

# O'Donovan leads Aggies past Deacons

## Whitteker returns from injury to spark 7-1 victory over Wake

The return of senior captain Craig Whitteker and the consistent play of junior Shaun O'Donovan highlighted the Texas A&M men's tennis team's impressive 7-1 victory over Wake Forest at home Tuesday.

The victory improved A&M's season record to 4-7 while the Deacons fall to 4-8.

A&M is undefeated against unranked teams.

O'Donovan began the contest in top form in the top-seeded match, taking the first set with a score of 6-4, and was leading 4-1 in the second when Wake Forest's Saggi Degler withdrew due to an injury.

O'Donovan has compiled a 6-4 season record thus far, and is undefeated in one match since moving to the No. 1 spot in the Aggie lineup.

Second-seeded Gustavo Espinosa suffered the only loss for A&M in the match, dropping a 6-3, 6-0 contest to Wake's Gilles Ameline.

Matt Zisette defeated Wake's Jorge Sedeno 7-6, 6-1 in the third-seed match.

Freshman Doug Brown took his fourth-seeded match with Wake's Doron Hartal to the three-set limit before clinching a 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 victory. Brown has achieved a 7-4 overall record in the individual singles' standings, playing consistently in the

No. 4 position, where he has compiled a 6-3 record.

Freshman Blake Barsalou also took three sets to defeat Wake's Jean de Rivieres 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 in the fifth-seed match.

Whitteker made his return to the lineup in the sixth-seeded position, taking a 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 win from the Deacons' Justin Chapman.

Whitteker said he was just happy to be playing after being in bed three weeks ago with a knee injury. But he said he's not back by any measure.

"Really, I was pretty lucky to win the match," Whitteker said. "It feels good to play and I hope to get back to where I was before the injury. It's good to get back and get a win."

In doubles action, the top-seeded pairing of Espinosa and O'Donovan had no trouble in defeating Wake's Hartal and Sedeno, posting a 6-2, 6-3 victory while the second-seeded team of Barsalou and Brown coasted to a 6-4, 6-2 win over Wake Forest's Chapman and Powell.

Greg Dyer and Zisette split the first two sets of their third-seeded match with Wake's Ameline and Powell before the contest was called at 6-4, 5-7.

A&M Head Coach David Kent said the match was a good win over a good Wake Forest team, and that the



A&M's top-seeded Shaun O'Donovan defeated Wake Forest's Saggi Degler in straight sets Tuesday.

A&M squad would start rolling now with the return of Whitteker.

"Whitteker had the knee operation three weeks ago today," Kent said. "It's unbelievable for a guy to do that after only two days of practice and no competition. It took a lot of guts to come out here and win."

Kent also praised the play of O'Donovan and Zisette, as well as the two freshmen, Brown and Barsalou. "O'Donovan is playing good tennis," Kent said. "He really played some top-flight tennis today and has provided good leadership to the team."

# Mustangs begin spring football drills

DALLAS (AP) — The spring football healing process for Southern Methodist's national shame began on a snow-fringed field Tuesday with Coach Forrest Gregg promising the school will restore its former glory without cheating.

"Nothing that has happened is going to take away from what this place is all about and we'll be back — the right way," said Gregg, a star tackle at SMU in the 1950s.

Tight end David Bearden wore a T-shirt, saying "Do You Believe In The Second Coming?"

"I do," Gregg said. "I believe SMU will be back in the Cotton Bowl some day."

It's been two years on the sidelines serving hard time for SMU because of a slush fund that reached the highest offices at the proud university.

Bill Clements, now the governor of Texas, was among those involved in the fund while he was chairman of the SMU Board of Regents.

A new school president, a new athletic director and a new head coach were brought aboard in the fallout of the NCAA's first death penalty.

On Sept. 2, SMU plays Rice in a stadium that will be familiar only to those who followed Mustang football in the 1940s and early 1950s.

SMU won't be playing in 65,000-seat Texas Stadium where Eric Dickerson and Craig James lit up the scoreboard.

Instead, the Mustangs will compete in their red and blue on campus, in musty old Ownby Stadium, which is undergoing a \$1.5 million facelift.

SMU's thin team worked out this fall but spring has brought an air of

optimism to "The Hilltop" because players, students, and alumni can see the looming schedule.

The intersectional schedule includes Connecticut, North Texas, and a November trip into the land of the national champions, Notre Dame.

Athletic Director Doug Single said he didn't try to get out of the contract with Notre Dame because "I wanted our student-athletes to thrill at the experience of playing in South Bend."

It should be fun until the kickoff for the young Mustangs.

"That game will be interesting," Osborn said. "Maybe that's why coach Gregg has us running six miles a day."

SMU collected 25 scholarship signatures in February but Gregg can't work with that group until August. The freshmen report on Aug. 7 and the rest of the squad on Aug. 9.

"We upgraded our talent with this

new class," Gregg said. "What you see this spring is not what you'll see this fall."

Gregg had 70 players last fall (17 on scholarship) who worked 10 weeks. He had 68 report on Tuesday. He recruited nine linemen who average 6-foot-4, 254 pounds.

Of the Mustangs who signed in February, six are members of the National Honor Society and six are in the Who's Who of High School Students. Two received Presidential academic awards.

Gregg, who played for Vince Lombardi in the NFL, stresses conditioning as the primary goal of spring workouts.

"We'll have to be in better condition than our opponents because we're going to have fewer and younger people," he said.

"I want to develop a team that doesn't make a lot of mental mistakes and plays 60 minutes every game. The only way you play this

game is all-out every play of every game and every practice."

SMU will have a wide-open offense similar to the Mustangs passing circus days of the 1950s with Fred Benner.

"We will use the run-and-shoot offense," Gregg said. "We'll throw the ball a lot. We'll have a scheme designed to put a lot of points on the board. I think that will interest people."

Defensively, SMU will run a 3-4 with a lot of change-ups.

SMU, which had played free and loose with the NCAA rules, checks every little thing now.

"A club team from England wanted to come over and work out with us," Gregg said. "We're so short-handed we thought it was a great idea. Then we called the NCAA and they told us it would cost us a game." SMU has learned its lesson.

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