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## A&M netters face top-ranked teams

By KEN SURY  
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's tennis team faces a strong field of nationally-ranked opponents this weekend in the Westwood Invitational Tennis Tournament at Austin.

The Aggies are ranked 15th in the preseason Head Intercollegiate Tennis Standings (H.I.T.S. list), a listing compiled by the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association.

An ITCA-member panel selects the top 25 collegiate tennis teams, 100 singles players and 40 doubles teams for the H.I.T.S. List.

A&M, Texas Christian, Texas and Trinity University will compete in the three-day tourney.

Texas is ranked eighth on the H.I.T.S. List, Trinity 19th and TCU 23rd.

"They're all good teams," A&M men's tennis coach David Kent said about the tournament. "Texas has a very outstanding team. I was a little surprised they weren't ranked higher.

"This is a good tournament to see where we stand."

For the Aggies, junior Kimmo Alkio is ranked 37th in the H.I.T.S. singles rankings.

"But I expect Kimmo to improve on that ranking," Kent said. "He should be moving up in the near future."

But each of the other schools also have individuals ranked among the top 50 players. TCU's Tom Mercer is ranked 17th, Texas' Royce Deppe 21st and Fanie Reinach of Trinity is in the 47th spot.

Kent said the Aggies competing in singles this weekend will be Alkio, Marcel Vos, James Frank, Dean Goldfine, Dean Johnson, Russ Simmons, Mark Smith and Chris Stanich.

Stanich, according to Kent, has been the most improved player for the Aggies during the fall season.

"Chris has been playing very well," Kent said. "He has had a good fall."

In doubles, each school has a team ranked among the top 25 H.I.T.S. tandems.

The A&M team of Alkio and Vos are ranked 21st. But Texas boasts the No. 3 team of Deppe and Charles Beckman.

Trinity has the 11th-ranked team of Reinach and McBride. And TCU's Mercer and Broad hold a No. 18 ranking.

In addition to Alkio-Vos, the doubles matchups for the tourney are Johnson-Goldfine, Simmons-Smith and Stanich-Frank.

"We've had a good preseason so far," Kent said. "We've got a good team. I'm excited about our play and our preseason rankings and we want to try to improve on it."

## Ag rugby expecting dogfight

By DOUG HALL  
Sports Writer

While the Texas A&M football team prepares for the Arkansas Razorbacks Saturday night, another Southwest Conference team will have already shipped into College Station for a different type of football.

English style football — otherwise known as rugby.

At 1:00 p.m. Saturday, the Texas A&M Rugby Club will host the Austin Huns in a club match that promises to be exciting.

"It promises to be a pretty good dogfight," senior center Matt Flinn said. "It will be a lot of fun."

Tim Cone, also a senior team member, agreed. "It's definitely a big game for us."

The Ags, who have won 15 consecutive Texas Collegiate Championship, are coming off a disappointing loss last weekend to the Woodlands Rugby Club.

However, Cone said the Ags have used their loss to improve themselves for the Austin club, which is largely made up of University of Texas students.

"Usually, I would think that it would be a pretty hard game," Cone said. "But I think we are going to take out all of our frustrations this weekend. I really think we're going to kick some..."

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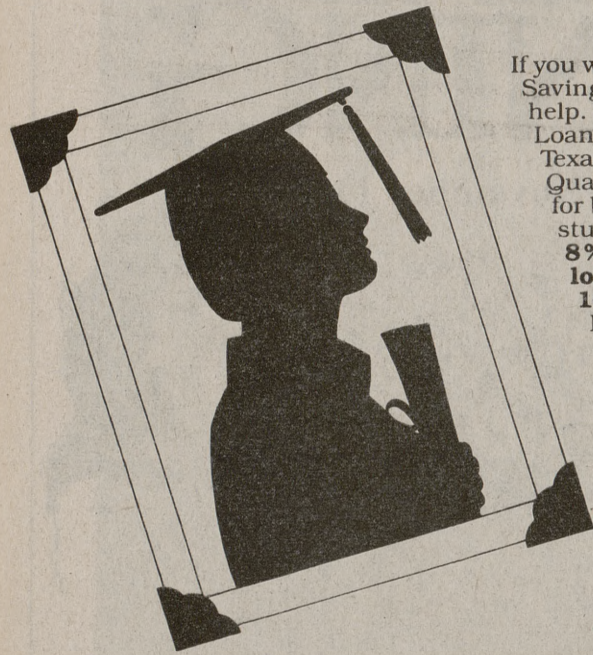
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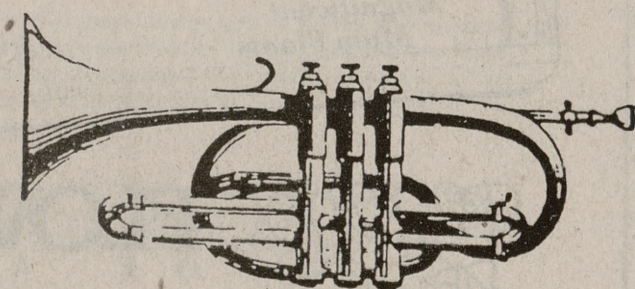
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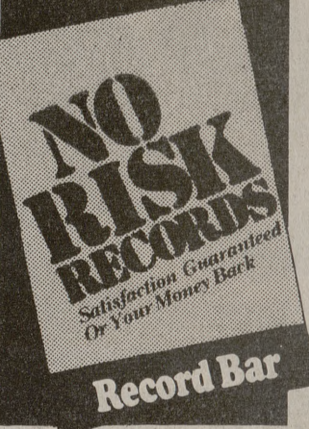
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