

SPORTS

No. 9 A&M facing stiff challenge

Men netters to battle top-ranked SWC foes

By DALLAS MORRIS
Reporter

The No. 9 Texas A&M men's tennis team is looking forward to competing against several of its top-ranked Southwest Conference rivals for the first time this season in the Corpus Christi Team Tournament, Mar. 6-9.

A&M, which sports an 11-1 match record, received a bye in Wednesday's first round of the tourney and will play the winner of the University of Alabama-University of Arizona match Thursday morning.

"We'll play about four matches at Corpus regardless of how we do," said A&M Tennis Coach David Kent. "We're not going down there to win second place though."

"One nice thing about the Corpus Tournament is that you get to play a lot of teams that you don't normally play."

Kent's Aggies will face some of their stiffest competition to date at the Corpus Christi tourney in the form of No. 2 SMU, No. 8 Texas, No. 13 Arkansas, No. 20 Alabama and No. 22 TCU.

"The Corpus Tournament is very important because it goes a long way in determining your ranking since it's an intersectional tournament, which means you get people from all sections of the country there," Kent said.

"If you play well there it really helps your ranking. We played really well there last year and we feel like we have a better team this year."

The team has played well so far this year, as its No. 9 national ranking proves, but Kent said he feels A&M has played at least one bad match this year.

"Trinity just simply outplayed and outthought us," he said. "We just didn't play up to our potential. We

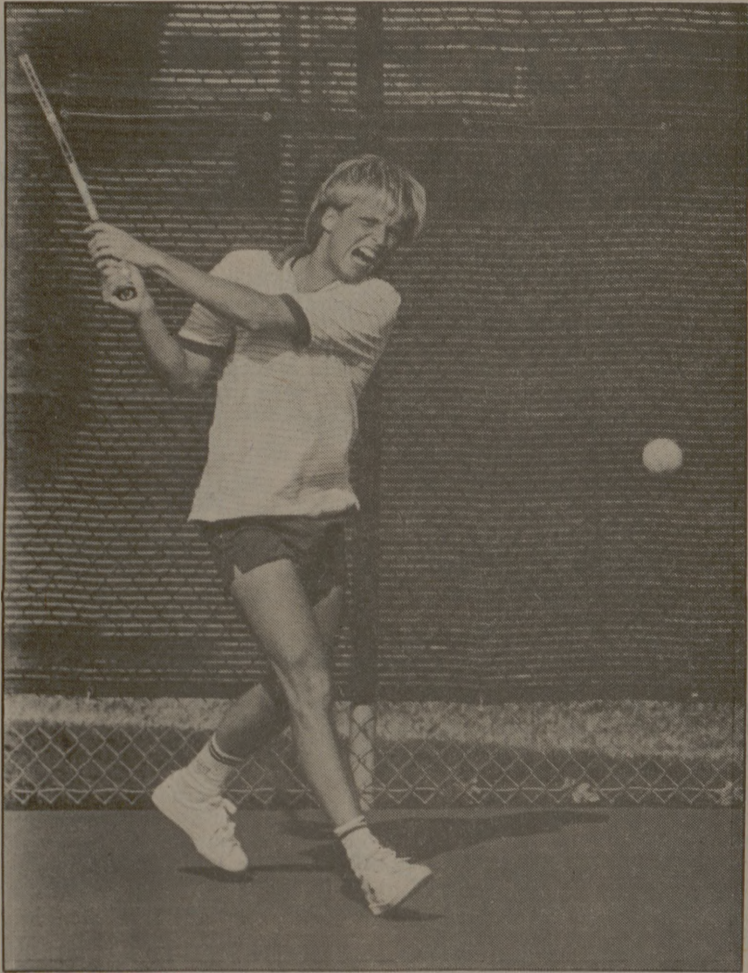


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M's Kimmo Alkio (above) and the rest of the No. 9 Aggie men's tennis team will compete today through Saturday in the Corpus Christi Team Tournament. Including A&M, the tourney features five teams ranked in the Top 20.

hope to play Trinity again in Corpus."

The Aggies might get that chance to revenge that loss because Trinity's Tigers are in the same tournament bracket with A&M.

If Trinity defeats the winner of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock-University of Wichita match Wednesday and A&M wins its first match Thursday, the two teams would meet again in the quarter-finals.

If the Aggies then downed the Tigers, A&M would advance to the semi-finals and most likely play No. 13 Arkansas.

"Our goal this year is to get in the Top 10 and stay there," Kent said. "For the tennis team to stay in the Top 10 the team has to have some quality wins against teams such as USC, UCLA, and Pepperdine."

Over spring break, the Aggies will be hoping to pad their record against some of the nation's perennial powerhouses. A&M travels to California to play No. 2 USC, No. 4 UCLA and No. 5 Pepperdine.

"We're going out there with the intent of knocking one of those teams off," Kent said. "If we could beat one of the three, that would really help us stay in the Top 10."

Ag Ladies knocked out of conference tourney

HOUSTON — The Texas A&M women's basketball team found out Tuesday night in Hofheinz Pavilion that the third time isn't necessarily a charm.

After having upset Houston twice during the regular season, the Aggie Ladies felt the wrath of the Cougars' revenge in the first round of the Southwest Conference Post-Season Basketball Tournament, 84-72.

The loss left A&M with a 14-14 overall record in Coach Lynn Hickey's first season.

A&M found itself down at half-time, 32-47, after trailing by as much as ten points in the first half.

"We had a terrible start," Hickey said. "We knew the first five minutes were important, but Houston was hot this time. They had too much talent for (another loss to the Aggies) to happen again."

"We had no momentum and we were totally confused. We just didn't

execute and do the things we've done recently."

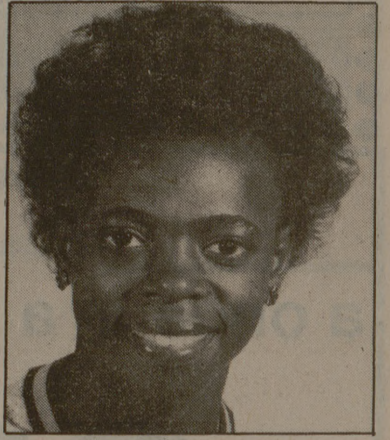
Lisa Langston led the Ags in scoring with 22 points and handed out a team-high six assists.

A&M seniors Jenni Edgar and Ann Trinka added 16 and 14 points respectively. Trinka led the team in rebounds with 10.

Houston's offensive attack saw three players go over the 20-point mark. UH's Nell Haskins hit a game-high 26 points and Monica Lamb and Sonya Watkins chipped in 22 apiece.

With the victory, the Lady Cougars advance to the semi-final round of the tournament, held in Dallas' Moody Coliseum Thursday. Houston will tangle with No. 17 Texas Tech, which captured second-place during the SWC regular season and received a bye along with No. 1 Texas in the opening round.

In the other SWC first round action Tuesday night, Arkansas de-



A&M's Lisa Langston scored 22 points in loss to Houston.

feated Baylor, 78-69, to gain a berth in the Dallas semi-finals against Texas.

Baylor alumnus accused of setting up illegal loans

Associated Press

DALLAS — Two Dallas high school basketball stars obtained cars with loans from a Waco bank, headed by a Baylor booster, soon after they signed with Baylor University in 1983 and 1984, the Dallas Times Herald reported Tuesday.

Bear players Michael Williams and DeWayne Brown obtained loans with significantly smaller payments during the school year than during the summer, the Times Herald said.

National Collegiate Athletic Association rules prohibit a school's staff member or representative of its athletic interests from arranging loans for prospective student-athletes prior to completion of their senior year in high school, said David Berst, the NCAA's director of enforcement.

The cars were purchased from

*"I want to help Baylor. We'll get a loan to a basketball player and a loan to a tuba player from Tupelo, Mississippi."
— Baylor alumnus Smith Thomasson*

work with the players' families by bank president Smith Thomasson, a Baylor alumnus and friend of Coach Jim Haller.

Haller resigned Feb. 22 after admitting to school officials that he gave a reserve center, John Wheeler of Dallas, a university check for \$172 to make three monthly car payments.

Haller told the Times Herald he did not remember whether or not he directed Williams and Brown to the Waco bank, now known as the United Bank of Waco.

Thomasson said his bank tries to help "all Baylor students, not just athletes, with their financial needs."

"I'm a Baylor University graduate," Thomasson said. "I want to help Baylor. We'll get a loan to a basketball player and a loan to a tuba player from Tupelo, Mississippi."

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