

Sports

Lady Aggies drop match to Houston

By Ed Bodde
Assistant Sports Editor

One year has sure made a difference in the Texas A&M women's tennis team. Last season at this time, the Lady Aggies were on their way to a first-ever Southwestern Conference Championship.

After losing 7-2 to Houston Tuesday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center, A&M is just trying to stay out of the conference cellar.

The defeat dropped A&M to 7-18 overall and 1-5 in the SWC. Houston is now 12-4 and 4-2.

One bright spot for the Lady Aggies was the play of No. 1 singles player Kim Labuschagne, who defeated Kathy Foxworth in straight sets 7-5, 6-4. The Cougars' Foxworth is the No. 5 collegiate player in the nation.

Labuschagne said she felt confident against Foxworth.

"I feel I have a mental edge against her," Labuschagne said. "I beat her last fall. And today, I broke her in the first set. Because her serve is so tough, it gave me the confidence I could win."

Labuschagne, who is ranked No. 47, said it was definitely her biggest win of the season. It was also the Lady Aggies' only singles victory of the afternoon.

The No. 2, 3 and 4 singles matches went the full three sets, but A&M's Laura Liong, Lisa Keller and Jennifer Jones all dropped the final set 6-2.

Vicki White defeated Liong 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; Fran Ind topped Keller 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, and Annabelle Landa beat Jones 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

In other singles action, Candy Diepraam stormed past Missy Kibler 6-3, 6-0, and Brigitte St. Hilaire powered by Melissa Dowling 6-4, 6-1.

Houston then took two out of three in the doubles. Foxworth got a bit of revenge as she teamed with White to defeat Liong and Labuschagne 6-3, 6-2. A&M's

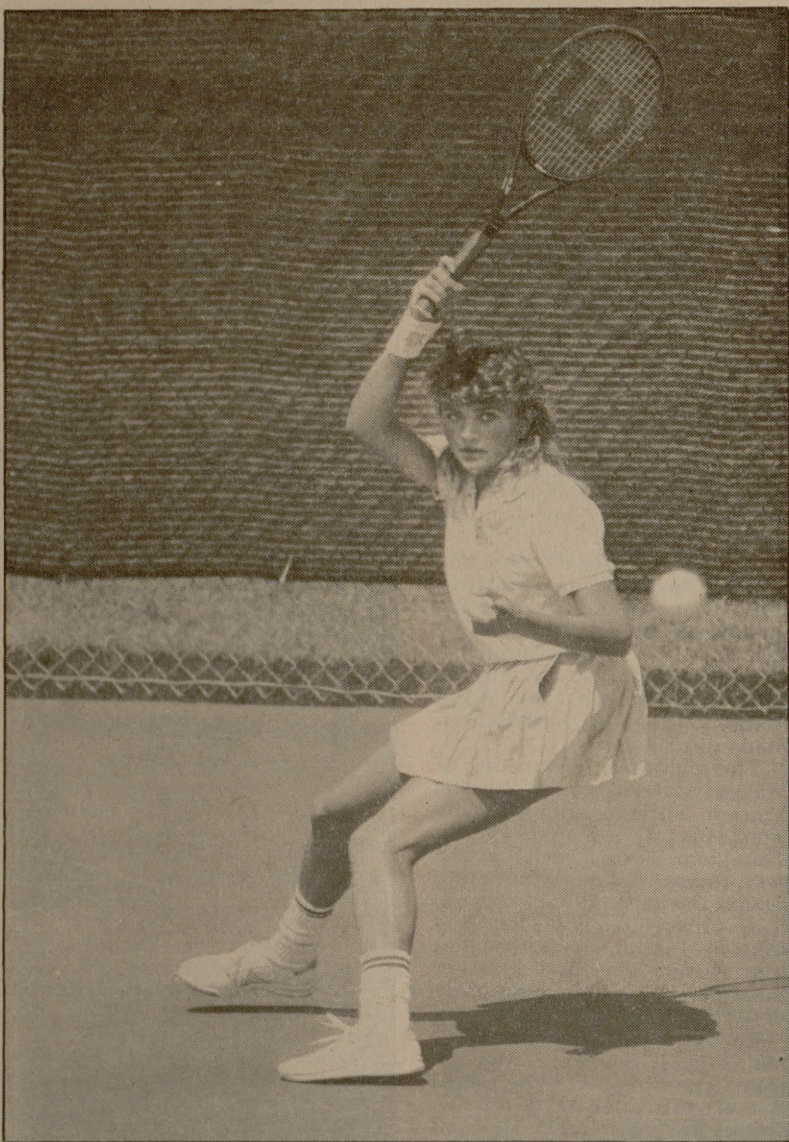


Photo by Tracy Staton

Texas A&M's Kim Labuschagne hits a forehand during her 7-5, 6-4 win over Houston's Kathy Foxworth. A&M lost the match 7-2.

Jones and Keller won in straight sets 6-4, 6-0 over Diepraam and St. Hilaire; Stina Almgren and Ind also cruised to a 6-1, 6-0 victory over the Lady Aggie duo of Sami Gonzales and Kibler.

"Houston is a good team and they're still in the running for the conference title," A&M Coach

Bobby Kleinecke said. "It was one of our best overall team efforts in a while. The singles matches were very close. And we had a good win in doubles for Lisa and Jennifer."

A&M will take on Rice Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Aggies fall to Bearkats 4-3 A&M rally comes up short in ninth

By Loyd Brumfield
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M baseball team's 11-game winning streak came to a dead stop Tuesday night as a final, frantic rally fell short and the Aggies fell victim to a determined Sam Houston State team 4-3 at Olsen Field.

It was the second meeting of the year between the teams and the final home non-conference game for A&M.

A&M and Sam Houston fought to a 14-14 tie in a game called because of darkness in Huntsville earlier in the year.

A&M, 33-13-1, was contained all night by Bearkat pitching, and was also plagued by four double plays turned against them.

"We didn't play all that bad, we just didn't hit the ball well," A&M Coach Mark Johnson said. "It shows when you keep hitting into double plays."

The Aggies started the game by picking up where they left off after sweeping a three-game series from Baylor here last weekend, as right fielder Don Wren led off the game with his third home run of the year over the right-field fence to quickly put A&M on top 1-0.

But that was all as far as runs were concerned for A&M until a three-run spurt in the ninth; Sam Houston pitcher Mike Stavinoha limited the Aggies to just four hits over eight innings.

A&M starting pitcher Randy Pryor held the Bearkats hitless until the third inning when right fielder Chris Burton lined a single into center field, and third baseman Terry Pirtle followed with another one to score Burton and tie the game. All 10 of Sam Houston's hits were singles.

Sam Houston added another hit in the fourth inning off Russ Greene, who took over for Pryor to begin the inning, when first baseman Andy Deen hit a single to Wren in right field. Deen was caught in a pick-off between first and second to end any scoring hopes for Sam Houston State.

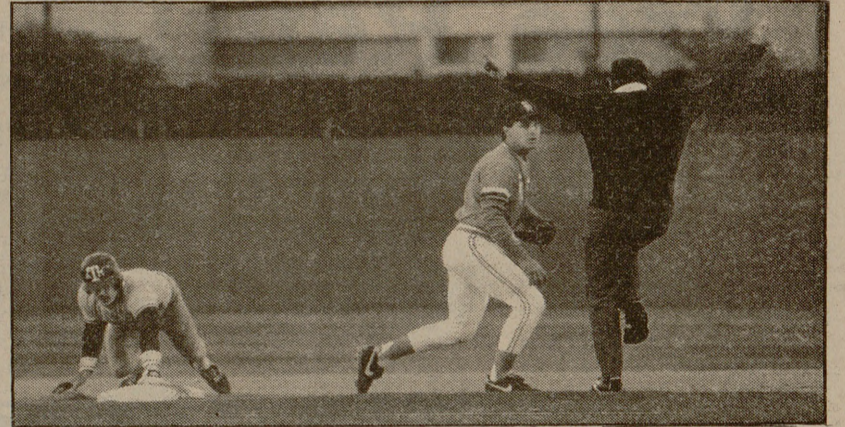


Photo by Bill Hughes

Texas A&M's John Byington successfully steals second base as Sam Houston State's Bryan McDonald looks to the umpire for the call.

A&M managed two hits in the fourth as third baseman Scott Livingstone and designated hitter John Byington both hit singles into center field.

After center fielder Chuck Knoblauch reached on an error, left fielder Tim McWilliam hit into the second double play of the game to end the inning.

The Bearkats took the lead for good in the sixth inning when center fielder Brad Kelley hit a single to center field and Deen brought him home on a single to right field.

Following a walk to A&M second baseman Terry Taylor in the fifth, Stavinoha retired the next eight Aggie hitters in a row before Taylor singled in the eighth.

"He (Stavinoha) did a good job tonight," Johnson said. "He got a lot help from double plays. They save pitchers. You get a breath of fresh air every time someone turns one."

"Stavinoha's been their ace this year, but he's had some problems lately. My hat's off to him tonight, though."

Sam Houston added two more runs in the seventh when catcher

Greg Williams led off the inning with a single to center field off Pat Wernig, A&M's third pitcher of the game.

After shortstop Mitchell Moon sent a single to center field, and second baseman Bryan McDonald was hit by a pitch, Burton hit a single to drive home Moon and Williams, giving the Bearkats a 4-1 lead.

After a relatively quiet eighth inning for A&M, the Aggies exploded with a furious rally in the ninth that had the crowd on its feet screaming.

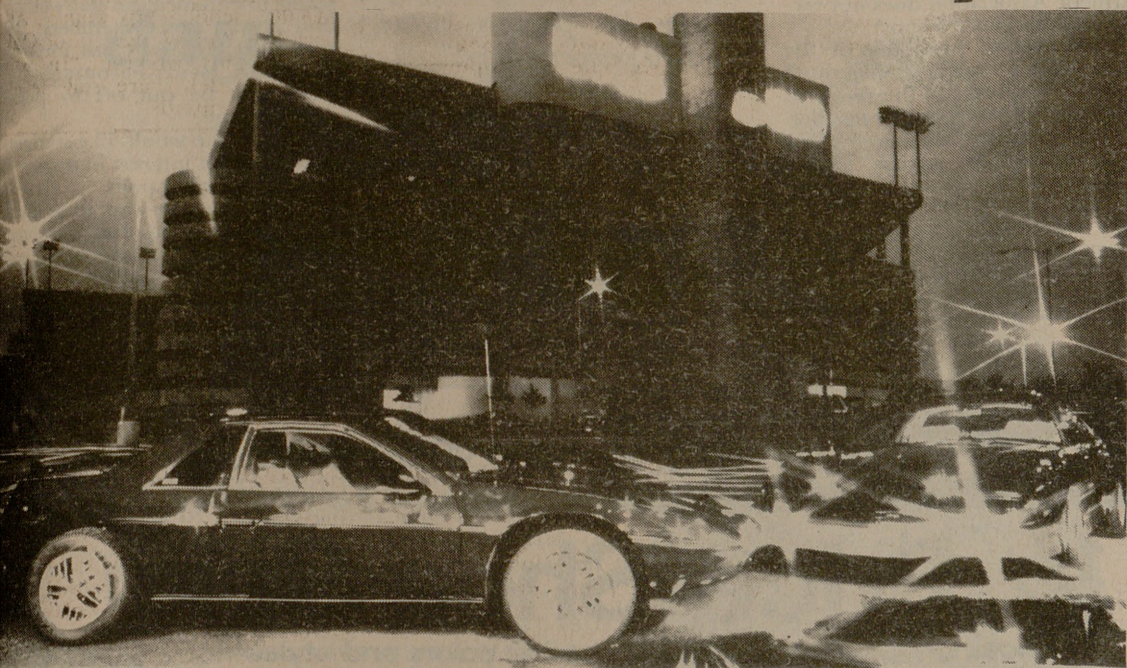
Wren led things off with a single to left field, and shortstop Ever Magallanes followed by grounding out to second.

Livingstone then sliced another single into right field to score Wren and end the game for Stavinoha. He was replaced by Norman Butler, who got in trouble fast.

After Byington popped up to third, Butler walked three straight batters — Knoblauch, McWilliam and finally Taylor — which allowed Livingstone to come home and make it a 4-3 game. The next A&M batter, first baseman Jim Neumann, struck out looking, ending the game.

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