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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



A&M women netters win down South

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Sports Editor

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Texas A&M women's tennis team started its swing through the South with a 8-1 match victory over Louisiana State Thursday.

The Aggies, who bettered their season record to 3-1 with the win, swept all six singles matches from the Tigers and two of the three doubles.

"The two teams were a lot closer (point-wise) than the score shows," said A&M Women's Tennis Coach Bobby Kleinecke. "We just played great singles today. We never gave up in any of our matches. We did ex-

actly what we wanted (by winning every singles match)."

A&M's only loss of the day came in No. 3 doubles where the duo of Helen Christiaanse and Laura Liang fell to LSU's Patti Harrison and El-eonor Jonasson.

"That's really the first bad match they've played so far," Kleinecke said. "(Christiaanse and Liang) looked great in practice together and I know if we needed the win (to take the entire match), they could have gotten it for us. I'm certain of that."

Kleinecke was especially pleased about the match's outcome since the Aggies only squeezed by the Tigers, 5-4, last season in College Station.

"(LSU) played us tough at home last year," Kleinecke said. "And all six of their singles players returned. They finished second last year in the Southeastern Conference behind Florida."

The A&M women netters continue their march across the South today in New Orleans against the Tulane Green Wave. From there, the Aggies travel to Mobile, Ala. for a match with South Alabama.

"If we're not ready, like we were today against LSU, (Tulane) will beat us," Kleinecke said.

Singles Results:
A&M's Vanne Akagi defeated LSU's Patti Harrison, 6-1, 6-7, 6-3;

9 of Texas' blue chips flee SWC problems

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Southwest Conference's troubles in the past year probably helped out-of-state schools recruit some of Texas' best high school football talent, recruiters and coaches say.

When signing day came and went on Wednesday, nine of the Texas' top 25 players signed with schools outside the SWC.

A&M recruiting coordinator Tim Cassidy said, "I think the out-of-state teams have seen all the ruckus going on and decided to concentrate harder here. I think they used that threat (of NCAA sanctions against Texas universities) to attract some of the kids."

LSU signed the state's top running back prospect, Hempstead's Harvey Williams, and UCLA signed three of the state's top players, including Parade All-America defensive back Reggie Moore of Houston Madison.

Oklahoma State signed 12 Texans, including seven of the Dallas area's top players. "This is the best we've ever done" in Texas, said Oklahoma State head coach Pat Jones.

OSU signed Dallas-area top running back prospect Terrance Miller of Lewisville and top wide-receiver prospect Curtis Mayfield of Spruce. The Cowboys also signed five others from the state's top 25 prospects.

UCLA signed all three Texas players it pursued. "We batted .1000 this year, but that doesn't happen very often," said co-defensive coordinator Bob Field.

A&M's Kim Labuschagne def. LSU's DeAnn Watlington, 6-1, 7-5; **A&M's Gaye Lynne Gensler** def. LSU's Dana Watlington, 6-4, 6-4; **A&M's Helen Christiaanse** def. LSU's Leticia Herrera, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; **A&M's Laura Liang** def. LSU's El-eonor Jonasson, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; **A&M's Kim Marshall** def. LSU's Marta Homedes, 6-3, 6-3; **A&M's Kellie Dorman** def. LSU's Michelle Tabary 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

Doubles Results:
Akagi-Gensler def. Watlington-Watlington, 6-2, 6-4; **Labuschagne-Marshall** def. Herrera-Laura Prodomo, 6-2, 6-3; **Harrison-Jonasson** def. **Christiaanse-Liang**, 6-3, 6-3.

Spurs defuse Rockets, end losing streak

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Artis Gilmore scored 25 points, including 10 in the final quarter, to power the San Antonio Spurs to a 119-115 victory over the Houston Rockets Thursday night.

Alvin Robertson scored 23 and Wes Matthews added 19 for the Spurs, who snapped a two-game losing streak and recorded their first victory in five tries against the Rockets this year.

Akeem Olajuwon, benched because of foul trouble in the third quarter, led the Rockets with 36 points, 26 of them in the first half. Lewis Lloyd added 18 points to the losing effort.

The Spurs blew the game open with 10 unanswered points midway through the fourth quarter, capped by a Gilmore dunk that gave them a 109-98 lead. The Rockets were held scoreless for nearly five minutes during the run.

Houston pared the deficit to 117-112 on a Mitchell Wiggins layup with less than one minute to go, but an offensive foul by Olajuwon gave the Spurs the opportunity to ice their victory.



Other Thursday NBA Scores
(home team in capitals)

Philadelphia 95
NEW YORK 92

CLEVELAND 135
New Jersey 117

MILWAUKEE 113
Utah 106

Portland at
L.A. CLIPPERS (late)

Washington at
GOLDEN STATE (late)

Atlanta at
SACRAMENTO (late)

Boston at
SEATTLE (late)

San Antonio, 28-26, assumed control of the game late in the first half and took a 71-68 halftime lead.

Houston, in first place in the NBA's Midwest Division, dropped to 34-17 with the loss.

Connors fights back for second-round win

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Third-seeded Jimmy Connors rallied from a 5-2 deficit in the third set to beat Italy's Claudio Panatta 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 Thursday in a second round match at the Lipton International Players Championship.

Chris Evert Lloyd, the women's top seed, also advanced with a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over Marie-Christine Calleja of France that took only 68 minutes to complete.

Facing the prospect of losing to the 91st-ranked player in the world, Connors turned his three-hour match around by breaking Panatta's serve in the eighth game of third set.

He won the first six points of the decisive tie-breaker which he eventually won 7-3.

"I don't mind the pressure of matches like this," Connors said. "I don't like the way I played. I played wrong tennis for me. I just have to start out playing like I end up playing."

Sweden's Mats Wilander, seeded second, was also a winner — beating Broderick Dyke of Australia 6-4, 6-2 to set up a third-round rematch with Mike Leach, who eliminated Wi-

lander from this two-week, Grand Slam-size tournament a year ago.

Lloyd was not particularly sharp in her match with Calleja. She said the hard courts here are slower than she is accustomed to and that patience will be a key to playing well the duration of the tournament.

In other second-round matches Thursday, fifth-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden defeated Ireland's Matt Doyle 6-3, 6-4; Jimmy Arias swept past Jimmy Brown 6-0, 6-2; Sweden's Joakim Nystrom ousted Vincent Van Patten 6-2, 6-0 and Leach beat Glenn Michibata 6-1, 6-3.

Pablo Arraya of Peru eliminated Bud Cox 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4 and Mark Dickson got by Spain's Segio Casal 6-2, 6-1.

In the women's bracket, eighth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina nipped Belinda Cordwell 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); No. 9 Kathy Rinaldi whipped Catherine Tanvier of France 6-3, 6-3 and Bulgaria's Katerina Maleeva downed Marcella Mesker of the Netherlands 6-7 (1-7), 6-1, 6-2.

Unseeded Kate Gompert, who upset No. 3 Pam Shriver in the first round, defeated Christine Jolissaint of Switzerland 6-2, 6-2.



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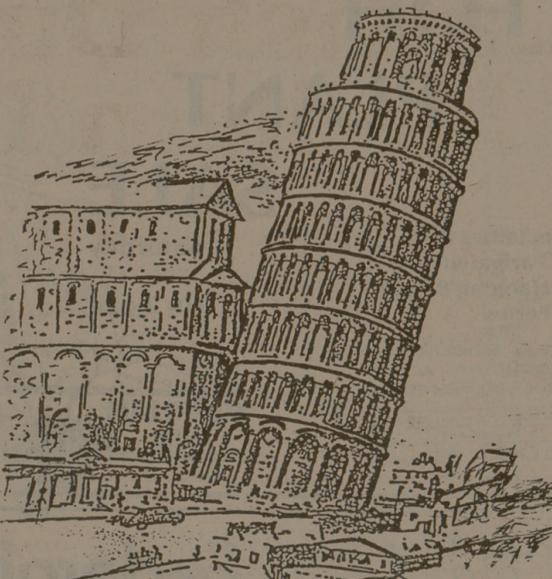
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