

Cougars roll over Owls 70-54

United Press International
HOUSTON — Michael Young scored 22 points and the third-ranked Houston Cougars easily rolled to their 37th consecutive Southwest Conference victory Wednesday night, 70-54 over the Rice Owls.

Young, the SWC's leading scorer, was backed by the 16 points of Alvin Franklin as the Cougars jumped in front early and opened a nine-point advantage in the first half.

The long-range shooting of Tyrone Washington and Greg Hines kept the Owls close in the first half, but four 20-footers by

Franklin early in the second period broke open the contest.

Houston shot 56.6 percent from the floor and out-rebounded the Owls, 37-29, in winning its 13th league game this season. Houston's overall record climbed to 24-3.

Navratilova advances in Indoors

United Press International

EAST HANOVER, N.J. — Martina Navratilova crushed veteran Virginia Wade 6-0, 6-2 Tuesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Women's National Indoor Tennis Championships.

"There's nobody that I have ever seen that played as well as Martina," said Wade said. "She just overwhelms you."

Navratilova combined strong serves and blistering returns to win the match in 47 minutes.

In the quarterfinals, Navratilova plays the winner of the second-round match between Tracy Austin and Pam Casale. Third-seeded Jo Durie of Great Britain defeated Mary Lou Piatek 6-2, 6-1 to also advance to the quarterfinals, as did No. 8 Bonnie Gadusek with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 win over Lisa Bonder.



Another season under way

Netters hit the road

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Reporter

The Texas A&M men's tennis team brought home victories in two of three matches at the LSU tournament last week, but Coach David Kent figures the best thing his players got was experience.

Since the squad is heavy with freshmen, Kent wants all the experience he can find. Along

the way he'll take the victories, too.

In Baton Rouge the Aggies defeated Florida State, 7-2, and Southeast Louisiana, 9-0. But the Aggies lost 7-2 to 15th-ranked LSU.

Kent said that Mark Smith, Grant Connell and Greg Hill all played well in singles, but the team's doubles play didn't meet his expectations.

"Most of our players aren't used to playing doubles," he said, "because they've played so much singles in high school."

The Aggies opened the season with victories over Sam Houston State and University of Texas-San Antonio, then defeated Lamar, Southwest Texas State and Houston Baptist prior to the LSU tournament.

But what the Aggies need more than anything right now is experience. The eight-man roster features five top-flight freshmen recruits.

"This is the best freshmen class in the history of Texas A&M," Kent said.

The top three freshmen are Mark Smith, Grant Connell and Marcel Vos.

Smith, the only Texan among the recruits, was the

State 5A high school champion. He was also the medalist at the 1983 National Sports Festival in double places 13th at the Junior Cup tryout camp.

Smith said he chose A&M over other colleges — and because the SWC is one of the top tennis conferences in the nation. His brother lettered in tennis in 1981.

Connell, a left-hander from Canada, was the 1982 Canadian junior singles champion and played in the French, German and Italian Championships while on the 1982 Canadian team.

Kent said Connell is the "star of the future" in A&M tennis.

Vos, who is from the Netherlands, brings more international experience to the team. He has played Junior Wimbledon and is the 1982 Dutch national junior champion.

"He was an excellent tennis player," Kent said.

Two newcomers from Florida, Joey Perry and Dean Fine, are highly ranked in the Florida Tennis Association. Both finished in the final of the National Junior Championships.

With the help of these freshmen along with veteran Russ Simmons, Arnold Mackner and Greg Hill — team's No. 1 singles player — the Aggies have a good chance of breaking into the national top 20, Kent says.

The competition in the Southwest Conference will make things any easier for the Aggies. Last year saw four teams ranked among the top 20 in the nation and this season no different. Arkansas, TCU and Texas all were ranked in the top 20 pre-season poll.

Texas A&M will play matches at the Omar S. Tennis Center at 1:30 p.m. Thursday against West Texas State and Saturday against Neesse State. Friday the Aggies will host Stephen F. Austin the Royal Oaks Racquet Club Bryan at 1:30 p.m.

The Aggies are favored to sweep those four matches. The competition will be considerably tougher at the Christi Invitational tournament in March. Twelve of the top 20 teams in the nation will be there.

"We're really looking forward to the Corpus Christi Invitational," Kent said. "It's the second best tournament in the United States other than the NCAA."

Joey Perry said the toughest — especially he and the other freshmen — need to beat their opponent soon and they've got a chance to do just that against their first opponent, Duke.

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