

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Last Day

staff photo by David Fisher

Texas A&M tailback Joey Harris runs around end during the Varsity-Alumni game. Harris and the Aggie varsity will

finish spring practice today with the Maroon and White game at Kyle Field. Kickoff for the game will be at 4 p.m.

Disappointed

Alkio says team just 'couldn't get it together'

by Scott Griffin

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M mens' tennis team wrapped up this season ranked fifth in the Southwest Conference, and while many considered the performance a good showing, others thought it was a disappointing year.

Among those who thought Texas A&M could have done better is Van Barry and Kimmo Alkio, the pair who won the No. 3 conference doubles bracket. Both expressed displeasure in their team's performance this past season.

"It was a disappointing year, overall," Barry says. "We lost some conference matches that really hurt. Our losses to Houston and TCU were crucial."

While the TCU matches weren't close, Barry said the Houston losses were heartbreakers:

"We should've beaten Houston. Even though we lost 7-2, all of the matches were close and it could have gone 7-2 the other way."

Barry pointed out, however, that even though the losses to Houston hurt, the team still had a good chance to better their fifth-place finish. "We were tied for fifth with Houston going in, and that's the way we finished, but we could've easily gotten third — we just didn't play well enough."

"We were capable," Alkio says, "of doing a lot better than we did this year. We just couldn't get it together for the big matches. Coach has done his best to try to get the players ready, and that's all you can ask from him. It was just us — we didn't come up with the big wins."

Still, Alkio was impressive this

year, finishing with a singles record of 25-5. The Finnish native's only losses were to SMU, Trinity, TCU, Clemson and Arkansas — all teams that were ranked in the top twenty at some point in the year. Playing in the No. 2 position in this year's men's singles bracket for Texas A&M, Alkio says he surprised a few people who hadn't heard of him before.

"I beat a lot of players I wasn't supposed to," he says.

Despite the fifth place finish, one must keep in mind that two top-ten teams are in the conference. Top-ranked SMU narrowly edged fourth-ranked Arkansas for the conference title.

As far as NCAA competition is concerned, Barry hinted that there could be an upset: "Arkansas finished only four points down in the tournament, so they

could do really well."

As far as the Aggies are concerned, they will have to wait until next year, which doesn't appear to bright at this point.

The team will lose their top doubles team in Brian Joelson and Tom Judson. The Aggies will also lose their team leader, Ron Kowal, and Alkio.

Although he is only a sophomore, Alkio will return to Finland at the end of the semester for nine months of mandatory military service.

The good part about Alkio's departure is that he will not lose his two remaining years of eligibility. And he'll continue to work out during his service. "I'll get to play about four hours a day, and I'll also get to play some tournaments, so it won't hurt me."

The one bright spot of next year is the recruits who have signed with Texas A&M.

Women golfers second in SWC tourney; Lady Frogs finish first

The TCU women's golf team just got better each day and ran away from the field to capture the first-ever Southwest Conference women's golf championship.

The Lady Frogs, led by freshman Rita Moore and senior Anne Kelly, finished with a team score of 889, 17 strokes ahead of second place finisher Texas A&M.

Moore captured the individual title with a three-day total of 220, one stroke ahead of SMU's Cathy Hanlon. Texas A&M's Shirley Furlong finished third with a 222.

Kelly helped the TCU effort

with a 3-under-par 69 Wednesday, the best round of the tournament.

TCU and Texas A&M were tied at 302 after the first round Monday, but the Lady Frogs fired a team score of 296 Tuesday to A&M's 304 to take the lead. TCU increased its lead Wednesday, shooting a 291. The Aggies had their best round Wednesday also — a 300 — but it was not enough to catch TCU.

SMU finished third with a 912, Texas was fourth at 913 and Texas Tech was fifth with a 976.

SMU's Amy Benz, one of the

favorites to win the individual title at the Ridgley Country Club, finished tied for eighth with a three-day total of 227. A second round score of 78 prevented her from finishing higher.

Texas A&M coach Kitty Holly was pleased with her team's play.

"We played very consistent golf," she said. "I wish we could have played this well all year."

Both Furlong and Holly agreed the Aggies were up for the tourney because it was the first-ever for women in the SWC.

The Aggies, currently ranked No. 19 in the country, are await-

ing the last computer printout from the NCAA to determine if they will advance in the rankings. The top 17 teams in the country will advance to the NCAA championships in Athens, Ga. The new rankings are scheduled to be released May 4.

Other Texas A&M scores: Jackie Bertram: sixth place with a 224

Susan Yantis: tied for twelfth place with a 231

Patricia Gonzalez: tied for fourteenth place with a 232

Angela Atkins: tied for fourteenth place with a 232

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