

NLU's netters dominate A&M tennis tournament

By KEN SURY
Sports Writer

There weren't any arrows scattered across the Texas A&M campus over the weekend.

But they were all over the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Northeast Louisiana Indians massacred their competition in a preseason men's tennis tournament hosted by A&M.

NLU, led by Willie Jansson, took both the singles and doubles championships in the five-team tourney, which included A&M, North Texas State, Texas Christian and the University of Texas.

Jansson, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, defeated the No. 2 seed, A&M's Kimmo Alkio 6-2, 6-3 in Sunday morning's championship singles match.

"Jansson was just too good for him (Alkio) today," said A&M Men's Tennis Coach David Kent of Alkio's loss. "He (Alkio) had a murderous day yesterday. He was out on the court for six or seven hours. Alkio just ran out of gas."

Alkio played two singles matches and one doubles match on Saturday. On Sunday, after his loss to Jansson, Alkio and A&M teammate Marcel Vos lost to the eventual doubles champs, NLU's Peter Jetzel and Jansson.

The No. 1 seed in the tourney, Tom Mercer of TCU, one of Alkio's victims last weekend, lost to fellow Horned Frog teammate John Baker Saturday night.

A&M's Chris Stanich was the winner of the tourney's consolation bracket, defeating Jean Lue Dumont of NLU, 7-6, 6-1, on Saturday.

"Stanich played great ball this weekend," Kent said.

In the championship doubles match on Sunday, NLU's Jetzel and Jansson downed the No. 1 seeded team, UT's Charley Beckman and John Boytim, 6-4, 6-4.

Kent said he is optimistic about A&M's future.

"We're a young team," Kent said. "This (the tournament) is good for our fall season and we're progressing nicely."

Lady netters fare well in Austin

While the A&M men's team was dodging arrows, the Aggie women's team recorded its first doubles victory ever at the Westwood Invitational Tournament in Austin.

A&M's Kim Labuschagne and Karen Marshall defeated Texas' Beverly Bowes and Robyn Field in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3 for A&M's first doubles title at that tourney.

In addition to the Aggies, the tourney featured teams from Rice, TCU, SMU and Trinity University.

The Aggies' doubles tandem of Gave Lynn Gensler and Vanne Akagi also made the semi-finals, but they lost to UT's Bowes and Field, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3.

Labuschagne and Marshall beat UT's Diana Dopson and Ann Grousebeck 6-3, 6-2 to enter the championship round.

A&M Women's Tennis Coach

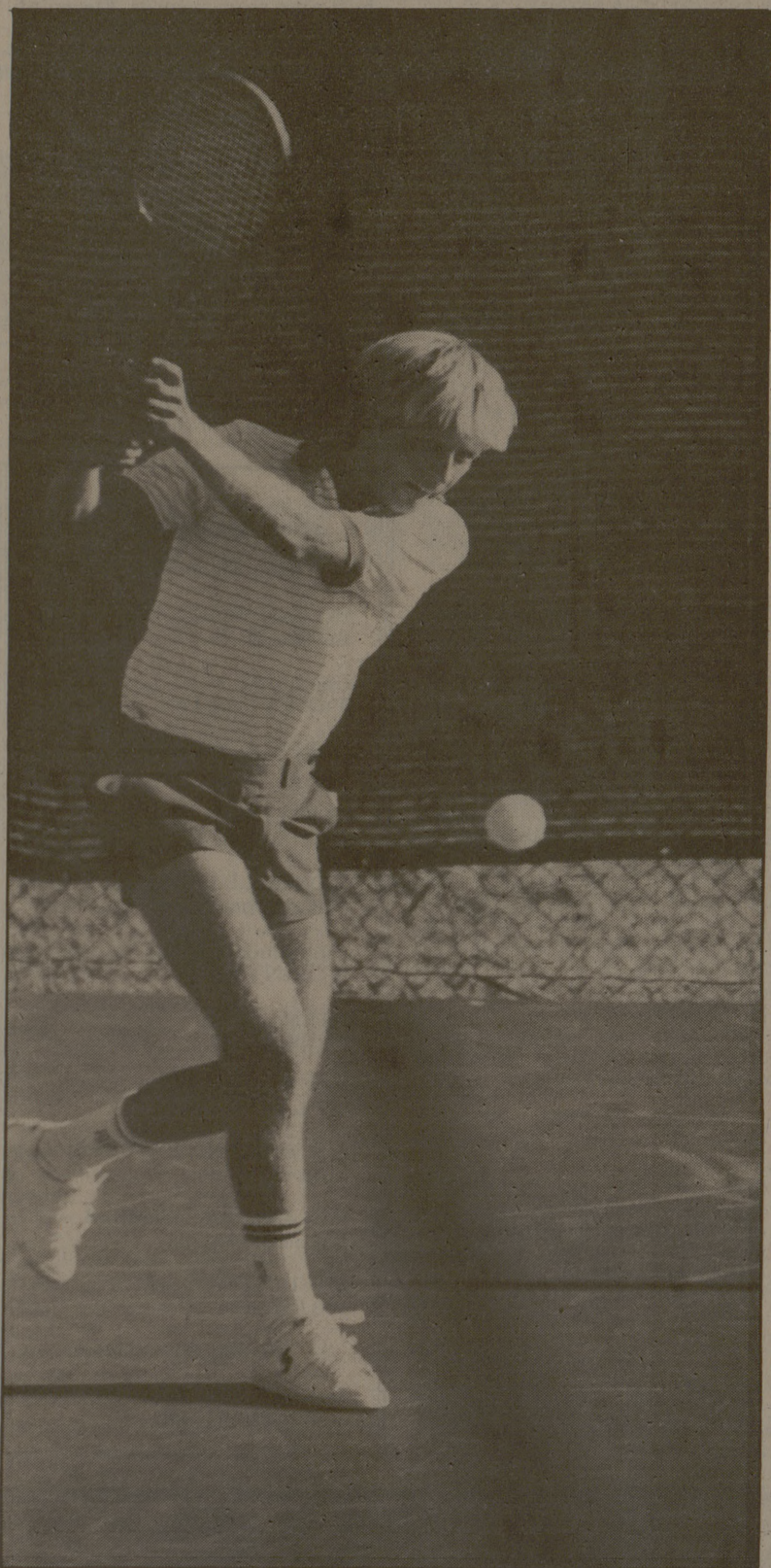


Photo by GREG BAILEY

Texas A&M's Kimmo Alkio closely watches his backhand shot in his championship match against Northeast Louisiana's Willie Jansson. Alkio lost to Jansson 6-2, 6-3 Sunday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center. Alkio and Marcel Vos reached the semifinals in doubles.

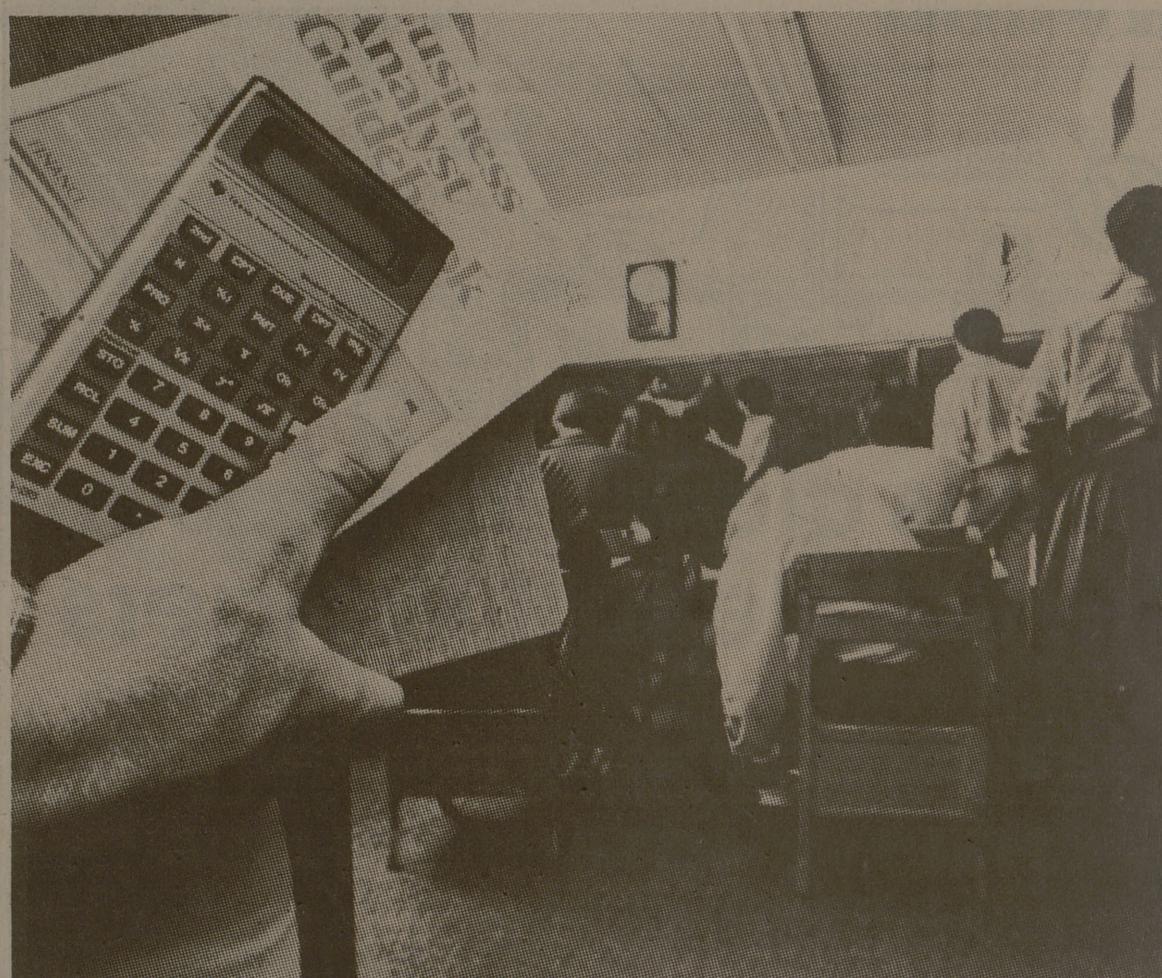
Bobby Kleinecke said, although the Ags' singles players didn't do well, he thought, as a team, A&M played better than in its last tournament.

"That's (the doubles win) a super win for us," Kleinecke said.

Kleinecke added it's an especially

big win for A&M since Texas was ranked in the Top 10 in the nation last year.

"It'll give us a lot of confidence for doubles," he said, "because both of our doubles teams made the semi-finals."



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