

Sports

A&M men's tennis team grabs 2 wins

By Hal L. Hammons
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's tennis team began the 1987 campaign in impressive fashion last weekend at the Omar Smith Tennis Center, winning their first two matches of the year at the expense of Pan American and Tulsa.

"A&M Tennis Coach David Kent said he was very pleased with his team's showing, particularly with the 8-1 victory Saturday against Tulsa.

He said particularly encouraging factors in the Aggies' success were the play of freshmen Jeff Livshitz, Shaun O' Donovan and Steve Kennedy, as well as the continued success of No. 1 doubles team Dean Goldfine and Marcel Vos.

"People ought to come out just to watch them play," Kent said about the team of Goldfine and Vos. The two seniors are now 16-2 as a doubles team.

Friday's 9-0 victory over Pan American was plagued by terrible weather conditions, including a wind chill factor that reached into the 30s. The conditions did not appear to faze the Aggies, who dropped only one set in the nine matches.

The victories were even more impressive considering sophomore Brent Hagarth missed both matches with strep throat. Kent said Hagarth would have to be back for the team's next action, at the Oklahoma State 4-Way Indoor in Oklahoma City Friday through Sunday.

The tournament will include Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Trinity and host Oklahoma State.

Kent said the team is especially looking forward to playing Trinity, a team that has strained relations at best with the Aggies.

"There's no love lost between us," Kent said.

Kent said he had high expectations of this year's team. He said the leadership and the talent were there to make the Aggies contenders in the conference race.

Frogs slap Aggies with fifth straight SWC loss

By Homer Jacobs
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M basketball team dropped its fifth straight Southwest Conference game Sunday at G. Rollie White Coliseum 55-50 to a TCU squad that was on the rebound.

Not only was TCU on the rebound of its upset loss to Baylor Wednesday night, but the No. 15 Horned Frogs also dominated the rebounding department 43-23.

"The big difference in the ballgame was the boards," Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "We just weren't moving our feet as well as we needed to."

TCU's Larry Richard finished the game with 17 rebounds and had 11 at halftime, while the Aggies could only muster a team total of 9 at the half.

Besides the Aggies' difficulty in getting rebounds, A&M also had problems finding forward Winston Crite, who finished the game with only six points and two rebounds, between the sagging TCU zone.

"We can't afford the luxury of having our better players not play well," Metcalf said. "To win the big games, your better players have got to perform."

And to win the big games, most teams have to take advantage of opportunities created by turnovers or four-on-one fast breaks — A&M couldn't cash in on either down the stretch.

With 9:15 left in the game, the Aggies were down 41-35 until forward Tadd Thomas hit five straight points, including a 3-pointer, and the TCU lead was down to one at 41-40.

Paul Crawford then made two free throws to give the Aggies a 42-41 advantage, igniting the crowd of 3,813.

The next five minutes saw a back-and-forth game with TCU grabbing a three-point lead, 50-47, on an 18-foot jump shot from center Tony Papa.

Papa had the hot hand for the Horned Frogs as he finished the game with 16 points on 8 of 11 shooting from the outside.

Metcalf said it was A&M's strategy to make Papa take the outside shots.

"We challenged him and he met the challenge," Metcalf said. "I knew he was a good shooter, but I didn't think he'd take that many shots."

A&M never got closer than three points in the final three minutes, thanks to blown opportunities.

The Aggies turned the ball over on a four-on-one fast break that, if converted, would have cut the lead to 52-50 with 1:54 to go. After the turnover, the Aggies had to foul. With 28 seconds left and the score 52-48, TCU's sophomore sensation Jamie Dixon missed a free throw, but A&M could not grab the crucial rebound for a try at a comeback.

"If we would have capitalized on the mistakes and turnovers, we could have won the game," A&M guard Keron Graves said.

It looked like the Aggies were headed to victory in the first minutes of the first half as they raced to an 8-2 lead with 16:47 left.

But then the Carvin Holcombe show kicked into gear as the TCU guard poured in 10 unanswered points en route to a 17-2 run by the Horned Frogs that gave them a 19-10 lead.

The Aggies went into the locker room trailing 30-25.

Graves was high-point man for the Aggies hitting 16 points, nine on 3-point shots. The nearest Aggie after Graves in the scoring column was senior guard Todd Holloway with eight points.

Holcombe joined Papa for high-point honors for TCU with 16 points, while Norman Anderson added 10.

A&M was able to hold Dixon, who averages 15.1 points a game, to just three points.

The Aggies fall to 12-9 overall, 4-6 in SWC. TCU improved its record to 19-4 overall, 10-1 in conference.

A&M travels to Austin Wednesday night to take on the Texas Longhorns.



Texas A&M's Todd Holloway applies defensive pressure to Jamie Dixon of TCU. The Aggies

held Dixon to three points but lost the game 55-50. A&M dropped to 4-6 in conference play.

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