

Ag tandems lose in NCAA tourney

By Ken Sury
Sports Editor

AUSTIN — Texas A&M's final two entries in the NCAA Women's Tennis Championships, a pair of doubles teams, were eliminated from the tournament Tuesday.

Tennis

A&M's No. 1 tandem of Vianne Akagi and Gave Lynne Gensler were defeated by eighth-seeded Jill Hetherton and Jan Martin of Florida 6-1, 7-5 in the first round of the doubles competition.

The other Aggie tandem, Karen Marshall and Kim Labuschagne, were downed by UCLA's Jennifer Fuchs and Jane Thomas 6-3, 6-4.

"We played two real good teams," A&M first-year Coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "We were right in there with them, but just couldn't get the points."

"Plus, we were real nervous at the start since it was our first time in the NCAA tournament (in the doubles competition)."

The tandems did have some sense of the NCAA atmosphere as A&M competed last Thursday in the team competition, but lost in the first round to defending champion and No. 2 seed USC 8-1.

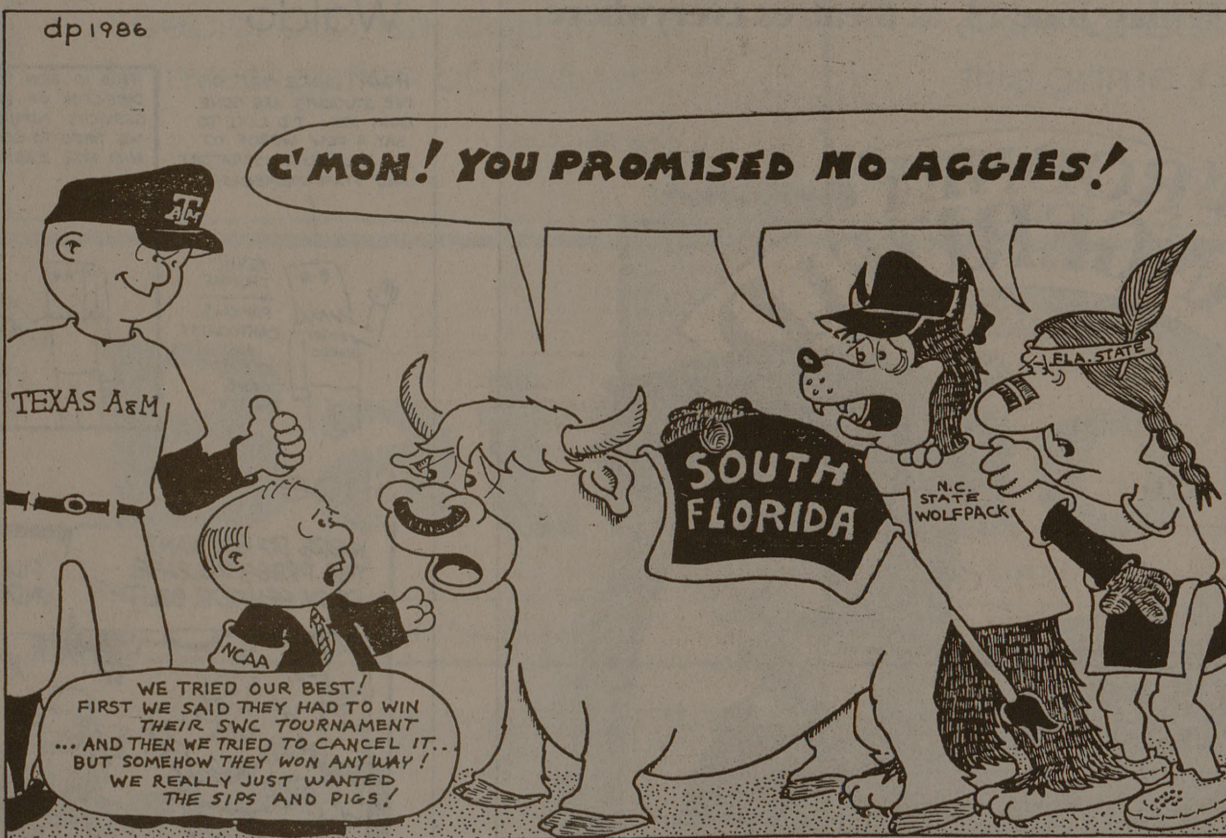
USC lost to No. 1 Stanford Sunday 5-4 in the championship match.

The lone A&M win was a big one as Labuschagne, playing the No. 2 singles spot, upset All-American Heliane Steden 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Steden was ranked as the No. 5 collegiate singles player in the nation and Kleinecke said Labuschagne's victory was probably the biggest singles win in A&M history.

A&M finished its season with a dual-match record of 19-8. It was the Aggies' first trip to NCAA competition.

On the men's side, A&M's SWC singles champion Kimmo Alkio is in Athens, Ga., preparing for his first NCAA tourney singles match. The tourney draw is expected to be announced today. Alkio is ranked 24th in the country.



A&M settles for fifth at rain-soaked SWC meet

By Ken Sury
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M men's track team's hopes of snatching a Southwest Conference title were washed away with the rain that fell periodically at the 71st SWC Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Rice Track Stadium in Houston last weekend.

Track and Field

The Aggies had to settle for fifth place with 69 points as Texas edged Arkansas 115-110 to claim the title. SMU scored 86 for third and Baylor came in fourth with 79 points.

UT's victory ended 1985 NCAA champion Arkansas' four-year reign in SWC track.

Among the big disappointments for the Aggie men was the rejoining of Randy Barnes' hand on his first shot-put attempt Sunday. Barnes had originally sprained a knuckle in his throwing hand at the Mt. San Antonio College Relays in late April.

Barnes' toss went between 63 to 64 feet and would have won the competition except that he fouled. A win in the event also would have

Aggie women improve, finish in fifth place

The Texas A&M women's track team did something at the Southwest Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships last weekend that they didn't do last year — score points.

In Fayetteville, Ark., last year the Aggies were shut out as none of the women could muster at least a sixth-place finish.

But this year A&M scored 16 points to take fifth in a meet that was a showcase for Texas, which won with 223 points, and Houston, which finished second at 174.

A&M Head Track Coach Charlie Thomas said he was pleased with the women's progress, but added, "Texas is just so dominating."

notched fourth place over Baylor.

The rain played havoc for A&M in the sprints as Saturday's thunderstorms forced the elimination of the preliminaries and the events had to be reheated.

Despite the reheating, A&M freshmen Floyd Heard and Stanley Kerr clocked the two fastest 200-meter dashes in school history behind SMU's Roy "Robot" Martin's wind-aided 19.86-second finish. Kerr fin-

Lisa Langston turned in the best performance for the Aggies with a school record 13.78 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles to finish third. Langston, A&M's all-time leading scorer in basketball, missed the NCAA qualifying by .08 in only her fourth collegiate hurdles run.

The remainder of A&M's points came from a fourth by Lisa Coley in the javelin (134 feet, 3 inches), a fourth in the shot put by Vernell Dunn (47-11 3/4), a sixth by Brandy Stubblefield (5-4) and a sixth in the 400-meter relay by team members of L'Tanya Brown, Novaita Samuels, Judy Williams and Langston.

ished second with a 20.10 and Heard came in third at 20.25. The times cracked the NCAA qualifying time of 20.72, which Kerr had not accomplished before the meet.

In the 100, Heard grabbed third and Kerr fourth after starting from the worst lanes — 1 and 2. Martin, the meet's high point winner, won the 100 with a 9.97 while TCU's Roscoe Tatum took second at 10.08. Heard clocked in at 10.12, with Kerr

at 10.14. Both marks qualified for the NCAAAs.

Thomas said running in the first lane hurt the team psychologically, because you have to be wary of the two-inch high rail that runs alongside the track.

But Thomas was quick to note that the weather and lane problems weren't the difference in their fifth-place finish.

"It wasn't poor performances (ei-

ther)," Thomas said. "The effort was there. We just weren't on as a group. A lot (of events) were just so close. We had a lot of seventh places (the top six finishes earn points)."

The only first place for A&M in the meet came Saturday as Barnes threw the discus a career best 200 feet, 8 1/2 inches. A&M freshman Robert Graf finished fifth in the shot with a career best 172-4.

A&M's only other top three finish was a third-place time of 3 minutes, 5.28 seconds in the 1,600-meter relay by Kendrick Wesley, Gary Pervis, Matt Washington and Maurice Holt.

Senior Francisco Oliveras earned two fourth places as he triple jumped 52 feet, 6 1/2 inches and threw the javelin 195-3. Two other fourths came from Ian James' long jump of 26-1 and Craig Calk's 50.97 in the 400 hurdles.

Thomas said Calk could have finished first or second had he not missed a step on the ninth hurdle and lost some momentum.

The remainder of A&M's points came from a fifth place by Lawrence Felton in the 110-meter high hurdles, a sixth place in the 800 by Matt Dunn and a sixth by Mike Rhoades in the pole vault.

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