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sports

Battalion/Page 14
September 23, 1982

Women open in Lamar tournament today

Tennis teams to face strong foes

by Joe Tindel Jr.
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M men's and women's tennis teams will go their separate ways this weekend, with the men bound for Austin Friday and a three-way meet at the University of Texas and the women returning to Beaumont today for the Lamar Invitational tournament.

Head Coach David Kent said he expects his team to perform well against opponents Rice and Texas, and cited senior Brian Joelson as a top candidate for high honors in singles.

Kent said the Austin meet will be an individual tournament rather than a team tournament, and that the Aggies' main goal is to gain experience and prepare for conference action this spring.

Pairing up for men's doubles action will be seniors Joelson and Ron Kowal, sophomore Greg Hill and junior Arnold Kettenacker, junior Van Barry and sophomore Kimmo Alkio and freshmen Jose "Kiko" Castillo and Russ Simmons.

Kowal may be playing at less than full speed because of a pulled groin muscle, Kent said. But Joelson and Alkio, who are playing in their first fall tournament, are both returning from a summer of impressive play.

Kettenacker, the Canadian native who was redshirted last year, performed well in the Beaumont Labor Day tournament three weeks ago and should add strength to the Aggies' effort this weekend, Kent said. Kent also praised the recent play of Greg Hill.

Kent said competition will be tough, consisting of a Texas team that finished 12th nationally and returns singles star John Levine, an All-America pick last year. More than adequate competition from Rice will manifest itself partly in the form of singles standout Tres Cushing, who defeated Joelson last year.

While the men head west this weekend, the Aggie Ladies, coming from a good performance in the Beaumont tourney, return to that city today for a team tournament. The women begin play against McNeese State of Louisiana, and the winner of that matchup will play the winner of the University of Texas-San Antonio-Northeastern Louisiana matchup.

In the other brackets, University of Houston netters will face Southwest Louisiana and Lamar will host Louisiana Tech.

Women's coach Jan Cannon revisits Beaumont with standouts like senior Lilitana Fernandez, who won the singles title in that city three weeks ago, and freshman Vanne Akagi, the top-rated player in her native Hawaii and rated second best in Japan.

Cannon said she's impressed with Akagi's performance thus far.



Teresa Landry holds down A&M's No. 2 singles spot



Arnold Kettenacker team with Greg Hill in doubles

"She (Akagi) pursues the ball so well and hits it with a lot more force than you'd expect to get out of that little body," Cannon said.

Cannon will enter six singles players and three doubles teams in the Lamar meet. First on the list in singles is Fernandez, who is in the best physical shape ever, Cannon said.

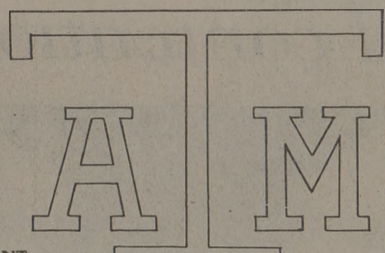
Cannon's number one singles is senior Teresa Landry followed by junior Amy Akagi, freshman Linda Scott and junior Laura Hanna.

Cross, who spent much of year at the number two position, has shown improvement and a stronger serve. Scogin is continually improving Cannon with her two-handed forehand and backhand.

Hanna, effective in doubles as well as singles, is capable of being number four singles, Cannon said. In doubles, Cannon will pair up Fernandez and Landry, who won the doubles title in Labor Day tourney. Cross and sophomore Cheryl Stanford also form a duo as well as Hanna.

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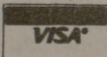
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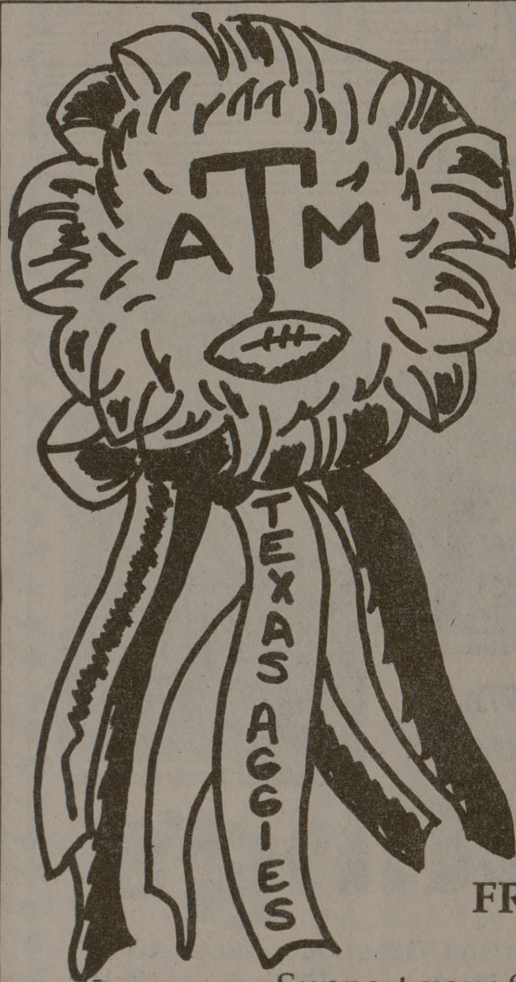
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