



Texas A&M's Vanne Akagi tries to concentrate on hitting a backhand Tuesday, even though she played a Houston Fall Festival Tournament doubles final match against her Aggie teammates.

Photo by JAIME LOPEZ

Ag net set completes tourney

Three A&M tandems in semifinal matches

By KEN SURY
Sports Writer

The rain threatened to fall on a cool and overcast Tuesday afternoon — but it didn't — and the A&M women's doubles teams were finally able to finish the Houston Fall Festival Tennis Tournament here at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Aggies were allowed to complete the tourney at home since they were the only doubles teams left to play for the championship, after rain stopped the tourney in Houston over the weekend.

Kim Labuschagne and Karen Marshall, who entered the tourney as the No. 4 seeded doubles tandem, defeated fellow Aggies Vanne Akagi and Gaye Lynne Gensler, the No. 1 seeds, in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2.

Akagi and Gensler beat teammates Kellie Dorman and Helen Christiaan in their semifinal match 6-1, 6-7, 6-2, earlier in the afternoon to face Labuschagne and Marshall in the final.

Akagi and Gensler had praise for Labuschagne and Marshall.

"They played well," Gensler said. "They were on top of their game."

Labuschagne said their aggressive play was the reason for their win, but added that it was hard to stay aggressive against their teammates and even harder to concentrate.

She said it was difficult to concentrate on their home courts, especially since they were playing a tournament match against people they played in practice nearly every day.

"We felt like we knew what everyone was going to do," Labuschagne said.

"We tried to play away from each other's strong points. But you have to play the tennis ball, and not your opponent."

A&M Coach Bobby Kleinecke said he was pleased that three of his doubles teams made the semifinals in the tournament. Kleinecke said it's a good indication of the depth he expects the Aggies to have when they start their spring matches.

Royals juke Jays in Game 6

Associated Press

TORONTO — George Brett's record ninth playoff home run broke a fifth-inning tie Tuesday night, triggering the Kansas City Royals to a 5-3 triumph over the Toronto Blue Jays and forcing the American League playoffs to a decisive seventh game.

The Royals, who trailed the series 3-1 at one point, will start 20-game winner Bret Saberhagen in Wednesday night's seventh game. Toronto will answer with its own ace, right-hander Dave Stieb, who won the opener.

Brett again gave Kansas City the spark it needed, and once again his victim was Blue Jays starter Doyle Alexander. In Game 3, Brett homered twice and doubled off Alexander during a 4-for-4 night that enabled the Royals to win their first game of this series and end a 10-game postseason losing streak.

This time, Brett homered far over the right-center field fence with one out in the fifth to break a 2-2 tie. The homer, which moved him past Steve Garvey for the most home runs in major league playoff history,

came one pitch after he swung and awkwardly missed a 2-1 delivery from Alexander.

Unlike his one-man performance in Game 3, Brett had plenty of help from his teammates on the clear, 54-degree night as Kansas City again frustrated the Toronto's attempt to bring the first World Series to Canada.

Dan Quisenberry, who gave up two game-winning hits earlier in the series, came on with two outs and two on in the ninth. Once again facing the winning run, Quisenberry

struck out Garth Iorg to end the game. Iorg threw his bat towards the backstop in disgust as he walked away from the plate.

Veteran Hal McRae, playing in his 44th postseason game, singled home Kansas City's first run in the first inning, and doubled home the second run in the third. McRae followed Brett's homer with a single for his third hit of the game, but was left stranded.

Buddy Biancalana and Lonnie Smith delivered RBI doubles in the sixth that increased the lead to 5-2.

Hershiser a Dodger pitching ace in hole against Cards

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Orel Leonard Hershiser is the fourth in a line of five Orel Leonard Hershisers. That also includes his son, Orel Leonard Hershiser the Fifth.

Today, though, he's the only Orel Leonard Hershiser with whom Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Tom Lasorda will be concerned.

With the Dodgers facing elimination, Hershiser will oppose 20-game winner Joaquin Andujar of the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 6 of the National League playoffs. The Dodgers trail the best-of-seven series, 3-2, after losing three straight in St. Louis.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., and reared in Cherry Hill, N.J., this 27-year-old Huck Finn lookalike won 19 games for the Dodgers this year, including his last 11 in a row, while losing just three times.

Perhaps more importantly in Lasorda's scheme of things, Hershiser was 11-0 with a 1.08 ERA at Dodger Stadium.

"I think it's very fortunate that we're returning home for me to pitch," Hershiser says. "But I don't think it was entirely by accident. I think it was by plan."

Hershiser was the winner of Game 2 last Thursday night in Los Angeles, when he opposed Andujar. The right-handed sinkerball pitcher struggled early but pitched an eight-hit complete game to beat the Cardinals 8-2. Andujar, who was 21-12 during the season, lasted only 4 1/3 innings, giving up

six runs on eight hits, a pair of walks and his own throwing error.

One of the hits was to Hershiser, who drove in the Dodgers' first run of the game with a bouncing single over the head of third baseman Terry Pendleton.

"A pitcher never really likes to give up a hit to another pitcher," Hershiser says, flashing a toothy grin to break up the pattern of freckles on his face. "Especially when it drives in a run."

Hershiser's transformation has been unusual. He was a reliever throughout most of his five-year minor league career but never really posted any significant numbers until he was promoted to the majors, where Dodgers pitching coach Ron Perranoski took over his tutelage. Moved into the starting rotation last year, he went 11-8 with a 2.66 ERA.

This year, he finished with a 2.03 ERA, third best in the league, nine complete games and five shutouts.

Both the Dodgers and the Cardinals have had injury problems during the playoffs. Dodgers shortstop Mariano Duncan banged up his left knee in Game 2, missed Game 3, then returned to the lineup.

Cardinals left fielder Vince Coleman also hurt his left leg, before Sunday's game when the leg got caught under the metal cylinder that automatically rolls the tarp onto the infield at Busch Stadium. Coleman missed the Sunday game and again was out of the lineup Monday.

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