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## Strickland undergoes surgery

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio Spurs guard Rod Strickland underwent surgery Tuesday to have a pin inserted in his right hand, which he broke during a fight outside a nightclub.

The Spurs, meanwhile, signed guard Clifford Lett to a 10-day contract Tuesday to fill Strickland's roster position.

Lett, a free agent, played the 1989-90 season for Pensacola in the Continental Basketball Association and was CBA rookie of the year. He played on 10-day contracts in April 1990 with the Chicago Bulls, and last fall was with the Denver Nuggets before he was waived in October.

Strickland, the starting point guard, will be out indefinitely because of the injury and was placed on the injured list.

Spurs spokesman Matt Sperisen said Tuesday afternoon team officials had not heard from team doctors about the outcome of the surgery.

Strickland suffered a broken first metacarpal — the bone just below the thumb — in a fight early Saturday outside Illusions nightclub in San Antonio, authorities said.

He is the second starter sidelined because of an injured hand.

Forward Terry Cummings has a fractured second metacarpal in his left hand and had missed four games as of Tuesday afternoon.

Strickland was expected to have his hand in a cast after the surgery. It was not known how long he would have to wear the cast or how many games he would miss beyond the five required by being placed on the injured list, Sperisen said.

Spurs owner Red McCombs has said he was disappointed about Strickland's injury but that he would not take any disciplinary action.

"He felt, yes, it was an unfortunate thing to happen," Sperisen said, "but (he's) not upset at Rod."

Strickland, a third-year player from DePaul, came to the Spurs a year ago in a trade that sent point guard Maurice Cheeks to the New York Knicks.

## TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## Lady Aggie netters destroy SWTS

By Michelle Bergeron  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M women's tennis team opened the spring season with a decisive, 9-0 win over Southwest Texas State at the Omar Smith Tennis Center Tuesday.

The Lady Aggs overpowered the Bobcats, winning every match in straight sets. The closest match SWT could muster only produced three games.

A&M Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke said he was pleased with the Lady Aggies performance.

"I feel like this was one of the best starts we've ever had with everyone coming out on top," Kleinecke said. "We came out and took control from the start, and I am very happy about that."

As far as the rest of the season,

Kleinecke said obviously the matches will start getting harder and harder, and he is cautiously optimistic about what they have in store.

The Aggie women dominated the singles matches. A&M's top seed Lynn Staley defeated SWT's Tracey Martin 6-2, 6-0.

A&M's second seed Tammi Agassi ousted SWT's Mara Lencina 6-0, 6-2.

A&M's number three player Cindy Churchwell trounced SWT's Jennifer Bowman, 6-1, 6-1.

Janine Burton-Durham, the fourth Aggie, ran over Bobcat Teresa Claiborne 6-3, 6-3.

Jenny Graf, A&M's number five beat SWT's Tara James, 6-2, 6-1.

Lady Ag sixth netter Anna Schlumpf blanked Bobcat Brenda Haag 6-0, 6-0.

In doubles play, the team of Burton-Durham/Staley defeated Bowman/Martin 6-1, 6-2.

Lady Ag partners Churchwell/Graf stomped Bobcats Claiborne/Susie Scott 6-0, 6-1.

The team of Agassi/Joanne Mahoverpowered James/Lencina 6-1, 6-2.

Staley, presently ranked 9th in the nation, will leave today for the ITCA National Intercollegiate Indoor Tennis Championship.

"It's a great opportunity for Lynn," Kleinecke said. "She is probably not as sharp as she was at the end of the fall season, but that's mainly because of the Christmas break."

"One thing about Lynn, you know she will give it her best shot."

## Big East forms football league

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The 30-year dream of an Eastern football league became reality Tuesday with creation of another Big East conference.

Athletic directors at eight proud football independents saw a future of nightmarish schedules, dominant leagues and dwindling television exposure.

"I think that the climate this time around almost forced the issue," Syracuse athletic director Jake Crouthamel said. "We're talking about the integrity of the schedule and the need to play games."

"When you put it in that context, you get a little shaky-kneed."

Independents, said Rutgers athletic director Fred Gruninger, "became an endangered species."

Syracuse, Boston College, Miami of Florida and Pittsburgh, already Big East basketball members, will play Rutgers, Temple, West Virginia and Virginia Tech beginning this fall in the new football conference.

Big East Commissioner Mike Tranghese said they will choose a champion this year, but he's not sure how

major market television was on everyone's mind. Tranghese said the league would expand its 5-year-old in-house network and aim for a football game of the week.

"We're not going to take for granted that people know it's the Big East," Tranghese said. "And by the end of 1991, people will probably be sick and tired of hearing from us."

The eight will meet next week to decide what demands to make of the College Football Association's network TV contract, Tranghese said.

"If we want a bowl tie in 1991, we probably will have one," he said, making clear the Big East expects consideration from the majors.

Miami brings much of the prestige and money to the mix. No one would say how much the Hurricanes get to keep, but Crouthamel described the league's revenue sharing as "equal and minimal."

"As the conference grows and as things change, certainly we'll take another look" at distribution of money, Miami interim athletic director Paul Dee said, "probably sooner than later."

## Prep cagers team handles loses well

DALLAS (AP) — The margin of defeat on this Wednesday night is 35 points, yet another loss to an opponent whose coach agrees to a running clock and benches his two best players.

Patricia Rodriguez is a three-year veteran of the North Dallas High School girls basketball team, so she knows the post-loss routine well. She tugs at her bright orange uniform and shakes hands quickly on the crowded floor of Forester Fieldhouse.

Walking toward the locker room, Rodriguez spots teammate Christina Herrera and breaks into a wide smile. The two girls hug as they run off together, giggling hysterically.

At North Dallas, they've learned to ignore the scoreboard.

"When it gets out of hand, you just want to laugh," Rodriguez says afterward. "I'll usually sing something so I don't have to think about it. I never remember the scores anyway."

Basketball's version of ground zero has found a home these days in a cramped, second-floor gym at the corner of McKinney and Haskell.

Six girls make up North Dallas' varsity basketball team, including three who had never played before. Getting the ball past midcourt is an effort; rarely does the team score more than one or two baskets in a game.

The results, of course, are ugly and predictable. The Lady Bulldogs have lost 52 consecutive games by one count (school officials aren't sure of the total) and have not scored 100 points this season — in 20 games.

The losses, which come with numbing regularity, have grown progressively worse: Madison, 69-9; Car-

ter, 63-2. Last weekend, Samuell posted a 71-0 shutout.

With three games remaining, even their coach says a third winless season is unavoidable. Yet the North Dallas girls keep coming back for more.

"They're amazing sometimes," said John Heizelman, 42, the Lady Bulldogs' first-year coach. "They simply believe in the essence of sport, which is to compete. I wonder sometimes where they get their resiliency."

The reasons for North Dallas' futility are no mystery. The school of 1,400 students was moved from Class 4A to 5A this season, a year after four of the team's best players walked off the team after a dispute with the former coach.

The players later were suspended from spring sports and didn't return for basketball this season. Heizelman was left scouring the halls, trying to convince girls to try out.

"You could tell the first day we weren't going to win any games," said Herrera, a sophomore guard who played last season. "When I came out and saw what we had, I just said 'Oh my God, this is going to be terrible.'"

She was right. The season started with the loss to Madison and nearly ended Dec. 27, after the Lady Bulldogs suffered through the opening day of the annual Dr Pepper Tournament. In one six-hour stretch, North Dallas played two games and was outscored 183-17 by Wilmer-Hutchins and Skyline.

"We played Wilmer-Hutchins in the morning, and I didn't want to go back out after halftime," Herrera said of the 128-7 loss.

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