

Williams, Mawdsley star in Lady Aggie upset of Trinity

By Steven Merritt

ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Led by the play of sophomore Susan Williams and freshman Robyn Mawdsley, the Texas A&M women's tennis team defeated Trinity 5-3 at home Wednesday.

Trinity was ranked 15th in the ITCA preseason poll while A&M was ranked 22nd.

Unforced errors plagued A&M top seed Lisa Keller as she was defeated by Trinity's Jane Holdren 6-2, 6-4 in a match in which Keller never seemed to get on track. Keller had problems establishing her game early on, missing important shots once she got to the net.

Keller improved in the second set, using a strong forehand return to take net points away from Holdren, but couldn't overcome the unforced errors.

A&M's second seed Susan Williams played extremely well in her 6-3, 6-3 defeat of Trinity's Katrina Crawford. Williams showed good backhand control as well as precise shot placement. She also wasted no time in establishing her net game.

Cindy Churchwell of A&M was defeated by Trinity's Ali Fleming 6-

3, 6-2 in third-seeded singles action. Churchwell used a strong backhand and well placed passing shots to keep Crawford out of position, but fell behind early in both sets on many excellent placement shots by Fleming.

Fourth seed Lynn Staley remained a steady performer for A&M as the freshman decisively defeated Trinity's Michelle Bogaard 6-4, 6-4.

A&M fifth seed Traci Nix took her match with Trinity's Michelle Mair to the three-set limit before going down to defeat 2-6, 6-3, 4-6.

Robyn Mawdsley secured the third singles victory for the A&M team in her defeat of Trinity's Mary Lynn Cladis 6-4, 7-6 in sixth-seeded action.

The A&M top-seeded doubles team of Keller and Mawdsley defeated the Trinity pairing of Holdren and Fleming 7-5, 6-3, in a well played match by both sides.

Keller and Mawdsley were quick around the net and recovered well on many out-of-position shots.

A&M's second-seeded team of Churchwell and Staley had taken their match with Trinity's Mair and Bogaard to the third set 6-7, 6-3, 5-5, before the contest was called due to

darkness. A&M's third-seeded pairing of Derryn Haygarth and Williams defeated Trinity's Cladis and Cifaldi 6-1, 7-6.

The victory was the first that Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke has recorded over Trinity in his four-year tenure at A&M.

"This is a big win for us," Kleinecke said. "It makes me feel great to win with a young team like this."

Kleinecke singled out the play of Williams and Mawdsley as one of the keys to the win.

"Susan Williams played fabulous at number two (seed) and Robyn Mawdsley handled the pressure excellently for a freshman," Kleinecke said.

Kleinecke also commented on the progress of the team so far this season, noting that the team had some early problems in being able to close out matches for wins but is now beginning to level off and become more consistent.

A&M will try to improve on its 4-1 record at home this weekend as the team takes on New Mexico on Friday and Louisiana State on Saturday. Both matches are slated to begin at 1:30 at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Baseball

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made his first appearance for the Aggies and gave up three runs on four hits.

The game started off with the sound of aluminum bats ringing. The Bobcats jumped on Lawrence with three hits and a walk in the first inning.

Second baseman Chad Baker reached first on a fielder's choice and got to second when designated hitter Mark Maxin walked. Baker scored when Lawrence overthrew first base on a pick-off attempt.

Catcher James Aarhus doubled to right field and scored Maxin to give SWT a 2-0 lead. Third baseman David Gruber knocked a single to left field to score Aarhus for the Bobcats to make it 3-0 before Lawrence struck out right fielder Mike Frost.

The Aggies needed only a half-inning to catch up. Lead-off man Kirk Thompson beat out an infield hit and stole second as Taylor went down swinging. Byington got the first of his four hits in the series, a single to left, and Thompson used a head start to score from second.

Byington got to second on his first stolen base of the season and sprinted home on a single by catcher Eric Albright to make the score 3-2 SWT. Right fielder Andy Duke evened the score 3-3 by lacing a double to right, scoring Albright.

In the bottom of the second, designated hitter Travis Williams stole second after reaching first on a fielder's choice. Thompson hit a single to left to make the way for Taylor's three-run shot, his team-leading third home run of the year.

Taylor said he doesn't go to the plate with the long ball in mind.

"I'm not ever trying to hit the homer," he said. "It's just happening. I just get up there and try to see the ball all the way."

Lawrence pitched one more inning before DeLaCruz came on in the fourth to get his second victory of the year.

The nightcap started off as a pitcher's game. A&M righty Tim Herrmann had two innings of no-hit ball and SWT's lefthander Harlan Daniel threw three innings with only one hit and three strikeouts.

But things exploded on Herrmann in the third inning. SWT third baseman Greg Kero singled and moved to second base on a fielder's choice. He scored on a single by center fielder Rodney Snyder, who scored on a single by Maxin to make it 2-0.

Welch got on base on a fielder's choice and put the Bobcats up 3-0

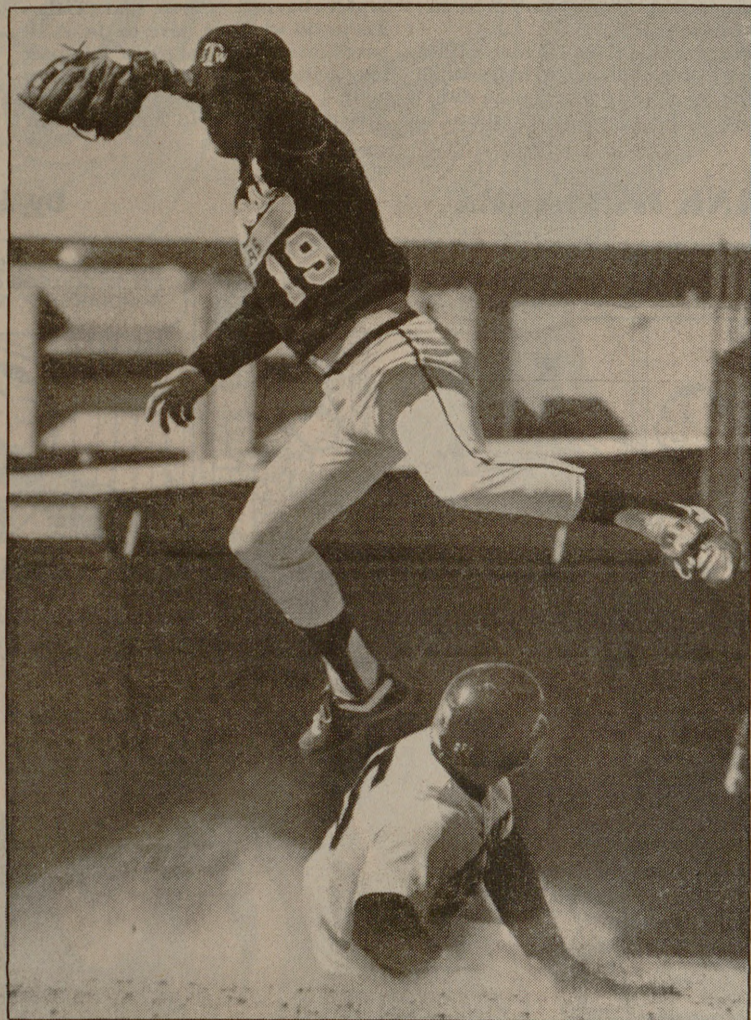


Photo by Jay Janner

A&M's John Byington slides under SWT's Chad Baker (19) during game one of A&M's twinbill sweep Wednesday.

when Witte misjudged a pop fly.

The Aggies' boom in the bottom of the fourth was one-run louder than SWT's.

Thompson slapped another infield single before Taylor and shortstop Chuck Knoblauch drew walks.

Daniel was replaced by righthander Scott Patrick, who was greeted with a double by Byington that scored all three baserunners to tie the score 3-3.

First baseman Mike Easley got the game-winning run batted in with a double to left field to score Byington.

The Aggies threatened again in the sixth when they loaded the bases with no outs. But they only mustered one run on a sacrifice fly by Easley to give A&M a 5-3 lead.

Byington, who had five RBI's on the day, got the last one for the Ags

in the seventh inning.

After Taylor and Knoblauch reached on singles, Byington, who led the team coming into the day with a .526 batting average, drilled a double to left to score Taylor.

Herrmann (1-0) got the win and Steve Hughes, who relieved Herrmann in the seventh, got the save.

A&M plays Louisiana Tech in a three-game series Saturday and Sunday at Olsen Field. The Bulldogs broke the Aggies' 12-game win streak last year in Ruston, La.

Aggie Head Coach Mark Johnson said he doesn't have high expectations for the series.

"They're a good ball club," he said. "We're not going to win all of our games — we're just going to try to keep winning all of them."

Aggies

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juniper. The teams traded buckets until, with 6:50 left, Rice's D'Wayne Tanner connected on a 17-foot shot from the middle of the circle.

That would be the Owls' last bucket for six minutes and 44 seconds. During that stretch A&M jumped out to a 12 point lead. Rice ended their drought with three consecutive buckets. The two teams exchanged scores until the end of the

half. The Aggies led at the intermission 31-29.

Despite holding the advantage at the half, A&M shot an abysmal 32.4 percent from the field. And although Metcalf had them gunning from beyond the three-point line, the Aggies were only able to connect on two of 15 attempts.

The second half saw A&M opening with eight straight points before a Rice timeout. Two consecutive charges were called on the Aggies as

Milton and Ray Little drove in the lane. The calls drew the small but restless crowd into the game as the Aggies' intensity increased.

The teams traded scores until the Owls went into another slump. This drought lasted three minutes as the Aggies increase their lead to 16 points before another Rice timeout with the score 65-49.

After the timeout Rourke hit a jumper in the paint but the Owls were too far back to make a run.

Mays leads Texas over Hurricanes

AUSTIN (AP) — Junior guard Travis Mays struck for a career-high 40 points to lead Texas to a 123-104 thrashing of Miami Wednesday night, handing the Longhorns their first 20-win season in a decade.

Texas improved to 20-6, its best mark since the 21-8 squad of 1979. That team won the Southwest Conference Championship. Miami sags to 15-11.

Mays' 21-footer with 11:12 left in the first half gave Texas 185 for the year, snapping Rice's mark of a year ago.

Lance Blanks, the conference's second leading scorer, hit for 21 while Alvin Heggs chipped in with 22.

Dennis Burns paced the Hurricanes with 20 points.

Although Miami shot a blistering 64 percent from the field in the first half, the Longhorns secured a 46-38 lead with five minutes left to be played.

Mays had 16 by halftime including 3-of-5 from three point range. Blanks and Heggs were also in double figures with 10 each.



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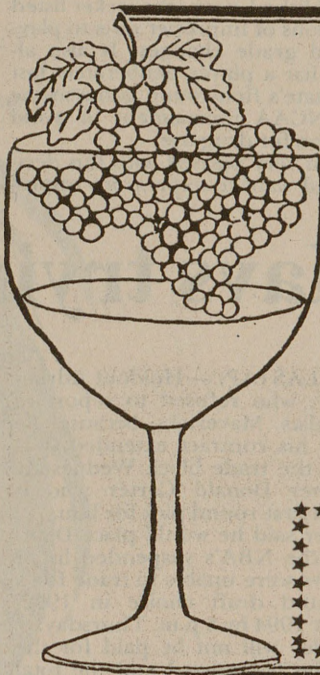
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