

Sports

Women's tennis team has good first outing

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

Displaying some of the powerful tennis that will be played this year, the Texas A&M University women's tennis team had a doubles team win the championship and a member reach the singles finals at the Beaumont Labor Day Invitational over the weekend.

The team of junior Liliana Fernandez and transfer Teresa Landry won the doubles championship by defeating the fourth seeded team of Legia Mattos and Natalie Morales 6-4, 7-5.

Coach Jan Cannon said Fernandez and Landry were not seeded because they were a new team. She said she was confident they would be seeded in later tournaments.

"Being a transfer student, nobody knew much about her," Cannon said, "and Liliana has been out of the country competing in her native country of Columbia."

Fernandez won the Columbian National championship over the summer and will return Sept. 23-26 to compete in the South American National championships.

She also was the Aggie player to reach the finals of the singles competition.

Fernandez was seeded second in the Beaumont tournament. She beat Carol Core in the first round 6-0, 6-0.

She then defeated two of her teammates. Fernandez beat

Landry 6-2, 6-2 and Amy Closs 6-4, 6-3 for wins in rounds two and three.

"Both were tough matches," the coach said. "Teresa was content to wait for Liliana to make a mistake and that's Lili's style. And both Amy and Teresa know Liliana's style."

Fernandez defeated third-seeded Mattos, a Brazilian attending Lamar, 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinals. She lost to fourth seed Margret Redfern of the University of Houston 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 in the finals.

Redfern had defeated the top-seeded in the second round, her own coach at Houston.

"It was an excellent match," said Cannon of the Fernandez-Redfern match. "Neither would give up even though both were dead-tired and zombies on their feet."

The Aggies also had other good showings in singles.

Pam Hill, seeded sixth in the tournament, lost to third-seeded Mattos in the second round, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 after a default in the first round.

Landry defeated Rita Garcia of East Texas State 6-2, 6-2 before losing to Fernandez.

Maylyn Hooton defeated Joanie Bavgonier by default and Linda Lazell of LSU, 6-3, 6-3 before losing to Christina Ortega of Lamar 6-3, 6-4.

Closs defeated Patty Been, 6-2, 6-1 and seventh-seed Debbie Ladig 6-3, 6-3 before losing to Fernandez.

The doubles team of Hill and Sonja Hutcherson were top seeds in the tournament but were beaten in the second round by Mattos and Morales, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Fernandez and Landry fought their way to the championship by defeating three of the four top teams.

The only team the two played that was not seeded was the team of Kim Gensler and Mary Sasser of North Texas State in the first round. Fernandez-Landry won 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.

They defeated third-seeded Ladig-Mauldin in the second 6-1, 2-6, 6-1. In the quarterfinals, Fernandez-Landry beat second-seeded Hagarman-Savant 6-3, 6-1.

"It was a great win for the girls, especially for the first time to play together competitively," said Cannon.

The next competition for the team will be Sept. 19-21 as it will travel to Fort Worth for the Texas Sectional Tournament.

Expos fire manager Williams

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — It had been a long time since Jim Fanning watched a baseball game from that special corner of the dugout reserved for the manager.

But after 19 years in baseball as a scout, administrator, general manager and, most recently, vice president of player development, Fanning returned to the field Tuesday night to take over as manager of the Montreal Expos in place of Dick Williams, who was fired earlier in the day.

And since it has been so long since he's been in the dugout — 1962 with the Milwaukee Braves' Class C farm club at Eau Claire, Wis., to be exact — the 53-year-old Fanning isn't quite sure what managerial style he'll be bringing to the Expos for the final four weeks of the season.

"I can't tell you, I can't go back to my five years as a manager," he said before the Expos dropped a 10-5 decision to the Philadelphia Phillies. "I've changed an awful lot in that time."

"I feel I know the guys on the bench very well. I signed a lot of them and I know what they can do. We have to give every effort to winning the rest of the season. If there are any changes, I would hope they would be done in a subtle way."

Expos' President John McHale unexpectedly thrust the job into Fanning's hands after discharging Williams, who had one month remaining on his three-year contract.

Williams, 52, took over a second division club in 1976 and turned it into a pennant contender. But McHale, apparently fearing a near-miss similar to Montreal's second-place finishes in each of the last two years, felt a change was needed to spur his team in the second-half pennant race.

"One of the reasons for my decision was that we didn't feel we could win the way we were playing, with the lack of direction and discipline and the questionable tactics," McHale said.

Expos' center-fielder Andre Dawson, the club leader in hitting

and home runs, said McHale may have felt some players were bending the rules.

"What Mr. McHale was referring to was some players getting away with a few things," Dawson said. "I felt personally Dick let us go out and play the game of baseball. He didn't ask for anything out of the ordinary. If some abused these rules, then maybe Mr. McHale is right."

"But we players have to go out and win the game. We have been making a lot of mental mistakes and beating ourselves. We just have to cut down on the mistakes."

Catcher Gary Carter said he didn't feel as if there were problems with direction on the Expos.

"I don't think so," he said. "Being professional ballplayers and adults, we know what we have

to do. Rules are set and we have to abide by them."

McHale also voiced displeasure with the way Williams handled the bullpen, especially Jeff Keiser, who was acquired from the New York Mets in the Ellis Martin deal.

Reliever Stan Bahnsen said he felt Williams didn't know how to handle the Montreal pitching staff.

"He put unneeded pressure on the pitching staff," Bahnsen said. "He attacked us all the time. We never defended us. He was a pitcher's manager."

Williams guided the Expos to 95 victories in 1979 and 94 in 1980. The Expos were 30-25 in the first half of this year to finish second and were 14-12 and in a place entering Tuesday's game.

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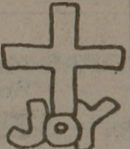
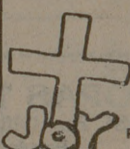
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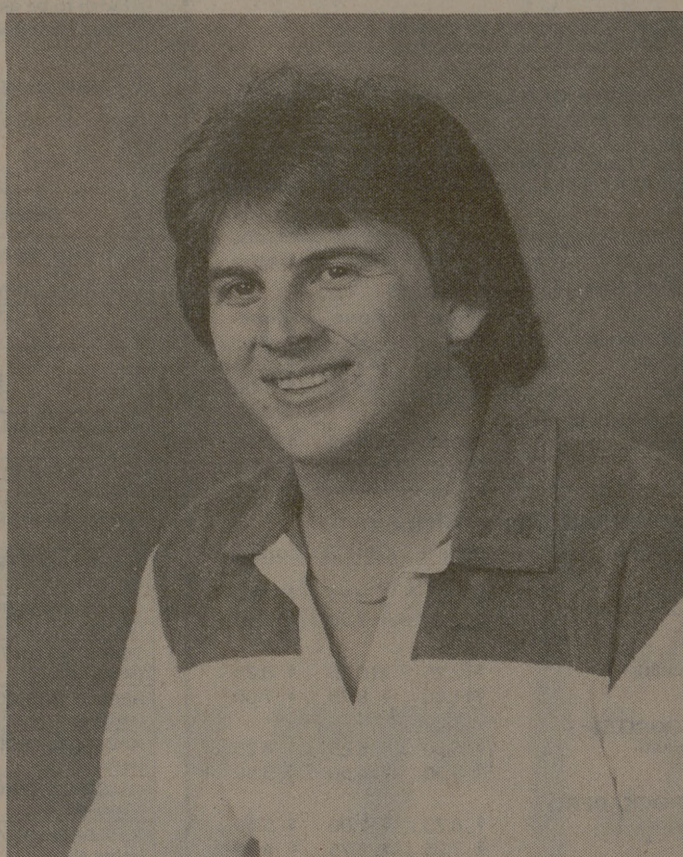
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