins, Rick Hayley, Brad McFarling.

High jump — Scott Roberson.

Javelin — Richard Lamb.

McReynolds leads Hogs

Arkansas baseball looks good

Even with the loss of pitcher Steve Krueger and catcher Ronn Reynolds, both All-Americans, the Arkansas Razorbacks will bring back enough big hitters and improved pitching to again rate as one of the top teams in the Southwest Conference baseball race.

The biggest plus for the Hogs in the 1981 race will be the trio of outfielder Kevin McReynolds, first baseman John Hennell and third baseman Kenny Rogers.

The three combined for 152 runs scored, 41 doubles, 34 home runs, 145 runs batted in and a remarkable .347 batting average.

The Hogs from the hills are also bringing back pitchers Scott Tabor, Stuart Huchingson with newcomer Darrel Akerfelds.

Pitching will be a question mark for the Hogs this year as they have an untested staff. The staff is young with only one senior.

"We have more control as a staff," said pitching coach Tom Hilton, "but that was our number one emphasis in the fall. We have a lot of quality arms but we'll have to make up for a lot with competitiveness."

Tabor was 7-4 last year with a 2.89 ERA. He is a hard-throwing right-handed junior who has an impressive array of pitches. He has a fastball that travels at 83 mph, a good curve, a slurve or slow curve, change-up and a knuckle-drop ball.

Hilton calls Tabor the "ace of the Razorback staff."

At 6-7, junior Stuart Huchingson can get a lot of power behind one of his fastballs. He transfered to Arkansas from Crowder (Mo.) Junior College where he had a 3-2 record.

Hilton said Huchingson throws consistently at 86-87 miles per hour. "He also has a nasty slider that comes to the plate at about 84 or 85 mph."

Huchingson had his problems last year going only 4-5 with a 5.84 earned run average. But the tall righthander had 50 strikeouts to his credit.

He was drafted by the Houston Astros in the sixth round out of high school. Huchingson figures prominantly in the Hogs plan.

Akerfelds is a freshman football signee who has impressed the Arkansas coaching staff.

"Darrel is a hard-working kid who could help us right now," said Hilton. Akerfelds is battling for the third spot on the pitching rotation.

But the biggest asset the Hogs have is not their pitching staff which has yet to prove itself, but the hitting. Highlighting the power-hitting Hogs is junior Kevin McReynolds.

McReynolds is not expected to be around after the baseball draft this year and the Arkansas coaching staff predicts they will use him all they can.

"This is likely his last season of baseball at Arkansas," said head coach Norm DeBriyn. "He should go in the first round of the major league draft later this year; who knows how high."

McReynolds hit .386 last year with 17 home runs and 57 runs batted in.

His average is the third highest in Arkansas baseball history.

DeBriyn said the right-handed power hitter reminds him of Mickey Mantle.

"He has quick hands and a lot of power behind his swing," he said.

McReynolds earned second-team all-America honors last year. He was a unanimous selection for Most Valuable Player in the SWC tournament last year.

"We're not counting on having him back next year," DeBriyn said.

John Hennell, senior firstbaseman, is the man with the eye on the Arkansas team. The lefthander struckout only 14 times in 214 at bats last year while compiling a .336 batting average. He also made only four errors fielding all year.

Hennell also had a school record 21 doubles and is the all-time doubles leader with 37. He has another record in walks with 35 last year and 61 over his career.

"He has outstanding bat quickness," said DeBriyn. "We like to bat him in front of McReynolds and Rogers to give us a good 3-4-5 batting order."

Kenny Rogers, no relation to the singer, is the third man in the tremendous threesome in the batting order.

Rogers hit .316 in his first year for the Hogs. He transfered in from Mt. San Antonio Junior College in Walnut, Calif. The right-handed third baseman had 10 home runs to come in second in that category behind McReynolds.

DeBriyn said, "Rogers is the smartest player we've got. He is fundamentally sound with a great approach."

He said Rogers' only drawback is that he cannot run very well. "He has short legs and has a definite lack of speed," said DeBriyn.

Rogers will bat in the fifth spot to make the middle third of the Arkansas batting order the SWC, what the Arkansas media guide calls, "Murderers' Row."

— Rick Stolle

Softball team to play SHSU

The Texas A&M women's softball team, ranked second in the nation and sporting a 6-0 spring record, will travel to Huntsville today to play the Sam Houston Bearkats.

Correction

In Tuesday's Battalion, two baseball players pictured under the headline — Aggies sweep pair from Cowboys — were misidentified. David Flores and Steve Davis, two pitchers who posted wins in that doubleheader, had the names switched underneath the photos. The Battalion regrets the error.

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