

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

April 8, 1982 / Page 13

A&M tennis

Aggies travel to Dallas for meet with No. 2

by Denise S. Sechelski

Battalion Staff
The No. 2-ranked SMU tennis team is waiting in Dallas for the Aggies, and the Mustangs' assistant coach says his team will be psyched up and ready to play Friday.

"The word is out that the Aggies have a tough team," Peter Rudy said, "and we know we have to be ready to play."

"We play TCU on Saturday and they're ranked 8th in the country. We definitely have a rough weekend of tennis coming up. We're just trying to get mentally prepared. We need to get ready and try our best."

Southern Methodist Univer-

sity has been playing strong doubles lately, Rudy said, but it's the depth of the singles players that probably give the team its greatest advantage.

"We have seven really good players that can beat anybody," Rudy said. "They've been playing some exceptional tennis lately."

But records and rankings speak for themselves and teams playing SMU hear the statistics loud and clear.

The Mustangs' Rodney Harmon is the No. 1 singles player in the nation and has a 21-4 record. SMU's overall record is identical to Harmon's, and the team's ranking was also the same until a

7-2 loss last week to No. 3-ranked UCLA dropped them to second. The victory moved UCLA to the No. 1 position nationwide.

Rudy said being the top team in the country was not one of SMU's goals at the beginning of the year.

"We started out at No. 5 in the pre-season polls, but those don't really mean much," he said. "We weren't really trying to get a No. 1 ranking. We really had our sights on the NCAA championships at the end of the year. We're gearing up for that tournament and hopefully we'll come home winners."

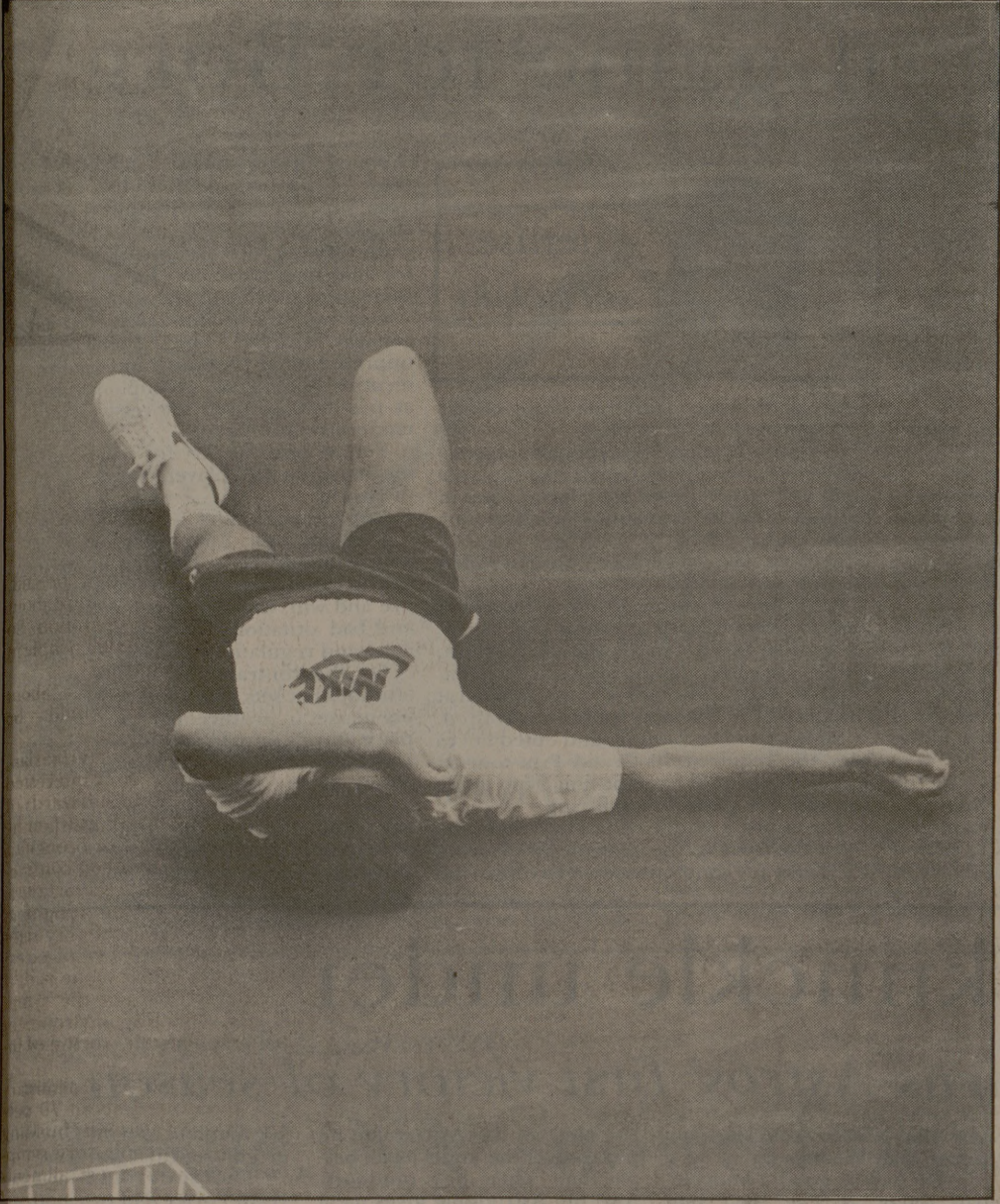
"We know we have a good

team that could win it all, so we're just trying to play every match at our best."

However, the players are not the only high quality members of the SMU team.

Tennis professional Dennis Ralston is in his second year as head coach of the Mustangs and Rudy said it was great to have such a high caliber player coaching at the college level.

"This is his first job as a university coach," Rudy said. "He's coached many pros — Stan Smith, Roscoe Tanner, Dick Stockton, Brian Gottfried. Right now, he's also working with Chris Evert Lloyd. He's really a great coach."



Van Barry, a member of the Texas Aggie tennis team, rests on the court during a practice session this week.

Texas A&M, ranked 18th in the nation, plays New Mexico here today at 1:30 before playing SMU Friday in Dallas.

staff photo by Eric Mitchell

Dallas holds Jazz' Dantley in check

United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks and Utah Jazz delivered an excellent example Wednesday night of that old National Basketball Association adage — "just because it happened last night doesn't mean it will happen again tonight."

On Tuesday evening the Jazz clobbered Dallas in Salt Lake City, 129-114, with Adrian Dantley scoring his normal 40 points against the Mavericks.

Twenty-four hours later the same two teams stumbled into each other at Reunion Arena and the results were quite different. Dallas not only ran away from the Jazz, 123-109, but Dantley was held to the unusually low total of 14 points.

Dantley, the NBA's third leading scorer with an average of 30.5 points per contest, scored only two points in the first half Wednesday night as the Mavericks opened their largest first-quarter lead ever.

Dallas' rookie combination of Jay Vincent and Mark Aguirre combined for 52 points — 31 of them coming from Vincent.

"We were embarrassed last night," said Aguirre, who had made a futile attempt to guard Dantley in the Jazz' victory. "We didn't show anything. Coach (Dick) Motta said we had to get going tonight."

Dantley showed his frustration by picking up three fouls in the first half and was never a factor in the game.

Utah had won three in a row coming into its second straight meeting with the Mavericks, but

midway through the first quarter Dallas began to streak ahead, eventually taking a 38-24 lead at the end of the period.

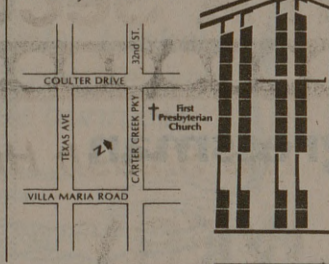
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SA's Mitchell picks up scoring slack in victory

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — After losing four games in a row — the Spurs' worst streak in two years — the coach of the Midwest Division's No. 1 team decided it was time for a new approach, perhaps taking some of the pressure off the NBA's leading scorer.

George Gervin was held to 14 points, but Mike Mitchell took up the slack with 40 points to make it all come together for the San Antonio Spurs in a 118-113 victory over the Kansas City Kings Tuesday night.

"Tonight we made the crucial plays," Coach Stan Albeck said. "I thought (Dave) Corzine, Mitchell and (Johnny) Moore all played important roles. We got more contributions from a lot more people tonight."

"The team kept its confidence and we finally got the harness from around our necks. Hopefully the albatross has been lifted."

San Antonio forward Mark Olberding said the Spurs "created a new look. We've got a couple of new plays and we did some things different tonight."

The Spurs took a 57-56 half-time lead behind 21 points from

Mitchell and held on for a 94-90 edge after three periods. Mitchell also pulled down 10 rebounds.

"We hit the crucial shots and made the plays when we had to," Mitchell said. "Our concentration was high and we went after every rebound and every loose ball. We just made up our

minds to play hard."

San Antonio outrebounded Kansas City 45-36 and out shot the Kings 30-19 at the free-throw line.

Kansas City was also flanked by foul trouble and ended up with four of its front line players hitting the bench for good in the fourth quarter.

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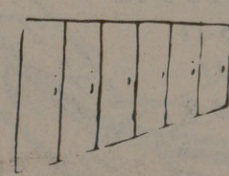
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