

# Sports

## Ags helped by Schutz' return Aggies battle Razorbacks as preparation for Hogs ends

By RICK STOLLE

**Battalion Staff**  
At the beginning of the conference season, the Texas A&M University men's tennis team had a lot of confidence and a great deal of momentum behind it.

After winning two matches by impressive scores and losing to league-leading Houston in a very close match, the Ags had a 20-5 SWC league mark. The Southwest Conference determines standings and ranking for the post-season tournament on the basis of individual matches.

Optimism was abundant at the Omar Smith Tennis Center until bad news came.

Senior Trey Schutz had injured his ankle against Rice on March 14. Originally, it had been thought a simple sprain.

Schutz said he had thought it was a light sprain and had continued to play in the match.

"I could have stopped playing because we were pretty well ahead in the match," he said. "But in SWC competition, every match is important."

Also, he said, he did not think anything of the injury until he looked at his ankle after the match and saw the swelling had doubled the size of it.

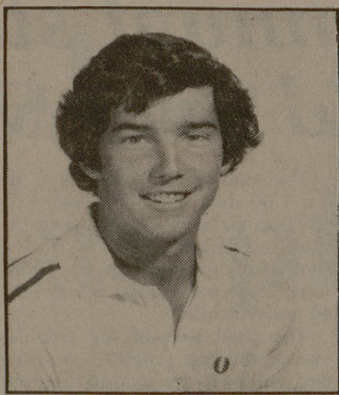
"Injuries are a common occurrence on an athletic team," he said, "and thought it was just my turn for one."

So it was a shock when the doctor told Schutz that the ankle could be broken. The X-rays showed a small hairline fracture in the ankle that could have ended his career at Texas A&M.

"When he told me," said Schutz, "I thought I had hit my last tennis ball for Texas A&M."

The Aggie season took a turn for the worse with the news. The Ags proceeded to do badly at the Rice Tournament and then lost to SMU 7-2 and Texas 5-4.

Adjustments had to be made in the line-up that seemed to affect team play. With Schutz out, coach David Kent moved Max King up



Trey Schutz

to play the third spot that Schutz had been playing.

"Max really came through and played some fantastic tennis," said Schutz. "I know if Reid had been hurt and it had been me in Max's situation, I would have definitely felt the pressure."

Kent moved the rest of the team up a notch and inserted freshman Leonard Smith in the sixth position.

"Even though we have a very well-balanced team," said Schutz, "to be moved away from a position you have been accustomed to is a big adjustment."

He said it was really no big deal losing him due to the relative closeness of the team in talent but it took the momentum away from the Ags.

"When we had to change the line-up, it changed the rhythm the team had at individual positions," he said.

Schutz said the team is so similar in position that it normally would not have mattered who was out for a match. But each member has gotten used to playing a certain type of opponent, he said.

"Obviously, the best players will be in the top three positions. That's where you stick the All-Americans," he said. "You really have to adjust when you are all of a

sudden playing competition better than you are used to."

Kent echoed Schutz. He said it is a lot easier to replace the number six spot than number three.

The Ags played well in the stretch but Kent said he felt they were just missing a little spark. Something that would turn a 5-4 loss into a win.

"I don't know how we would have done with Trey in there," he said, "but I think we would have won a few matches we lost."

Fortunately for the Ags, however, after two weeks, the line in the X-ray disappeared and Schutz was given the OK to return to play.

"It's a great to have him back," said a much relieved Kent. "We're going to be at full strength for the first time since we lost Trey."

Schutz said he felt good at the TCU match Saturday, which the Ags lost 5-4 but was still hesitant about making some moves because of the injury.

He is getting the ankle taped heavily for each practice and match. He also has a received a

pair of high-top shoes for better support.

"I know it's a mental thing," he said, "but I am tentative about some of my moves because I'm scared to reinjure my ankle."

Schutz and his ankle will be tested Saturday when the Arkansas Razorbacks arrive to play in A&M's final SWC match. The Hogs are ranked third nationally in the latest coaches poll and have the SWC lead with a 32-4 match record.

The Ags are currently in fourth place with a SWC record of 38-24, one full match ahead of the University of Texas.

A&M also has a chance to catch third place SMU. The Ponies have a record of 31-13 in SWC play but have yet to play Texas, Baylor or Arkansas. And second place TCU has Arkansas, Houston and Texas Tech to play so the race may go down to the wire.

The Ags will take on Arkansas Saturday beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB

**Battalion Staff**

How long can it go on? Sooner or later, they've got to break out on this horrendous slump, or people are going to start wondering, "What in the world has happened to the Aggies?"

Lately, the Texas A&M baseball team has played some close games, but nonetheless, five out of the last six have shown up on the right-hand side of the won-lost column.

The Aggies will try to add to the total on the left side of that ledger this weekend when they meet the third-place Arkansas Razorbacks in Olsen Field in a crucial series for both teams.

In the last two weeks, A&M has been swept by the TCU Horned Frogs in a three-game series and has lost two out of three to the Houston Cougars, leaving them with a dismal 2-6-1 last-place SWC record. The Aggies, who play 17 of their final 20 games at home, must start winning now if they hope to play in the May post-season conference tournament.

The two teams' season records are similar, with A&M at 20-12-1 and Arkansas at 21-12. However, the Hogs' conference record stands at a respectable 6-6 after last weekend's two-out-of-three series loss to the Texas Longhorns.

Probable pitchers in Friday's single game will be Rick Luecken,

5-2, for the Aggies and Scott Tabor, 7-1, for the Razorbacks. Gametime is 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, the Aggies' Steve Davis, 3-0, will face either Scott Glanz, 5-3, or Ed Vidmar, 0-1, in the first game, while A&M's Perry Swanson, 1-2, will face Arkansas' Darrel Akerfelds, 3-3, in the second game.



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### Athletic facilities tour

The new athletic facilities at Kyle Field will be open for a public tour Saturday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The tour will take visitors through the men's and women's dressing rooms below the west deck of Kyle Field and conclude with a tour of the press box.

The men's dressing area includes the football and track dressing rooms, and equipment and training rooms. The women's dressing area includes softball and track dressing room and equipment and training rooms as well.

Elevators will take the tour to the fifth level of the stadium which includes University administration suites.

In the press box the public can inspect the working press level (ninth level) and on the 10th level booths used by University and athletic officials and coaches.

Those wishing to tour the facilities should meet at the elevator area on the west side of the stadium.

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