

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Rapp inks four recruits to AIAW letters of intent

By Ritchie Priddy
Sports Editor

Perhaps breathing a sigh of relief, Cherri Rapp, head women's basketball coach, signed four "tall" players to national letters of intent to play basketball for the Aggies next year.

Signing three freshman and one junior college transfer, all of whom are six foot or taller, Rapp couldn't be more pleased.

Ann Trinka, a 6'2 1/2" post from Lidgerwood, N. Dakota, brings a 21 point and 14 rebound average per game to A&M. A graduate of Lidgerwood High School, Trinka was all-conference four years, Most Valuable Player two years, co-captain and all-time leading scorer for her team.

Rapp said that she hasn't seen her in a game situation due to the distance between North Dakota and Texas but when Trinka visited the Texas A&M campus earlier this semester and worked out with the team she was impressed with her size and inside play.

"She's one of the better shooters we found. She can move outside as well as inside to shoot and she can rebound. She is really going to help us," Rapp said.

Tatum, another 6'2 1/2" post, hails from Jacksonville, Texas where she averaged 24.6 points and 18 rebounds for her high school team. She was named the MVP of the South Zone, and elected to the all-district first team.

"Her greatest asset is her rebounding. She's a good rebounder and she can get the ball out quickly, which will help our fastbreak," Rapp said.

Janet Duckham, a 6'0" post from Spring High School in Houston where she averaged 20 points and 11 rebounds could be moved outside to a forward position for the Aggies, Rapp said.

"She has the potential to develop into a very good power forward," Rapp said of Duckham. "She has a lot of natural talent."

Kelli Harned, a 6'3" post and transfer from Tyler Junior College averaged 10 points and nine rebounds for Tyler and is the latest signee for the Aggies.

"Kelli is a good inside shooter. She moves well up and down the court as well. Plus she'll bring in a little experience," Rapp said.

Rapp said that all had good chances to possibly break into the starting lineup next season.

"They all have a good chance to step in and play next year," Rapp said. "We're weak inside anyway — with the loss of the seniors — so one or two should step in."

Rangers shut out Indians

United Press International
DALLAS — The Texas Rangers went about the fairly methodical business of beating the Cleveland Indians Wednesday night, 3-0, but as is often the case the score didn't begin to cover what happened on the field.

For one thing Cleveland starting catcher Ron Hassey was evaded at home plate trying to make a play on the sliding Bump Wills and had to be carried off the field on a stretcher.

Late Wednesday night Hassey underwent an examination for possible damage to his left knee. Initial reports indicated a strain and contusion, but swelling prevented doctors from determining if there was further damage.

And another thing the Rangers waited only five games into the season before one of their numbers said he was disappointed at the way he was being treated in the press.

"Some people are born negative," said Al Oliver, who drove in three runs during the Rangers' first shutout victory of the season and who produced the team's first homer of the year. "They just like to criticize people. I feel sorry for them."

Mixed in with all that was a productive outing by Texas starter Doc Medich, easily the best pitcher in the show produced by a member of the Rangers' staff this season. Medich, making his first start,

gave up five hits over 7 1-3 innings, striking out four and walking none.

But with one out in the seventh and nobody on base, Texas manager Don Zimmer marched to the mound and took Medich out of the contest in favor of John Henry Johnson.

"I was gassed," said Medich. "Don asked me to try to get the two right handers out to start the eighth inning, but they pinch hit for the second batter so Don came and got me."

Oliver's home run came off Cleveland loser Len Barker in the first. Buddy Bell doubled in the fourth and scored on John Grubb's single and Oliver doubled home Mickey Rivers in the fifth to give the Rangers a 3-0 advantage.

Oliver drove in another run in the seventh with a ground out.

"I was criticized in the press for missing the cutoff man," said Oliver after the game. "The writers who cover this team are weak. But that hasn't bothered my play on the field. And it's not going to bother me as long as I stay away from them."

Of a more serious note was the incident involving Hassey, who was injured on the play in which Oliver drove in a run with a ground out to second baseman Alan Bannister in the seventh.

Bump Wills was on third when Oliver hit the grounder and Bannister threw home. The throw, however, sailed high and as Hassey reached up to grab it Wills slid under the Cleveland catcher.

Hassey fell on top of Wills and then bounced off him, apparently twisting his left knee in the process.

"Ron was in pain," said Cleveland manager Dave Garcia. "It hurt him a lot. It was a clean slide. There wasn't anything wrong with Wills' slide."

Men's tennis team prepares for final home match of year

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

With a national ranking, a 17-9 season record, a 39-32 conference record and fifth place in the conference race sewn up, the Texas A&M men's team is looking forward to the final two matches of the spring season.

The men take on Pan American and Lamar Universities Friday and Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Although the Ags concluded their Southwest Conference regular season on a sour note good news came through the gloom.

Despite being defeated by Arkansas 8-1, the team has been assured of the fifth position in the SWC post-season tournament in Corpus Christi April 24-26. The Aggies edged out the University of Texas who have finished their season with a 38-34 record.

The Longhorns had their destiny in their own hands but lost 5-4 to TCU and 8-1 to SMU to fall into sixth place.

The Ags have one match outstanding and could take a two match lead into the tourney. The final match will be completed at the tournament. The match was shortened because of darkness at the University of Houston courts. The Cougars do not have lights on the court.

"We would love to take the remainder of that match," said Kent. "It would give us a two-match lead over Texas and some momentum to go into the tournament with."

The Ags also moved up in the

rankings to 17 despite losing four of the last five matches. All the matches were close and Kent said he feels the Ags should have taken a couple they lost.

"We should have beaten both Texas and TCU but that's the way it goes," he said. "We can't worry about what we should have done and need to concentrate on what we can do in the future."

However, Kent said he is grateful for the ranking and the position going into the tournament.

He said the Ags had some goals going into the season. They were to improve their position in both the national and SWC rankings, win more matches and play better, more consistent tennis.

Brian Joelson, Reid Freeman, Trey Schutz, Max King, Tom Judson and Ron Kowal are expected to be the singles players.

Doubles teams should be Joelson-Freeman, Judson-Kowal and Jim Grubert-Schutz.

Astros win again, take Atlanta, 2-0

United Press International
HOUSTON — Craig Reynolds spoiled Tommy Boggs' bid for a no-hitter with a seventh-inning single Wednesday night then scored from first on a three-base error by Boggs, lifting the Houston Astros and Nolan Ryan to a 2-0 triumph over the Atlanta Braves.

Boggs, 0-1, was flawless through the first six innings, striking out three while allowing a single baserunner, Denny Walling, who reached on a fifth-inning walk.

Reynolds, leading off, broke the string with a clean liner to center, then raced all the way home when a visibly rattled Boggs threw Cesar Cedeño's bunt into the right-field corner. Cedeño went to third base on the play and scored on a wild pitch by Boggs.

Ryan, 1-0, struck out nine in seven innings in his first outing of the season after being hampered by a pulled hamstring muscle. He moved into the No. 3 spot on the all-time strikeout list by fanning Boggs to end the seventh, recording 3,118 to pass Bob Gibson. Ryan allowed three hits and walked three. Frank LaCorte pitched the final two innings for his first save.

Chris Chambliss had two singles and a double among the Braves' four hits.

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