

Aggie netters square off with wary Bears

By NADJA SABAWALA
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's men's tennis team will have more than its share of competition this weekend.

The Aggies travel to Waco to face Baylor Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

The Bears will open their Southwest Conference season with 11-4 A&M after struggling through non-conference matches. Baylor has a 1-8 record.

The Bears' only victory was a 5-4 win over the University of Texas-San Antonio earlier this year. The Aggies defeated UTSA 9-0 in A&M's first dual match of the season.

"Baylor is having a bit of a hard time right now," Aggies coach David Kent said.

However, the Bears always play hard on their own courts and they could be tough, he said.

The last time the two teams met, A&M took the match, 8-1 in College Station.

Senior ace Shaun O'Donovan will face-off with Baylor's Rob Magness at the No. 1 singles position. O'Donovan is 11-3 in dual match play and 18-9 overall while Magness is 4-11 for the season.

O'Donovan is ranked 64th in the latest edition of the Volvo/Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association.

In doubles competition, A&M's No. 1 team of senior Gustavo Espinosa and sophomore Blake Barsalou, 6-2 for the season, will play the Bear's Chris Wade and Greg Condray, 0-2.

The Aggies return to College Station for a dual match against Georgia Tech March 30 at the tennis center.

A&M golf team aims for Austin

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The Texas A&M men's golf team will travel to the Barton Creek Country Club in Austin this weekend to participate in the Morris Williams Intercollegiate.

Thirteen teams, including No. 1 Oklahoma State and No. 2 Arizona State and defending Southwest Conference champion Texas, will compete in the 54 hole event.

"It should fire our players up a little to play against such strong competition on a great golf course," coach Bob Ellis said.

The Aggies are led by senior Randy Lee who was an unanimous All-SWC selection last year and is contending for All-American honors this season.

Juniors Mark Miller, Bobby Gee and Todd Riddle, senior Andy Cooper and sophomore Collin Stoops will also compete.

Last week A&M tied for 11th place at the Louisiana Classics Golf Invitational in Lafayette, La. with rounds of 307-312-310 for 929 overall. Riddle shot the Aggies' best score of 76-77-78 for a 231 in the competition.

A&M finished 12th in a field of 12 last year at the Morris Williams Intercollegiate with scores of 302-305-313 for 920. The team hopes for a better finish this year.

Razorbacks

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denser than 68-61 on a 3-pointer by Rick Fox with 7:29 remaining.

Fox, the Tar Heels' leading scorer at 16 points per game, went scoreless in the first half and finished with nine points. Scott Williams led North Carolina with 20 points, but no other Tar Heel scored more than 11.

Arkansas, on the other hand, got 25 from Lenzie Howell, 19 from Mayberry, 19 from Oliver Miller and 18 from Todd Day. Day had only six in the first half because he picked up three fouls before the game was five minutes old.

Howell helped carry the Razorbacks in the first half, scoring 15 points as Arkansas took a 39-34 lead at halftime.

"I was very pleased going into the dressing room with a five-point lead," Richardson said. "I've always thought that our team was a second-half basketball team."

The second half started poorly for the Razorbacks. After an opening basket by Howell, Arkansas went three minutes without a field goal, while North Carolina went on an 11-1 run to take a 45-42 lead.

Howell's follow shot with just under 11 minutes to play gave Arkansas a 54-52 lead, then a jumper by Lynch tied the score, setting up the 3-point display.

Once Arkansas got the big lead, North Carolina was forced to stretch its defense and gamble. That opened the inside for 270-pound Miller, who scored 15 of his points in the second half.

"When they were gambling, we always attacked the basket," Richardson said. "The Big O was just having a field day."

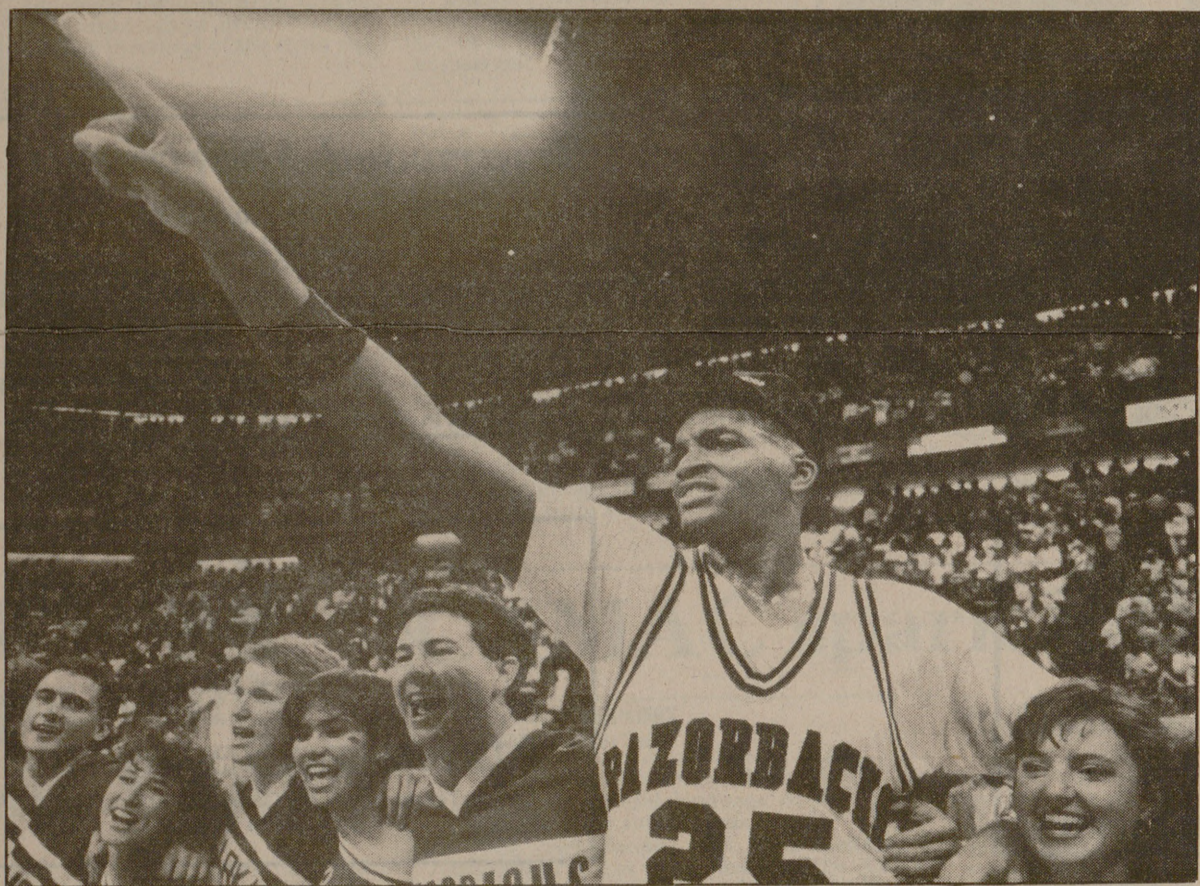


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Oliver Miller will lead the Razorbacks in an All-SWC regional final against Texas Saturday.

Longhorns

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points by scoring the first two baskets of the second half.

But Texas rallied and went ahead 75-74 on Blanks' steal and dunk with 9:10 remaining. Blanks, who was 9-of-13 from the field in the second half, then led Texas on a 15-2 run that made it 90-79 with 2:29 left. He had two steals and three baskets dur-

ing the Texas spurt.

"Texas got on a roll and it was like trying to stop an avalanche coming down the side of a mountain," Gillen said. "Poof, our lead was gone. It was like we hit a brick wall or something. We had no answers."

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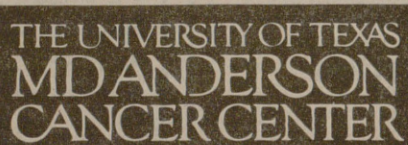
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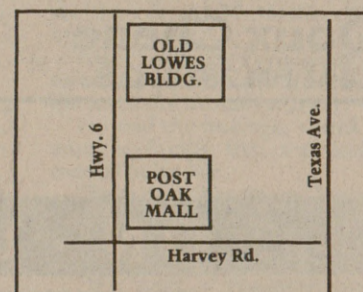
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