

Sports

Aggie captures double crowns in A&M Open

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M tennis player Shaun O'Donovan proved last weekend that it doesn't necessarily take practice to be perfect.

O'Donovan and his partner, former Texas Christian player Neil Smith, wrapped up the men's doubles championship Sunday at the Texas A&M Open with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Austin's William and Richard Dopson at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

O'Donovan and Smith, both natives of South Africa, were playing in their first tournament as a team.

O'Donovan said, "Normally it's hard for two players who have never played with each other before. We just seemed to hit it off well."

Smith's victory over the Dopsons was especially sweet. Smith and his partner in last year's Open lost in a grueling semifinals match that tournament director and A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleineke coined "World War III."

O'Donovan also teamed up with fellow Aggie Cindy Churchwell for the mixed doubles championship. Churchwell, a sophomore, was eliminated in the semifinal round of both singles and women's doubles.

San Antonio's Glenn Barton, a former Southwest Texas State standout, ruined former A&M player Dean Goldfine's return to College Station by eliminating him 6-3, 7-6 in the quarterfinals on the way to the men's championship. Barton beat Ravi Kumar of Dallas 6-2, 6-3 for the title.

Austin's Diana Dopson beat Debbie Wren of Dallas, who had knocked out Churchwell, 6-4, 6-2



A&M's Shaun O'Donovan returns a shot Friday in the A&M Open. Photo by Jay Janner

for the women's singles title.

O'Donovan thought that the summer layoff hurt the Aggies' showing. "After playing the whole season, you think, 'The season is over,'" O'Donovan said. "You take a little break."

"I think we could have done a lot better. I didn't think we were into the tournament. We were not psyched up enough."

"We didn't see that many big

names (on the schedule). Not many of us worked out that hard, because we were not expecting that many good matches."

The tournament was played in August last year, but was moved to June this year because of players' problems coping with the heat.

A&M English professor Larry Reynolds beat Skip Coody of Bryan 6-2, 6-3 for the men's 45 single's crown.

Tyson KO's Spinks in first, captures undisputed title

ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — Mike Tyson knocked Michael Spinks out in the first round with a crashing left-right to the head and retained the undisputed heavyweight championship Monday night at the Convention Center.

It was no contest. It was one of the shortest heavyweight championship fights in history.

Only three title bouts have ended quicker. The time was 1:31.

Shortly past the minute mark, Tyson put Spinks down to the knee with a right to the body. Spinks got him at the count of two and Tyson was on him like a jungle cat. Then the left and right connected with Spinks' jaw and he went down on his back.

Referee Frank Capuccino began to count and it was obvious the stricken Spinks wouldn't beat it.

"Whatever he does, I'm going to win," Tyson had said before the scheduled 12-round bout. Spinks never got a chance to do anything.

"No one on the planet can come near me," Tyson had boasted.

Tyson, who will be 22 on Thursday, was a 4-1 favorite. It turned out the odds were way out of line.

Tyson swarmed over Spinks at the opening bell and

never gave the previously unbeaten challenger a chance. Spinks landed only a left and right during the short fight.

It was over before a sellout crowd of 21,785 really had a chance to settle in.

There was speculation of squabbling in Tyson's camp and reports that marital problems might trouble him. He answered that question swiftly and ruthlessly.

Spinks had said before the fight, "I don't know what kind of problems Mike Tyson will present. ... As soon as the fight ends, I'll be able to tell you."

The 31-year-old Spinks was in no condition to tell anyone anything at the end of this fight.

When Spinks did come around, he said, "I finally found someone who can beat me."

It was the first defeat against 31 victories for Spinks, the former undisputed light heavyweight champion and former International Boxing Federation heavyweight champ.

Tyson, who weighed 218 1/4, six pounds more than Spinks, now has a 35-0 record with 31 knockouts.

For his pain, Spinks got a guarantee of \$13.5 million. Tyson's cut from the fight, which was televised on closed-circuit and pay-per-view television, would be in the neighborhood of \$20 million.

Zina slams No. 5 seed

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Ask Zina Garrison how she can suddenly go from a player who loses big matches to one who wins even bigger ones and she'll give a simple answer — motherly advice.

"I never got down on myself. That's important," the 12th seed from Houston said after beating fifth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 Monday and reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

"That's my best win in a long time," said Garrison, who has a history of losing matches when they be-

gin to count the most.

She reached the semifinals at Wimbledon in 1985 and the Australian Open quarterfinals last year.

But she suffered big defeats in her three most recent Grand Slam appearances — in the fourth round to Lori McNeil at the U.S. Open last year, in the second round to an unknown at this year's Australian Open, and in the fourth round to Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia at the French Open this month.

Garrison's last singles title came in February 1987, and from a personal

high of fifth in the worldwide rankings, she has slipped to 13th.

Garrison heard the whispers. "But it's not important what other people think," she said. "My mother has always told me, 'It's what you think that matters.'"

Garrison's game was developed on American hardcourts and is best suited to fast surfaces, such as the grass at Wimbledon.

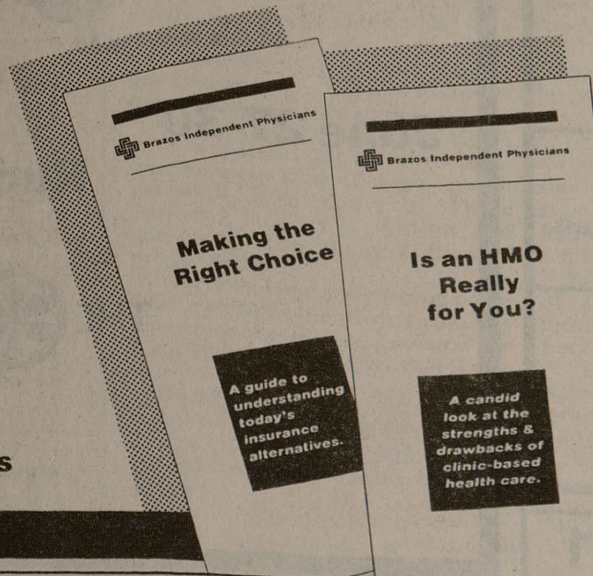
"I don't think she was comfortable with the court," Garrison said. "The difference in her confidence level from clay to grass was unbelievable."

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