

Chang wins to lead U.S. to Davis Cup finals

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Michael Chang overcame leg cramps and a hostile crowd Monday as he completed a two-day comeback that lifted the United States to a Davis Cup semifinal victory over Austria.

Chang, trailing two sets to one when play began on a cold and rainy day, broke Horst Skoff's serve seven of 10 times in the final two sets to win the series 3-2 for the Americans.

His 3-6, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 victory propelled the United States into its first Davis Cup final since 1984. It will face Australia on Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at the Suncoast Dome in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The 18-year-old Chang, known for his perseverance, gained a psychological advantage over the erratic Skoff as the match progressed. But he also knew the bitter weather — and the intensity generated by 17,000 fans that cheered wildly for Skoff and whistled in derision at Chang — was making his leg cramps worse in the final games.

"Even when I was up 5-3 I felt the cramps," Chang said. "If I had lost that game I don't know what would have happened. It would have been difficult to continue."

The victory was reminiscent of Chang's upset of top-seed Ivan Lendl in the 1989 French Open, in which he overcame a two-set deficit and leg cramps to win.

Chang became the first American in 53 years to win the fifth match of a Davis Cup series after being down by two sets. Don Budge last accomplished the feat in 1937 against Gottfried von Cramm of Germany.

While Chang now has won seven consecutive five-set matches, Skoff has lost three of his four career five-setters. He self-destructed Monday with weak serves and wild returns.

"Michael beat me in the most important match of my tennis life. The loss was extremely bitter," Skoff said. "It is not as if I have just lost for myself. It is tough to lose for the team."

Skoff was virtually unstoppable while winning the first two sets Sunday but never found his rhythm on Monday.

**Ags jump to No. 11 in AP Poll**

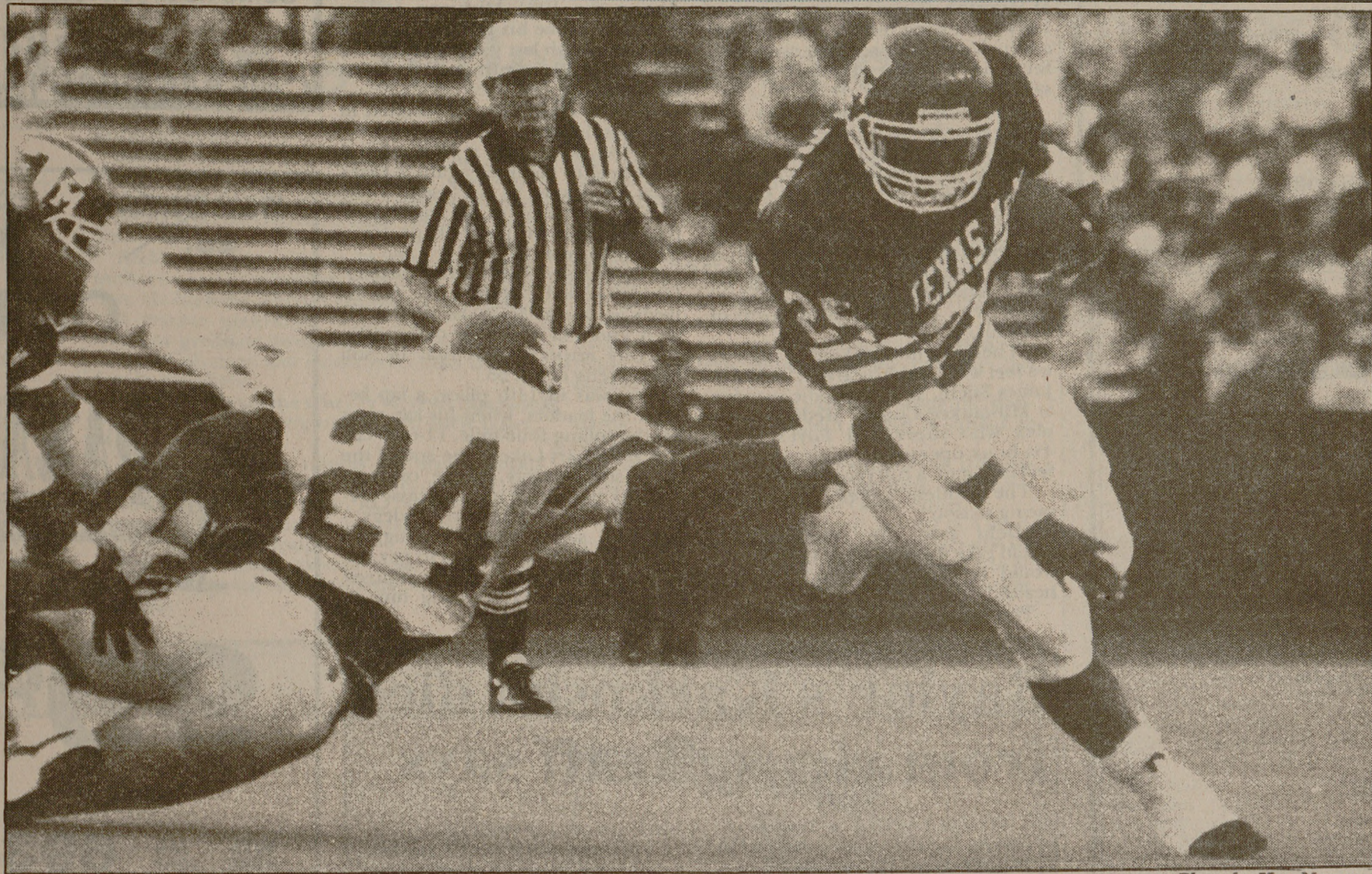


Photo by Huy Nguyen

A&M's Darren Lewis breaks for a seven-yard gain against North Texas. The Aggies moved up one spot to No. 11 in the AP Poll.

**From Staff and Wire Reports**

Texas A&M inched closer to a Top 10 ranking Tuesday as it prepares for its showdown with Louisiana State this weekend.

The Aggies (3-0) moved up one spot to No. 11 in the Associated Press college football poll, released Monday. In its first three games, A&M has outscored its opponents 131-35.

After crushing Southwestern Louisiana two weeks ago, A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum

was worried about a dropoff in intensity against the Eagles. But the Aggies continued to play well offensively. The Aggies are No. 3 in the nation in total offense.

Elsewhere, Southern Cal and Arkansas plummeted in the rankings after losing their first games, and Virginia jumped to its highest spot ever in the poll.

Southern Cal dropped 13 places to No. 18 after getting blanked by Washington 31-0 and Arkansas fell 10 notches to No. 23 following a 21-17 loss to Mis-

issippi.

Virginia's 59-0 thrashing of Duke moved the unbeaten Cavaliers up three spots to No. 7. The best previous ranking for Virginia was No. 9 in 1949 and 1952.

Notre Dame remained No. 1 for the third straight week after edging Michigan State 20-19. The Fighting Irish received 43 first-place votes and 1,478 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Florida State is second, followed by Auburn and Brigham

Young, Florida State, which beat Tulane 31-13, got 11 first-place votes and 1,397 points.

Auburn and BYU each received three first-place votes, but the Tigers outpointed the Cougars 1,384-1,261. Auburn had the week off, and BYU beat San Diego State 62-34.

Tennessee is fifth, followed by Michigan, Virginia, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Miami, A&M, Washington, Houston, Illinois, Ohio State, Arizona, Florida, Southern Cal, Clemson and Colorado.

**A&M softball wins weekend tournament**

By DOUGLAS PILS  
 Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's Lady Aggie softball team brought home another championship this weekend, winning the Third Annual Coors Light National Invitational Championship in Macomb, Ill.



Missi Young

A & M defeated Colorado State 5-1 Sunday to claim top honors in the tournament that Aggie head coach Bob Brock calls the 'World Series of fall softball.'

"We tried to treat the tournament as the real thing," Brock said. "We used the tourney as sort of a mock run for the spring season, and I basically stayed with the same lineup all

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**Ag rugby team hosts Cambridge**

From Staff and Wire Reports

Pembroke College's touring rugby team of Cambridge University plays Texas A&M at 6 p.m.

The game will be played at the polo fields between the Zachry parking lot and Texas Avenue.

Cambridge is in the middle of a tour of Texas and has already beaten the Dallas and Austin Rugby Football Clubs.

A&M's rugby club is undefeated in Texas Rugby Union Cup matches this fall. The team is 2-0 with victories over St. Thomas University from Houston 47-3 and Rice 20-4.

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