

Sports

Ag women sweep dual tennis action

By Hal L. Hammons
Sports Writer

An inexperienced A&M women's tennis team started the season in impressive fashion this weekend as it easily disposed of Southwest Texas State at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

In the 9-0 victory, the Aggies lost only two sets, both in doubles play. In six singles matches, A&M lost only 20 games.

Kim Labuschagne, the Aggies' top player, played her singles match with the flu but did not compete in the doubles action.

Saturday, the Aggies had similar results in their first dual match of the year, beating Sam Houston State 8-1.

A&M Coach Bobby Kleinecke said his players, five of whom had no experience on the college level, were nervous at first, but after winning five out of six singles matches against Sam Houston, the team gained more confidence.

Kleinecke said he was pleased with his team's performance Sunday. He said he was happy it encouraged a bit of difficulty in doubles action since tight matches are better experience than easy victories.

The Aggies host North Texas State Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Kleinecke said the match, like this weekend's matches, will help the team get ready for the ITCA National Indoor Championships that start Thursday in Richmond, Va.

Looking forward to the conference season, Kleinecke said his team was not being predicted to contend for the championship. However, he reminded, the same was said of last year's conference championship team.

He said this team was much more experienced than that team. With senior Gaye Lynne Gensler out for the season with an injury, junior Labuschagne and senior Laura Liong are the only returning players this season.

American crew grabs 2-0 lead in Cup race

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Stars & Stripes, proving it can win in all winds, blew away Kookaburra III in stiff breezes Sunday for a one-minute, 10-second victory that brought the America's Cup halfway back to its home of 132 years.

The U.S. yacht took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven finals and carried skipper Dennis Conner to within two victories of redemption for his 1983 loss of the prize.

Calmer conditions were forecast for Monday's third race. Kookaburra III skipper Iain Murray, feeling his boat is better suited to light winds, decided not to call an off day.

On Sunday, consistent southwest winds with a punch ranging from 22 to 26 knots churned up big waves that the blue-hulled Stars & Stripes handled better than its opponent.

Kookaburra III won the start by three seconds, but Stars & Stripes was on the left side of the starting line, just as its braintrust had wished.

Both boats were on starboard tack heading toward the left side. Nearly halfway up the first leg, into the wind, Kookaburra III went to the right on port tack 14 minutes into the race. Conner followed about 20 seconds later and appeared to gain the lead as his boat's upwind superiority became evident.

"They did maybe a slightly better job" than Stars & Stripes at the start, the Americans' tactician Tom Whidden said of the Kookaburra III crew. "But we had the side of the course we wanted."

Kookaburra III flew a protest flag

during pre-start maneuvers. After talks between Murray and syndicate head Kevin Parry, a decision was made not to file a protest, which could have cost the Americans the race.

The 3.25-mile beat to windward that began the race ended with Stars & Stripes in front by 12 seconds. Conner boosted his lead to 29 seconds after the second leg, a downwind run.

"The downwind speed of Stars & Stripes is a little more than we expected," Murray said. "I think we do have an advantage, but it's not as much as we were anticipating."

Both skippers had said the boat leading after the second leg probably would win and Conner made sure of that on the windward beat that followed.

That third leg had been Kookaburra III's best leg Saturday when it cut Stars & Stripes' lead from 1:20 to 41 seconds. On Sunday, it was Stars & Stripes' best leg.

Conner's boat covered the distance 45 seconds faster than Kookaburra III to open a huge advantage of 1:14.

From that point on, a gear failure aboard Stars & Stripes in the strong winds seemed to be Murray's best hope. It faded as the afternoon sun set and Conner became conservative to protect his lead and his boat.

After the sixth leg on the 24.1-mile Indian Ocean course, Conner had his spinnaker taken down 20 seconds before ending the next leg.

Top-ranked running back pledges to play for A&M

Texas A&M's football program got a big boost Friday when bluechip running back Darren Lewis of Dallas Carter pledged to sign with the Aggies Feb. 11, which is national signing day for high school seniors.

Bluechip offensive lineman Greg Larkin of Cypress-Fairbanks earlier had pledged to play for the Maroon and White.

Three other recruits who have pledged — Crane running back Ger-

ald Mitchell, Alto defensive back Steve Lofton and Deer Park offensive lineman Jeff Huff — have appeared on many newspapers' Top 30 list of Texas recruits.

Lewis rushed for 1,658 yards last year as a senior, scoring 22 touchdowns. *The Dallas Morning News* rated Lewis as the top recruit in the state and the No. 2 prospect in the nation.

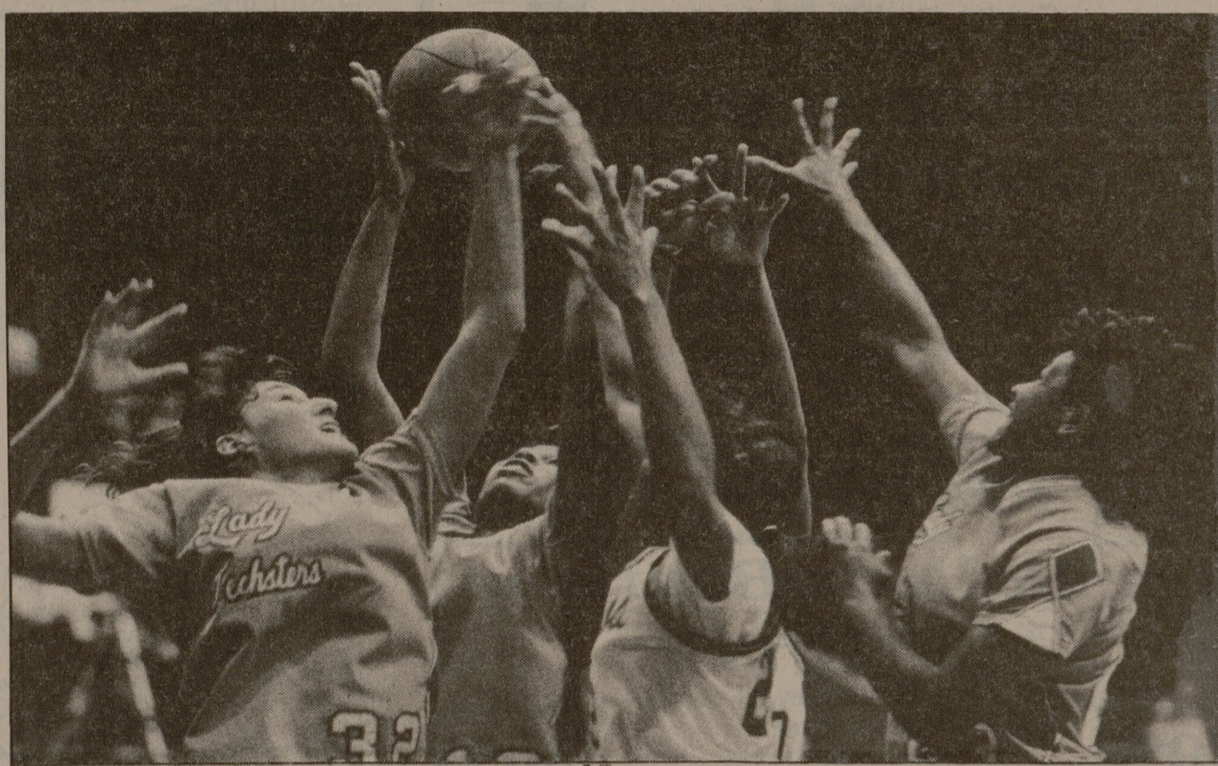


Photo by Bill Hughes

A&M's Evelyn Sanders (center) goes for a rebound against Louisiana Tech's Stacey Davis

(32), Tori Harrison (13) and Tatia Brown (23) during A&M's loss to the Lady Techsters Friday.

Louisiana Tech blasts Lady Ags A&M suffers 51-point shellacking 95-44

By Loyd Brumfield
Assistant Sports Editor

Lynn Hickey, Coach of the Texas A&M women's basketball team, had never lost a game by over 50 points in her life before last Friday night.

That was when Hickey's Lady Aggies took on 7th-ranked Louisiana Tech and suffered a devastating 95-44 loss in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"If I had known it was going to be like this, I never would have scheduled this game right in the middle of conference play," Hickey said.

A fast-breaking Lady Techster offense and a suffocating de-

fense, coupled with 24 A&M turnovers, led to the 51-point blowout.

Even though Louisiana Tech got off to a quick 8-0 lead, the Lady Aggies had their best chance of catching the Lady Techsters by closing the gap to 8-4 on jump shots by guard Traci Thomas and forward Lisa Jordan.

The Lady Techsters then outscored the Lady Aggies 20-6 in just under eight minutes to establish the tempo of the game.

A&M (7-11) played hard, but it seemed confused by the quicker Lady Techsters. Sometimes it

seemed a game of "Make it, take it" was going on, with Louisiana Tech forcing steals as soon as the Lady Aggies threw it in-bounds.

Thomas led the Lady Aggies with 10 points and forward Evelyn Sanders and Jordan followed with six each. Louisiana Tech was paced by forward Erica Westbrook with 16 points.

"Louisiana Tech is in the same situation as Texas," Hickey said. "They have two or three teams that can compete with most other teams' first squads."

The Lady Aggies return to conference play Thursday at 5 p.m. with a game against SMU in Moody Coliseum in Dallas.

It's eleven p.m.

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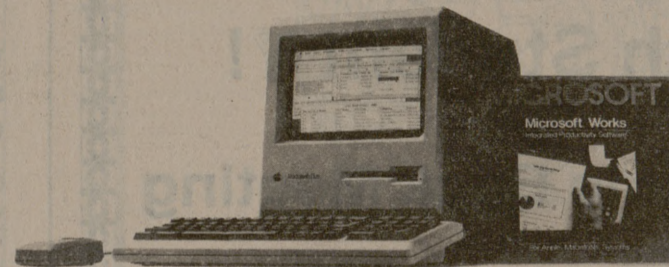
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