

Sports

Dallas waives Septien after guilty plea

IRVING (AP) — Veteran placekicker Rafael Septien, who admitted to indecency with a child and was placed on 10 years probation, was waived by the Dallas Cowboys Wednesday.

Club President Tex E. Schramm called the decision "a sad episode for everyone, but Rafael is no longer a member of the Dallas Cowboys."

Septien, 33, pleaded guilty a week ago in Denton in exchange for 10 years deferred probation and a \$2,000 fine. He was indicted Jan. 22 in the sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl, who was a friend of his roommate's daughter.

"I knew we would receive adverse public reaction when we did not take this action immediately, but we wanted to investigate all the ramifications of our decision," Schramm said.

Schramm and Coach Tom Landry gave prepared statements which were read by team spokesman Doug Todd in a telephone interview from San Diego.

"We cannot ignore the contributions on the field of Rafael during the past 10 years and that is why this has been so different. Ultimately, we had no alternative but to take this action."

"The Cowboys and this community always have enjoyed a special relationship and this will continue to be our highest priority."

Landry, who also released a statement through the spokesman, said, "Rafael has been an important part of our team for 10 years. I have always been inclined to help a player overcome his problems within the confines of our team. Sometimes, this is not possible."

"I only hope Rafael can pick up the pieces and again be the type of person we have known these past 10 years."

The Cowboys will now be faced with drafting a placekicker in the April 28th draft.

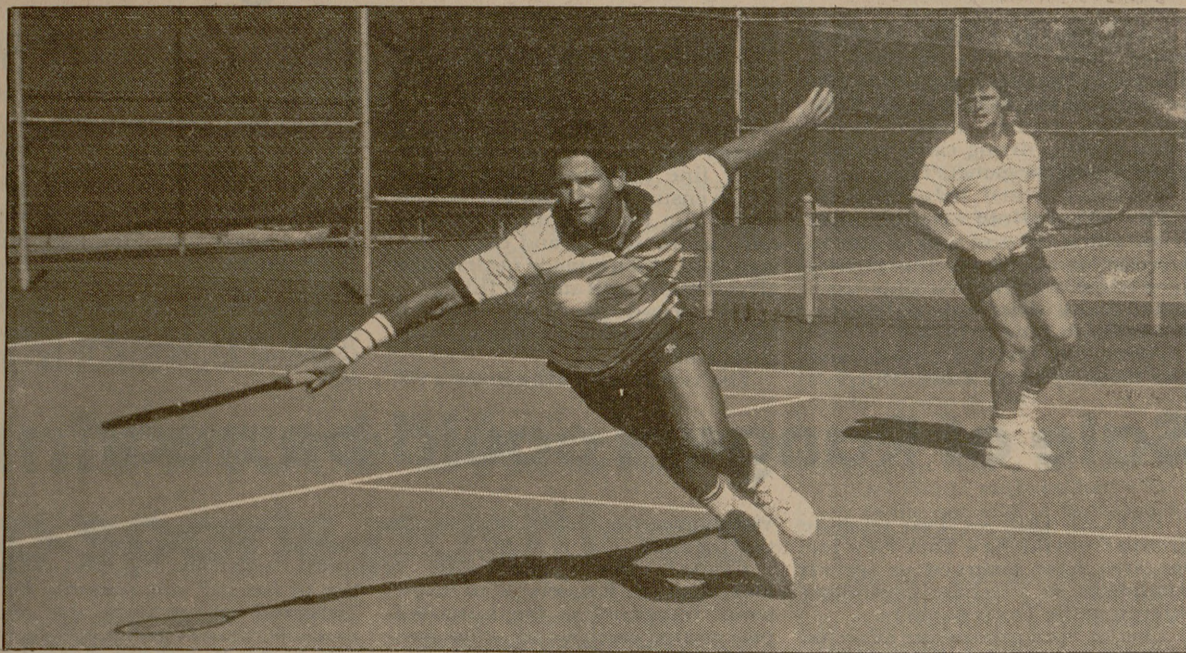


Photo by Tom Ownbey

Texas A&M's Dean Goldfine reaches for a volley in a match against the University of Texas at the

Omar Smith Tennis Center as doubles partner Marcel Vos looks on. The duo lost 6-2, 6-4.

Aggies drop match to Texas 7-2

By Hal L. Hammons
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's tennis team ended its 1987 home season on a sour note as the Aggies were beaten by the University of Texas 7-2 Wednesday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Longhorns are ranked No. 5 in the nation, and they showed why they are regarded so highly as they won at least one set in each of the nine matches. A&M entered the match ranked No. 24.

Among the losses were singles and doubles matches featuring Aggie seniors Dean Goldfine and Marcel Vos, who were playing their last matches at home.

Vos lost his No. 1 singles match to Royce Deppe 6-2, 6-4. Deppe advanced to the quarterfinals in last year's NCAA championships. Longhorn Paul Koscielski defeated Goldfine 6-3, 6-4.

The No. 1-ranked team of Deppe and Charles Beckman defeated Vos

and Goldfine in No. 1 doubles play 6-2, 6-4.

Vos said the Longhorns always won the big points, that, had they gone the Aggies' way, could have made the match much closer.

"That's what makes them a great team, I guess," Vos said.

Goldfine said the loss was disappointing, both from a personal and a team point of view.

"I wanted to do well," Goldfine said. "I wanted the team to do well."

He had nothing but praise for the No. 1 Texas doubles team.

"They make you work for every single point," he said.

At one point in the match, Goldfine became so upset with his doubles play that he sarcastically screamed, "We certainly look great today."

The remark was apparently out of frustration, because after the match he said he and Vos really did play a great game.

A&M Coach David Kent said the team played well, but it let too many good opportunities go by the wayside.

"We didn't compete as well as I thought we should have," Kent said.

The Longhorns put the pressure on the Aggies early, taking the first three matches quickly. Shaun O'Donovan was the first Aggie to fall, losing to Pat Flynn 6-3, 6-1, and Vos and Goldfine followed.

Kennedy registered the only A&M singles win. He beat Chip Leighton in No. 6 singles 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

Both Johnson and Haygarth had chances to win their matches, but each came up short in the third set. Johnson lost to Beckman 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. Doug Piolet beat Haygarth 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 for the fifth and deciding Texas victory.

Johnson and Haygarth earned the second Aggie win, beating Piolet and Doug Thome 7-5, 2-6, 6-4.

A&M to tussle with UT in crucial SWC series

By Doug Hall
Senior Sports Writer

As if playing No. 1-ranked Oklahoma State University wasn't enough competition for one week, the Texas A&M baseball team has the dubious honor of taking on the other No. 1-ranked team in the country — the University of Texas — in a three-game series this weekend at Olsen Field.

ESPN, which televised the Aggies Monday night 14-11 defeat to OSU, ranks the Cowboys No. 1 and the 44-7 Longhorns No. 2. Baseball America magazine, on the other hand, ranks Texas No. 1 and OSU No. 2.

Either way, the 36-14-1 Aggies will have their hands full when the series kicks off Friday at 7 p.m.

The home field advantage, according to Texas Tech coach Larry Hays, whose team has played both the Aggies and the Longhorns, could be an important factor for the Aggies.

"That (playing at home) will be a big factor for the Aggies to win," Hays said. "Texas is a team that is designed to play on their home field. They've got speed and strength, so they're double-tough when they play at home."

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson agrees that Olsen Field will give A&M some much-needed help.

"There's no question about it," the third-year coach said. "We'll be playing on our home turf, sleeping in our own beds and eating our own food. There are just a lot of things that help when you're playing at home besides having the crowd there."

Regardless of where the teams play, though, the Aggies will have to get past the 1-2 pitching combination of Texas' Curt Krippner (8-0 on the season and 4-0 in the Southwest Conference) and Mark Petkovsek (9-1 and 3-1).

Hays said that although Krippner might have better numbers and more publicity, Petkov-

sek is the pitcher to beat. "Their second guy (Petkovsek) is the guy that impressed us the most," said Hays, whose Red Raiders were swept by both clubs. "He's the best pitcher we've seen all year."

Baylor Coach Mickey Sullivan, whose Bears' also have played both clubs, said if the Aggies can get past Texas' top two guns and in to the Longhorn bullpen, a could be an interesting matchup.

"I'd say A&M has the best hitting ball club in the conference," Sullivan said. "Defensively, I'd say the teams are about the same."

"Pitching, I'd have to go with Texas by just a little. A&M has the finest pitchers that don't beat themselves. Texas has the power pitchers that really throw the ball."

"But if A&M can get into their bullpen, then they could really have some fun."

Hays also said the series could come down to how well A&M's stand-out trio of freshmen — center fielder Chuck Knoblauch, second baseman Terry Taylor and designated hitter John Byington — can handle the better caliber of pitching that Texas has.

"It's going to be a great college series, first of all," Sullivan said. "I think it's going to come down to how well their freshman adjust to the better pitching."

Johnson said the Aggies will send their ace, senior Darryl Fry, to the mound in Friday night's game. In Saturday's double header, which begins at 2 p.m., Johnson said he will start Sean Sneider in the first game and Gary Geiger in the second.

According to Alton Cannon, A&M's assistant sports information director, reserve seats for the three-game series are already sold out. He also said there will be 250 additional seats put in for the game, and standing room only tickets also will be sold.

General admission ticket sales will go on sale two hours before the game.

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