

Sports

Yankees fire another one

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The New York Yankees were right:

club owner George Steinbrenner couldn't fire his manager on national television.

So he waited 17 hours. After the Yankees had whipped the Royals 2-1 Saturday on national television — their second nationally televised triumph over Kansas City in two days — Michael was greeted with howls of "Can't fire a guy on national television," and "One more day," from his players when he entered the clubhouse.

It was frolic time for "Stick" Michael, who admitted after Friday night's 4-0 nationally televised victory over the Royals that a loss that night would probably have cost him his job.

But Michael's frolic became Steinbrenner's folly Sunday when he abruptly dismissed his manager at 9 a.m. and brought Bob Lemon back to handle the Yankees after a two-year exile in the New York scouting department. Lemon went on to direct the Yankees to a 6-1 victory over the Royals that afternoon.

"Stick's in the fraternity now," said Lemon, who himself was fired as manager of the Yankees midway through the 1979 season. "He's joined it. We're all in it. I told Stick I'd keep it (managerial seat) warm for him."

Michael became the seventh

manager relieved of his commission by Steinbrenner in the nine years since he purchased the club. Michael had guided the Yankees to a 48-34 record in the first year of his three-year contract before being dismissed.

Michael knocked heads with the Yankee owner Aug. 28 in Chicago.

"It's not fair that he criticizes me and threatens to fire me all the time," said Michael at the time. "I'd rather he do it than talk about it. I told him exactly that today. Don't wait."

Steinbrenner stopped all communication with Michael at that point and ordered two of his chief executives, vice presidents Cedric Tallis and Bill Bergesch, to join him in that silence. The Yankees went on to win five games in a row and seven of nine but even a two-game winning streak over the defending American League champion Royals could not save Michael.

"I very much regret that Gene and I have not been able to resolve certain differences and therefore Bob Lemon will assume the duties as manager of the Yankees," said Steinbrenner Sunday in a prepared statement.

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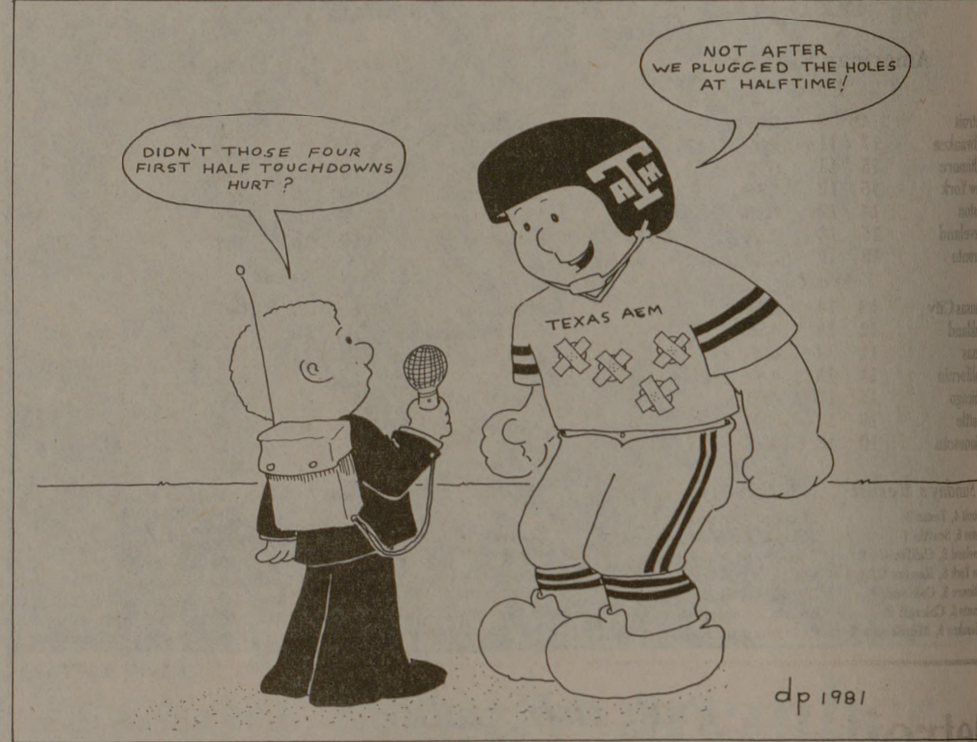
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Women's tennis team to rely on height, experience this year

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff
Hoping to improve upon its 1980-81 record of 15-12, the Texas A&M University women's tennis team has begun practice and is relying on new height to help bring

about a successful year. "We don't have anybody under 5-foot-6-inches," coach Jan Cannon said. "We're looking forward to using our height to our advantage, especially in doubles."

Cannon said the women came back to school with a great attitude and the team will be much stronger than last year. Most of the team returns for another year on the courts.

Liliana Fernandez, Pam Hill, Amy Closs, Maylyn Hooton, Sonja Hutcherson and Laura Hanna will be back, along with a good complement of transfer students and freshmen to challenge for the top six spots on the team.

Transfers Rebecca Raso, from Tyler Junior College; Teresa Landry, from Midland Junior College; and Barbara Atwater, from Flagler College in San Augustine, are expected to give the returning players stiff competition for the six singles spots.

Freshmen Kelly Hobart and Cheryl Stanford will be very capable backups and may fill starting roles once they learn the college system and style of play.

Head coach David Kent said Stanford was voted the outstanding female athlete in high school. "She is not only a top tennis player," he said, "she was also one of the best volleyball players at the school."

Cannon said she is looking for some very good things from all the women. "For the first time, we have players that either David or I

have recruited so we know what to expect."

She said all the women are athletes who play indoor tennis heads-up tennis.

"All the girls will be able to play both singles and doubles," Cannon said. "Nuetze will be coming back after a year off due to an injury. Nuetze's left-handed play is ideally suited for doubles."

"We also want to bring you're along slowly so she will be able to regain her strength quickly," Cannon said.

Cannon said she is very pleased and impressed with the new transfers.

"Teresa will surprise a lot of people," Cannon said. "She probably play at a high spot."

Head coach Kent said he is pleased with Landry.

"I've watched her grow up," he said. "She is from my old stomping grounds in West Texas and I think she is a good player."

"Technically, we're two years behind," said Cannon. "But girls have played all summer, the only thing holding us back is getting readjusted to the heat and humidity."

She said she was pleased with the results of their summer practice, particularly Fernandez. Fernandez played in two country-wide tournaments in her native state of Columbia and won Women's National Championship.

Kent said Fernandez will represent Columbia Sept. 23-26 to compete in the South American Championships.

"We are all just as happy and proud of her as we can be," said Cannon. "As the top-ranked woman in Columbia, many people will be gunning for her but I think she has a good chance to win the title."

Kent and Cannon agree that the coming season will be an interesting and a winning one.

"All the girls are more experienced players than they were last year," Cannon said. "They are more patient and with a year's experience I am looking for some extra wins from them."

The women will not have home tournaments in the fall. They will compete against some of the top women's teams in Texas.

The team travels to Fort Worth Sept. 19-21 to compete in the Texas Sectionals Tournament and to Austin Sept. 25-27 for the Wood Invitational Tournament.

The Aggies' next two tournaments are the Texarkana Invitational Oct. 9-11 and the Houston Fall Festival Oct. 16-19.

The Ags finish the fall season with the Southwest Conference Tournament in Fort Worth Nov. 20-22.

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