

Kent, Cannon anticipating Soccer success in '82 A&M tennis

by Joe Tindel Jr.
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M men's tennis team finished 18th in the nation last season, but Coach David Kent is looking to even greater heights this year.

The women didn't fare as well, but Coach Jan Cannon expects far better results from four fine freshmen and a possible all-America candidate.

Both teams get their first chance to test their strengths this weekend in the Beaumont Labor Day Tournament.

With talent like seniors Brian Joelson and Ron Kowal as well as sophomores Greg Hill and Kimmo Alkio returning, it's no wonder Kent is excited about the new season.

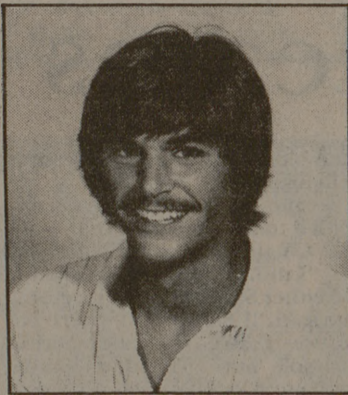
"We feel like we're going to have a fine year," Kent said. "We've got everybody coming back."

Alkio is a good example of the potential the men have. He and Mike Pazourek won the conference doubles championship last spring. Kent also has faith in singles standout Joelson, who was all-SWC last year and qualified for the NCAA meet in singles and doubles.

Joelson and Alkio will not participate in the Beaumont tournament, but instead will take a breather from the summer tournaments they've been through, Kent said.

Kent said he expects strong doubles play from Kowal and junior Van Barry in this weekend's tournament. Kowal and junior Tom Judson, who won't play again until spring, took first place in the Beaumont tournament last year.

This fall also is the debut for Arnold Kettenacker, a junior from Vancouver, B.C., and



Brian Joelson



Liliana Fernandez

Kent said he's looking forward to seeing the Canadian perform. Kettenacker was redshirted last year.

Cannon eagerly anticipates the season, mainly because she's recruited her best crop of freshmen ever and senior Liliana Fernandez is ready for NCAA action.

Cannon said Fernandez may be the first Aggie netter to achieve all-America status. Fernandez finished fourth last year in the TAIW individual tournament.

In addition, Cannon said, she expects exceptional play from freshmen Vanne Akagi, Linda Scogin, Cathy Nutt and Meg Green.

Akagi, from Wahiawa, Hawaii, and Scogin, from Shreveport, La., are probably the best of the four, Cannon said, and they could figure heavily in the makeup of this year's team.

"We look for them to play in the top six in their freshman year, which is real unusual, be-

cause we didn't lose any one of our top six except Pam Hill," Cannon said.

Cannon said she's more confident about this year's team not only because of the additional talent, but also because the dissolution of the AIAW takes perennial power Trinity University out of the women's conference. Trinity finished second nationally behind UCLA last year.

Nevertheless, Cannon said her team will still play Trinity in non-conference action, a confrontation which should result

nicely as a gauge for the Aggie Ladies.

"We're going to play them every chance we get because they're a good measuring stick," she said. "If we can do well against them we can do well against anybody."

Of course, "goodbye AIAW" means "hello NCAA" for the Aggie Ladies. Now that Cannon's team competes in the NCAA, it will face the same SWC foes the men face, and Cannon admitted the competition will remain tough.

"The competition within a hundred miles of here is just so good," she said.

"Rice is good, the University of Houston is good, Texas is good and SMU and TCU are good."

She said the only weak link in the conference could be Baylor. But conference play won't begin until spring, and these first few months, both the men and women will enter a series of non-conference tournaments which end Nov. 7 for the women and Nov. 22 for the men.

Both the men and women began practice as a team Monday, enduring the heat from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., Cannon said. After that, both teams have been lifting weights and running.

(continued from page 17)

have been able to compete with the best (teams in the nation). We had the best team this year since I have been here at A&M. They are super. I've played professional soccer before and I know what it takes to play, and I know that at least five players on this team have the talent to play professional soccer."

The women's team is also star-studded. Team members include three recruits who were high school all-Americans, three players from last year's national club champions, two more from previous national championship teams, one returning college all-American and five returning members of the all-Texas team.

Paul Winston, captain of the men's team, said all the players want to do is play matches as a varsity-level organization.

"We're not asking for money," he said. "All we want is a chance to prove ourselves. If some of our recruits would have known that we weren't going to be a varsity team, they never would have come here."

One of those recruits is Andrew Triolo, a high-scoring player from Huntington, N.Y.

"I don't really know what's going on here," he said. "One day I showed up for practice and no one was there so I called Coach to see what was going on, and he said soccer had been dropped. I had a scholarship lined up at Penn State but I decided to come here after I found out what they had to offer. I thought we (the soccer team)

were going to be treated like any other varsity players."

Triolo might have been given that impression through a pamphlet printed last spring by the Athletic Department in which Winston said, it's clear the Athletic Department was supportive of the soccer program.

"There was a note in the back of that pamphlet where Wally Groff (associate athletic director

thing about that pamphlet he did the recruiting on too. He did it without the approval of the department."

The players contend they don't want to burden the Athletic Department, but they do want to prove themselves.

Returning starter and captain Zimmerman said: "All we want is the opportunity. We were only varsity for the last six games last year. We don't think that is much of a chance. Last year we finished second in conference and I know we were going to be better this year." — Soccer team member Richard Zimmerman.

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for finance) talks about everything the Athletic Department is going to do for the soccer program. So if the Athletic Department knew last spring that we were not going to be a varsity sport, why did they print that pamphlet?"

The note that Winston is referring to states:

"The Athletic Department of Texas A&M University proudly recognizes the newest member of its family — SOCCER ... The Athletic Department is dedicated to providing first-class facilities, coaches and funding for all the intercollegiate programs we sponsor. We look forward to future seasons for this exciting sport."

Thornton said the Athletic Department had no idea the pamphlet was being printed.

"He did all that on his own," he said. "We didn't know any-

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