

Nix wants tracksters to improve

Ags Houston-bound for Bayou Classic

By CINDY GAY
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M women's track team is hoping to hoe a straight row to the finish line in the "Rice" fields of the Bayou Classic this weekend.

"I don't worry about these kind of meets too much," said A&M Coach Bill Nix.

Nix isn't worried because he's not looking for his runners to make that big of a splash among the 15-team field slated to compete in Houston.

But he does expect one thing from his Aggies — improvement.

"Every meet (the team) has gone out and improved," Nix said. "I can only hope they continue."

Freshman Becky Dreves will kick things off for the team in the 10,000-meter run on Friday. Although the 25-lap race takes its toll on the runners, Nix said Dreves can go the distance.

"I feel this is going to be one of her better races," Nix said. "This is her first attempt at the 10,000."

But the freshman won't be the only one lapping the track for A&M.

Dreves' twin sister, Beth, Esther Dedrick and Debby Noel will compete in the 3,000-meters and both Becky Dreves and Dedrick are taking a second shot at the meet in the 5,000-meters.

Noel said she's aiming for a personal record in the 3,000-meters. By running along side with two of her teammates, Noel said she'll be in the best company to break her current time of 10 minutes, .03 seconds.

"I like running with Esther in meets because she pushes me," Noel said.

For Dedrick, this meet marks one more step in her progress toward the Texas Relays on April 5-6. Dedrick has made the qualifying time for the Texas Relays, but she said only the 16 fastest times entered can run. So, for right now, Dedrick can only wait and hope.

Sprinting out of the starting blocks, Judy Williams and Alexis Russell will compete in the 200- and 400-meters, while Terri Barber is running the 100- and 200-meters. Mary Phillips will debut in the 800-meters, a shorter distance than she usually runs.

"We're trying to find success levels," said Nix about his efforts to encourage his team to deviate from its usual races.

"We're just having fun right now," Nix said, "trying to get enthusiasm going."

Ag footwork fancier than Coogs, Cards

By MARYBETH ROHSNER
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M tennis teams plan to do quite a bit of fancy footwork this weekend. More specifically, the Aggies plan to leave Kaepa prints all over their opponents.

The No. 7 men's team hosts the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs here Friday, before beginning Southwest Conference play at the University of Houston. The No. 25 Lady Ags will continue their battle into the Top 20 when they meet Lamar on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Not surprisingly, neither A&M coach seems intimidated by this weekend's schedule.

Both teams blew away their competition Tuesday when the No. 7 men trampled North Texas University, 9-0, and the women slammed Baylor by the same score in dual-match play.

Both coaches implied that similar routs might take place this weekend.

"Typically, Lamar has a good team," said A&M women's coach Jan Baldwin, "but they have had some budget cuts that have affected the tennis team."

"I hate to take any team too lightly because they may shock you."

Next week's match against TCU should prove to be more challenging for the Lady Ags.

"The girls will be well-matched," Baldwin said. "It'll all come down to who's tougher and who wants it most. TCU will be a big match for us."

The men's big match comes up against Houston.

Though Houston's team record can't compare with the 16-6 Ags, the No. 2 Cougar duo of Steve Couch and Gerald Marzenell will present a challenge to Grant Connell and Kimmo Alkio, the nation's No. 8- and No. 17-ranked players.

Connell-Alkio defeated Couch-Marzenell in last week's Rice Invitational to put A&M far above Houston in the final team standings.

"Houston will be wanting revenge," said A&M men's coach David Kent, "and nothing would please us more than beating them again."

The A&M-Houston rivalry, or mutual dislike, began several years ago when A&M defeated Houston, who was No. 9 in the nation at the time.

"There's no love lost between us and Houston," Kent said.

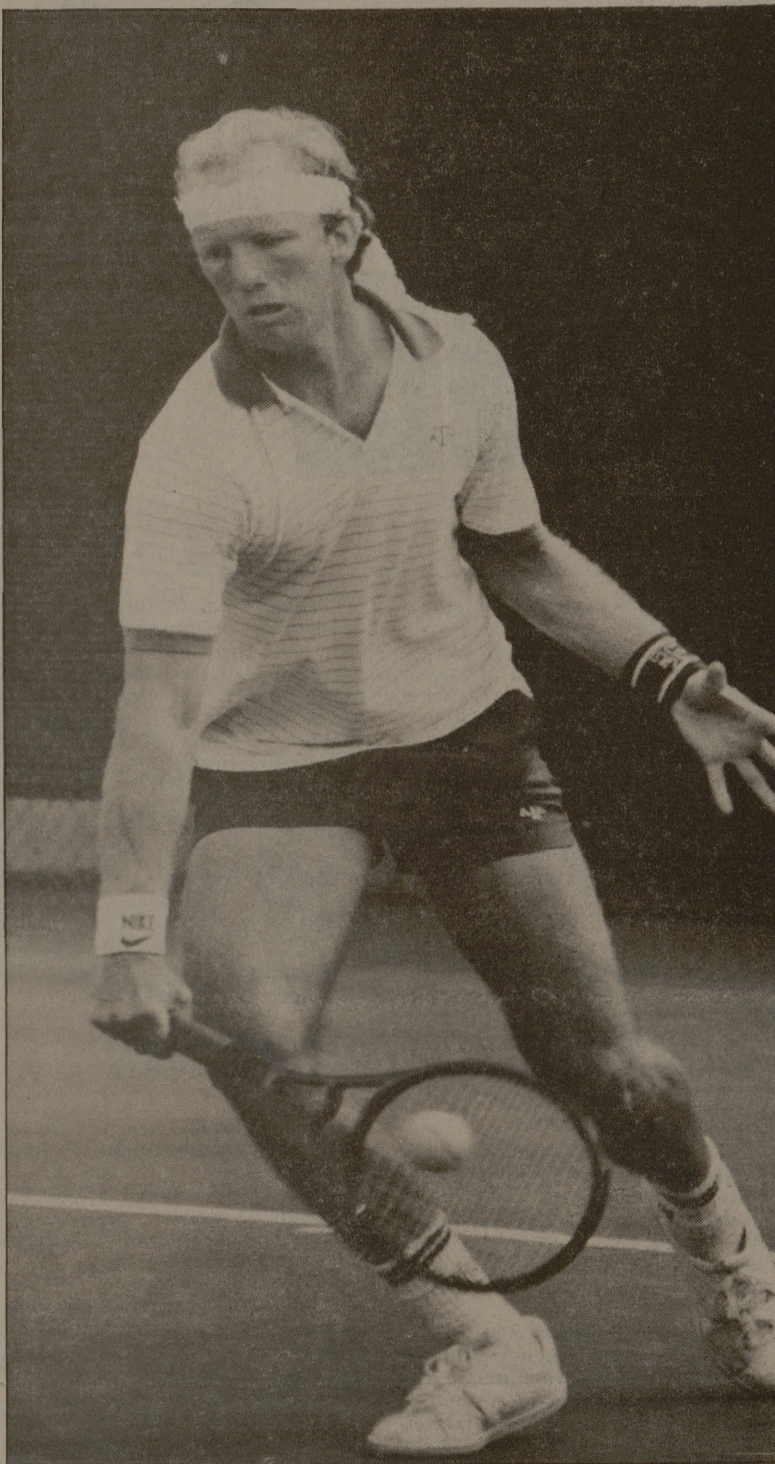


Photo by KARLA JAMES

Greg Hill (above) and the rest of the No. 7 A&M men's tennis team will take on Louisiana Tech Friday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center. Saturday, David Kent's Aggies travel to Houston to begin Southwest Conference play against the Cougars.

Cowboy quarterbacks try to become friends

Associated Press

DALLAS — Rival Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks Danny White and Gary Hogeboom, whose bitter fight over the starting job extended beyond the playing field last season, say they will try to be friends this year.

White and Hogeboom agreed to make an attempt at getting along about two weeks ago, The Dallas Morning News reported Thursday.

The Cowboys convened Thursday for a two-day minicamp.

"I know I've never had anything personal against Gary and I've stated that lots of times," White said. "I think he is a tremendous guy and a great talent. Unfortunately, we were put in a position of such strain, it was just hard on both of us."

White had said that he was disappointed last year when Hogeboom appeared to have campaigned in public for the starting job.

This year, Landry has indicated

that he plans to let White and Hogeboom fight it out in training camp and then name a starter for the season. Landry alternated between the two quarterbacks in 1984.

"I mentioned to Danny that if we were going to go through another year, there was no reason why we couldn't work together," Hogeboom said. "We both agreed that it was the press that kind of blew everything out between the both of us."

White said Landry told him his decision to go with Hogeboom at the start of 1984 was based partially on negative feelings toward White by his teammates.

"If I'm put in a position where people are playing for any other reason than simply production, if it can't be the kind of thing where the better man wins, then I would like to be traded," White said. "I can't conceive of that happening, but you never know."

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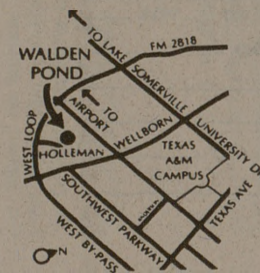
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