

Sports

Ag men's tennis team trounces SWTSU 7-2

By Loyd Brumfield
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M men's tennis team swamped Southwest Texas State 7-2 Thursday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

A&M is now 7-2 on the year with a match against 16th-ranked Trinity on tap for 1:30 today at the Tennis Center.

"We have to play our best tennis every time we hit the courts, but this team is scrappy," A&M Coach David Kent said. We were fortunate to come out with a win today."

A&M's No. 1 player, Dean Johnson, lost in singles play to SWTSU's Mike Whittington 7-5, 6-3, but the rest of the team was victorious in singles play.

No. 2 seed Shaun O'Donovan defeated the Bobcats' Mark Hopkins 5-7, 7-6, 7-5; A&M's Steve Kennedy beat Brad Hamburg 6-3, 6-0, and Mike Chambers de-

feated Clark Woodson 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

In other singles action, A&M's Craig Whiteker downed Richard Robert 7-6, 6-4, and Scott Campbell beat Don Van Ramshorst 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

In doubles play, the Aggies' No. 1 doubles team of Kennedy and Wayne Green lost to Whittington and Hopkins 6-4, 6-3; A&M's Johnson and Whiteker bested Robert and Van Ramshorst 6-4, 6-1, and Chambers and Campbell defeated Woodson and Hamburg 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

"Southwest Texas is a good team," Kent said. "They're going to beat some people this year."

The Aggies are 5-2 going into today's match. Trinity is 2-1 after a loss to Texas and has two nationally-ranked players — No. 63 Mats Malberg and No. 71 Mauricio Silva — on its team.

Jealousy back on SWC scene

It's back. The menace that has rocked Southwest Conference football for the past few years rears its ugly head again. Maybe it has always been there, maybe it never left.

Which ever, the jealousy monster has returned.

The finger-pointing, name calling and accusing that keeps our conference in the news pages as well as the sports pages has started up again.

The notorious Southern Methodist "pay-for-play" scandal is probably the most memorable disaster caused by this monster. It killed the SMU football program for two years. The monster had long arms then — they reached all the way to the governor's office.

Unsatisfied by the Mustang entree, the green beast sought to quench its unsatiable appetite in Fort Worth gobbling down a few star Horned Frogs. Beef was next on the menu as the Longhorns received sanctions for violations.

Exotic fare was next, namely Cougar meat. The Cougars moved fast enough to avoid sanctions during the season but are definitely in the frying pan now.

Texas Tech, currently on probation for recruiting, was munched, but the Baylor Bears and the Arkansas Razorbacks have been spared so far. The pickin's at Rice are so slim it simply isn't worth the beast's efforts.

And the Aggies? When the beast came to College Station, A&M had an even bigger nemesis waiting for it. The j-monster was no match for the awesome red-tape colossus. A&M answered all allegations with a multi-volume in-house investigation report.

So since half the conference is on probation, and the three-time SWC champion walks free, other athletic

departments are reaching for straws to hurt the Ags.

Athletic Director and Head Coach Jackie Sherrill is researching options for a new radio network for A&M sports. A&M's sports information office is saying the move is primarily financially motivated.

Host Communications currently has a contract with the SWC to broadcast games for all nine member schools.

Under this contract, A&M makes about \$95,000 a year — piddly compared to LSU's three-year contract for \$2.1 million, and Nebraska's and Oklahoma's cool million a year.

Athletic directors from around the conference are raising a stink about Sherrill plans to switch broadcasters.

Host plans to fight the A&M in court even though it never officially signed the contract extension that is currently in effect.

TCU Athletic Director Frank Windegger told the *Houston Chronicle* the situation was unprecedented and shocking.

Unprecedented? No other major conference in the nation has conference broadcasting agreements. Oklahoma flourishes because of contracts independent of the Big Eight.

Rice Athletic Director Jerry Berndt says he understands efforts by SWC schools to make the best financial deals but thinks the conference doesn't always work together.

"It's like nine different schools just fighting for as much of the pie as we can get," he says.

The key word there is *different*. A&M needs to make more money than Rice because it has a bigger athletic department.

The accusations by certain parties that Sherrill wants to leave the conference are evidence of continuing jealousy between the schools.

He is trying to raise as much money as possible for the department — one of his responsibilities as athletic director.

Italian skier tops elite rivals in giant slalom

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Italy's Alberto Tomba conquered a mountain, and now he's ready for the world. He won the giant slalom Thursday, another red-letter day for the Soviets at the Winter Olympics.

After their first day at the Games without a medal, the Soviets swept the women's 20-kilometer cross-country race. Raisa Smetanina won the bronze for her ninth medal in four Olympics — more than any other woman ever.

At Mount Allen, young Tomba won his duel of Alpine royalty with Swiss ace Pirmin Zurbriggen and Swedish veteran Ingemar Stenmark. Tomba was the man. Stenmark was just another old man. And Zurbriggen was an also-ran.

"Oh, my God, I did it!" Tomba said. "I am the strongest in the world."

Zurbriggen was third, behind silver medalist Hubert Strolz of Austria, the Alpine combined champion. It was a day of short sleeves, short skirts and short programs, and another rivalry was heating up on ice.

Debi Thomas of San Jose, Calif., took a slim lead over world champion Katarina Witt of East Germany going into the women's figure skat-

ing short program Thursday night.

Thomas said she took hope for victory from Brian Boitano's gold.

"Brian and I won the worlds together in 1986," she said, "then we both lost together last year. Now that he won again, I know there is hope."

The medal will be decided Saturday night in a freestyle program, which both will skate to "Carmen."

The Soviets' cross-country sweep gave them a leading 25 medals, including nine golds, to 17 for East Germany, which has seven golds. The Soviets have won 13 of the 21 cross-country medals offered at the Games, including five gold and five silver.

The 36-year-old Smetanina finished third to Tamara Tikhonova's gold, and she now has three golds, five silvers and one bronze in an Olympic career that began in 1976 at Innsbruck, Austria. Her ninth medal put her ahead of countrywoman Galina Kulakova, who also was a cross-country skier.

"She was my idol," Smetanina said. "I wanted to have one more medal than Kulakova. These are my last Olympics."

The United States, with only four medals overall, beat Switzerland 8-4

for seventh place in hockey.

With their victory, the Americans finished the same place they did in 1984. After Switzerland scored the first goal of the game, America scored five in a row, including two on power plays. Kevin Miller's goal gave America a 5-1 lead after two periods.

Thursday night, the Soviets beat Canada 5-0, eliminating the host nation and birthplace of the game from any chance to win a gold or silver medal.

The day's Alpine gold belonged to Tomba, who arrived in Calgary this week with the admonition, "I am very cool."

He completed the two runs in 2 minutes, 6.37 seconds, 1.04 seconds ahead of Strolz and 2.02 ahead of Zurbriggen, whose dream of an unprecedented five Alpine golds has produced only one gold, in the downhill. The 31-year-old Stenmark was 30th after the first run and didn't bother to finish the second.

The 21-year-old Tomba has won

seven of 15 World Cup races he entered this season and trails Zurbriggen by just six points in the World Cup overall standings at the Olympic break.

He has dominated like no skier since Stenmark won 45 giant slalom races — four times more than any other skier in history — and three World Cup championships in the late 1970s.

Stenmark was a double gold medalist in 1980 but ineligible because of professionalism in 1984. So, how did it feel to get back to the Olympics?

"Right now, it doesn't feel so good," Stenmark said.

Virtually eliminated before competition begins is the U.S. four-man bobsled team.

The sweep by the Soviet women was the first for any country in Nordic events here: Tikhonova won with a time of 55:53.6, giving her three medals but her first gold. She was 19.2 seconds ahead of Anfissa Reztsova.

Night ball at Wrigley gets OK from council

CHICAGO (AP) — The City Council, signaling an end to a 72-year-tradition of daytime-only baseball at Wrigley Field, voted late Thursday to lift the ban on night games at the only major league baseball park without lights.

The vote was 29-19 in favor of lights.

The Chicago Cubs' owners have asked to play a handful of night games each year at Wrigley and, after years of trying to diminish political and community opposition, they apparently will get the chance this season, barring a ban by the state legislature or courts.

During debate, Alderman Bernard Hansen, whose ward includes Wrigley Field, said, "Is this an ordinance of need, or is this an ordinance of greed? The Chicago Cubs are owned by the Tribune Co."

"The Tribune says if it doesn't get lights, the Cubs will move —

the big threat. However, the Chicago Cubs have become the most profitable arm of the Tribune Co. So it's a matter of greed not a matter of need."

But Alderman William Henry, who supports lights, said, "The real deal is with revenue. No one has talked about the millions of dollars the sports team generate. Do you know we can generate \$45 million to \$50 million from the 1990 All-Star Game? No one talks about that. I believe this ordinance is right."

At the team's Mesa, Ariz., training camp, Pitcher Rick Sutcliffe said, "I think the night games will give us a chance to rest up during the day after coming off long road trips."

"A lot of times, we don't get home from road-trips till 2 or 3 in the morning, and only get about four hours of sleep before heading back out to the ball park," he said.

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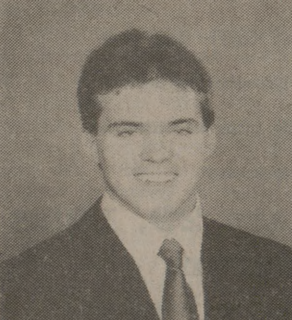
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