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Hawaiian tennis comes to A&M

Akagi anchors Aggie squad

By JOHN MAKELY
 Reporter

Vanne Akagi started playing tennis when she was nine. Little did she know she'd be the No. 1 player on the Texas A&M Women's Tennis team.

Akagi, a junior computer science major from Waihiwa, Hawaii, was a member of the 1983 USA-Hawaii tennis team, the Hawaiian high school state champion in 1982, and was the youngest female player to win the Hawaii Sectional Tournament.

But a lack of competition in Hawaii meant Akagi could only improve her tennis skills to a point.

"I could play for eleven years in Hawaii," Akagi said, "but someone over here (the United States mainland) could play for half that time and they'd be just as good."

Akagi said on the United States mainland, a budding tennis star can drive to other states for competitions, but in Hawaii, competition is limited and flying to different tournaments in Hawaii is expensive.

Her freshman year, Akagi had a 21-4 season record and went 7-1 in Southwest Conference play. She was on the 1983 All-SWC team but Akagi's 1984 record dropped to 21-14.

Over the summer Akagi came back with four straight tournament wins. Her first success began at the Midland Major Zone Tournament where Akagi won the singles and doubles titles.

When Agagi first came to A&M, she had problems communicating because the language spoken in Hawaii is pidgin English.

"When I came here and I started talking to people, they would look at me funny and not understand what I was saying," Akagi said.

Akagi, along with her tennis partner Gaye Lynne Gensler,



A&M's Vanne Akagi

form one of the doubles teams on the A&M squad.

Even though she has two veteran doubles teams returning, Coach Jan Cannon is still putting together doubles teams.

"We lack a little experience in doubles... they are learning the game," Cannon said. "Every time you play a head-to-head match it's for nine points, three of which are doubles."

With only four returning lettermen, a redshirt and three freshmen, the women's tennis team is young but Cannon said she is pleased with her players.

"I think we've really held up pretty well in tournament play so far," Cannon said.

As evidence, the team placed second to the University of Houston at the Lamar Tournament. Houston had all of their players from last season and gained a veteran player from another team, Cannon said.

"We went 6-3 with them and had a chance to beat them (Houston) and I think in the spring we will... I think we will have improved enough," Cannon said.

"We have a stronger team right now than we did last year, even with the loss of three players."

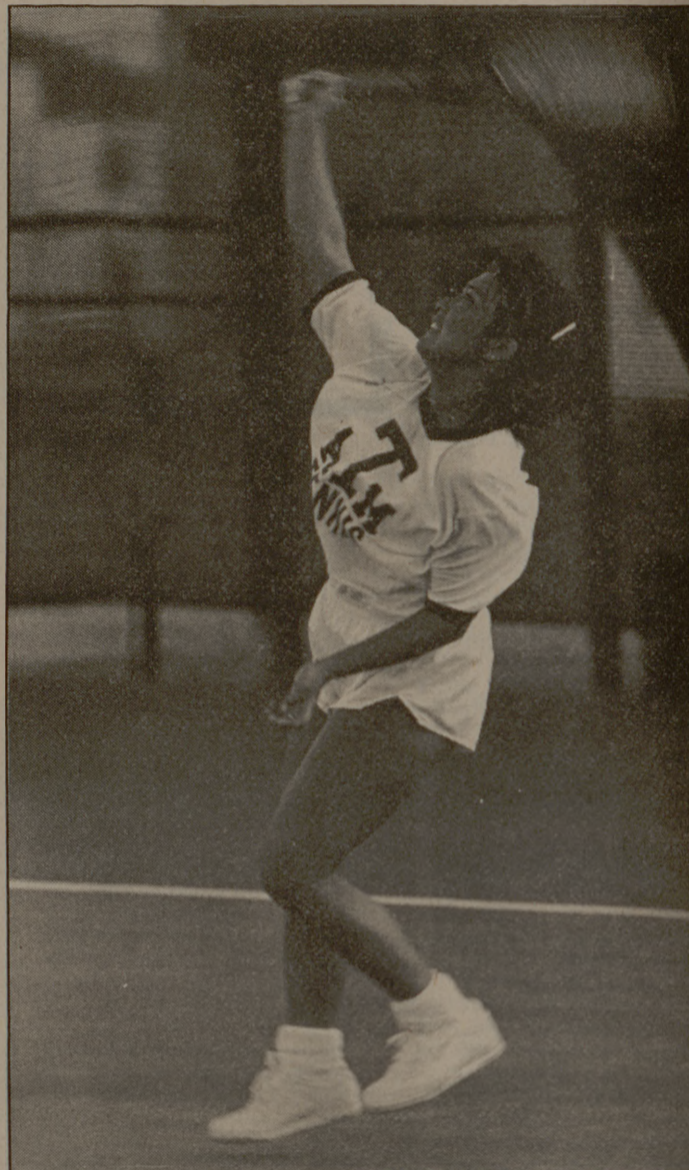


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Vanne Akagi, the top-ranked player on A&M's women's tennis team, works on her overhead slam during practice.

United Press International

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The recent history of the Arkansas-Baylor football series has not been one to ensure the job security of defensive coaches on either side of the field.

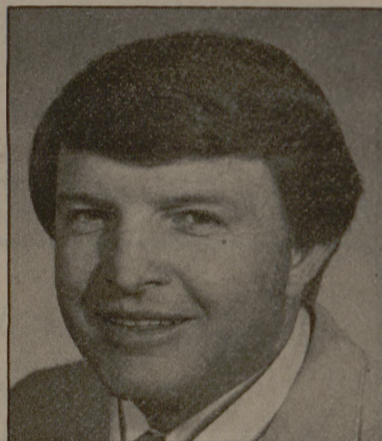
Since a 7-7 tie in 1976, the Razorbacks and Bears have scored 356 points in seven meetings — an average of nearly 51 points per game. The lowest scoring game had 41 total points, and twice the winning team alone scored at least 41 points.

But Baylor's Grant Teaff told Arkansas reporters Wednesday he did not expect another offensive display.

"They (Arkansas) play such solid, sound defense," Teaff said. "It's the best Arkansas defense I've seen in four or five years. They don't have the players they've had in the past, but they play so hard and they're so well drilled."

Teaff's praise extended to his defensive line, the reason that Baylor leads the Southwest Conference in stopping the run.

"Our four defensive tackles can match up against anybody," Teaff said. "I've never had anybody play as



Baylor's Grant Teaff

well at defensive end as Derek Turner and Ervin Randle have this year."

Arkansas' Ken Hatfield is coaching his first game against the Bears, in Saturday's contest in Waco, and wasn't around for the high-scoring meetings between Teaff and Lou Holtz. But Hatfield had his opinion

of the 1984 Bear offense, which scored plenty of points despite a record.

"They're a dangerous team — a riot," Hatfield said. "They've played such a tough schedule. They've won a couple of games and tried to come back with new people. (Two weeks ago) they gained 375 yards in the half against TCU."

"They definitely have shown they can pass. They've got great evidence in their passing schemes."

Hatfield said the Hogs would turn to Brad Taylor's passing if the ground game fails.

Baylor's two-quarterback system helped take the Bears to the Bear Bowl in 1983, but it was derailed earlier this season when Cody Carter injured a groin muscle. Carter, available for duty Saturday, Teaff said Tom Muecke will be the starter against Arkansas.

Arkansas' 5-2-1 record, in what was considered a rebuilding year, has attracted the attention of scouts and some news media ratings.

Hogs vs. Bears: no offensive fireworks



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