

Ags fear to tread on improved Bears

By KEN SURY
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M men's tennis team begins its Southwest Conference season today, but it won't be wiping its feet on the Baylor Bears.

"Baylor used to be the doormat of the S.W.C."

A&M Coach David Kent said. "But this year they have a good team. (Baylor Coach) Lee McCleary has done an excellent job with the team."

The Aggies, ranked 18th in the Head Intercollegiate Tennis Standings (H.I.T.S.) List, travel to Waco today with every player healthy.

A&M junior Marcel Vos, who has been sidelined the last two weeks with pulled muscles, will play today.

"It's a plus for us to have Vos back because he's an integral part of the team," Kent said. "I just hope these two weeks he hasn't been playing won't hurt him significantly."

Vos will fill the No. 2 singles spot behind No. 1 Kimmo Alkio. Alkio is undefeated in 10 spring matches and currently ranked No. 26 in the nation.

Vos and Dean Johnson will be A&M's No. 3 doubles team against Baylor. Russ Simmons and Mark Smith are the Aggies No. 1 tandem, while Alkio and freshman Brent Haygarth will play at No. 2.

Smith and Simmons are the 20th-ranked doubles team in the country.

"They're going full speed ahead right now," Kent said. "Simmons has been playing well and Smith was just short of sensational last weekend."

Smith, the only other Aggie ranked nationally in singles, is tied for 71st with eight other players. He will play in A&M's No. 3 singles position.

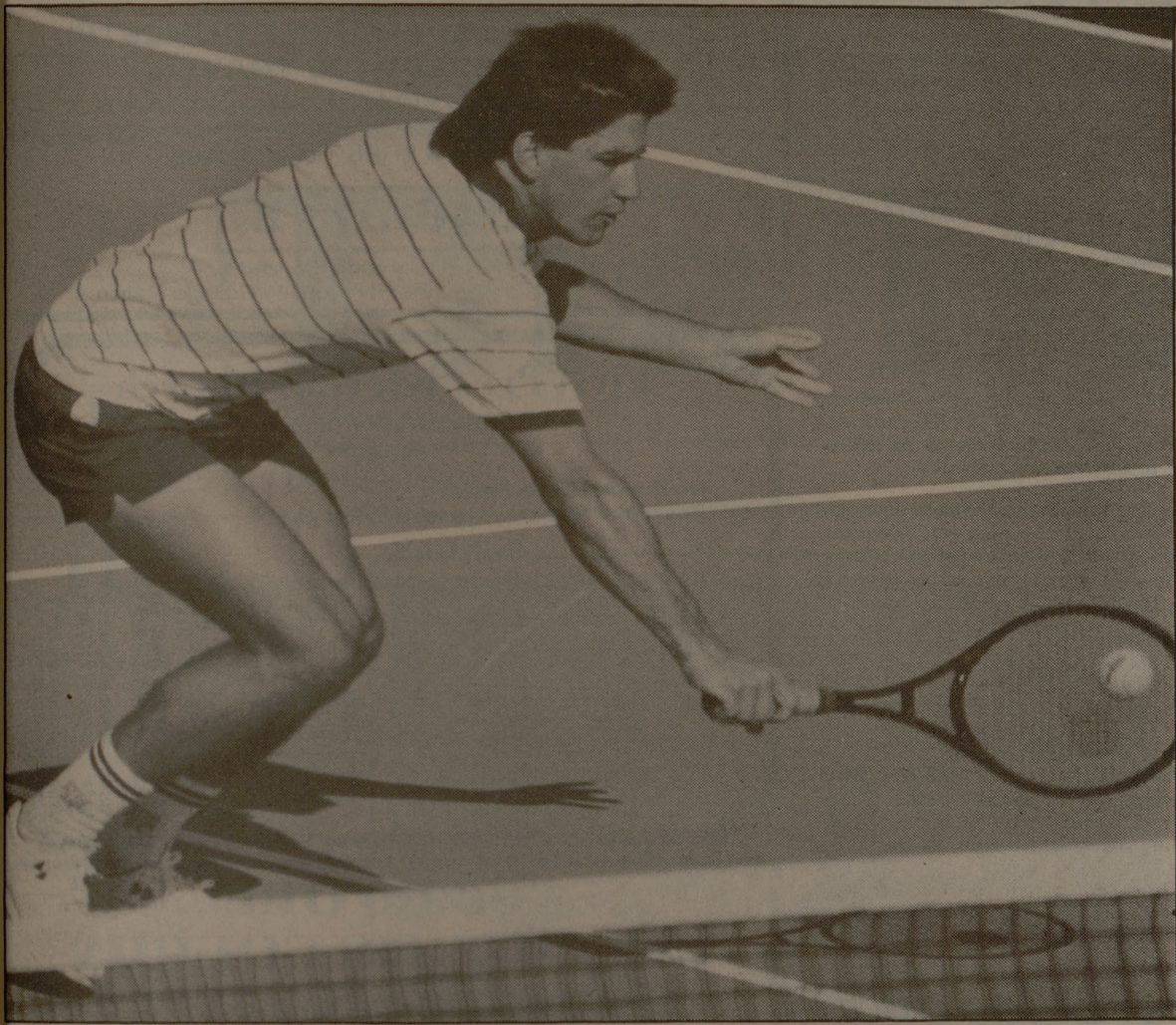


Photo by GREG BAILEY

A&M's Dean Goldfine stretches out to hit a drop volley during last Saturday's match against Ar-

kansas-Little Rock. The Aggie men's tennis team starts Southwest Conference play today in Waco.

Agent says ex-Net Richardson accepts NBA's 2-year ban

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Micheal Ray Richardson now admits he used the cocaine that got him thrown out of the NBA and wiped out his multi-million dollar contract, the agent for the New Jersey Nets' former star guard said Wednesday.

"You've got to understand, denial is a major part of the illness," Charles Grantham said, reflecting on Richardson's insistence Tuesday that he was clean when urinalysis said he wasn't.

"After hours of spending some time with him, talking with him, he

admitted his drug use," Grantham said of Richardson's banishment, announced Tuesday by Commissioner David Stern. "Therefore, we will not contest the validity of the NBA's action. That seals it."

Richardson, an eight-year pro, four-time All-Star and, last season, the NBA's Comeback Player of the Year, won't be back for at least two years — if at all.

Under the 14-month agreement between the league and the Players Association, Richardson can appeal his permanent ban in 1988, but both the NBA and the union must agree

on his reinstatement before he can play again. Besides, he turns 31 in barely six weeks and there are few 33-year-old guards in the NBA — and none playing on the heels of a two-year, drug-related layoff.

"We are talking about someone who is ill," Grantham said. "He has agreed to go back in for rehabilitation and therapy. My immediate concern is for Micheal's welfare as a person. He's going to deal with this problem for a long, long time — forever. Of major importance is that he get his life back in order."

Grantham said Richardson was

home in Mahwah, N.J., that he would remain in seclusion for several days and that his legal problems with his wife, Leah, had been resolved, with all charges dropped.

They involved disorderly conduct, property damage, simple assault, threatening behavior and violations of a domestic violence statute, all stemming from an altercation last week when Richardson discovered his wife had obtained a court order barring him from their property. As a result of that altercation, the Nets ordered the drug test which turned up positive.

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Such a brave life serves as inspiration for us all and Ronald McNair's loss will be deeply felt.

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