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**March
Schedule**

**March 6, 7
March 23
March 27, 28**

College Station Hilton

For more information or to pre-register phone 693-8178, 24 hours a day.

clip and save

Lady Ag netters drill No. 24 Coogs

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

The 23rd-ranked Texas A&M women's tennis team defeated No. 24 Houston 6-3 in Southwest Conference tennis action Thursday afternoon at Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Lady Ags move to 5-4 on the season and are 2-0 in conference following a win over Rice on Wednesday.

The Lady Ags won 4-of-6 singles matches and the top-seeded doubles team of Lynn Staley and Janine Burton-Durham clinched the Aggies' victory with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Julie Cass and Jenny Mainz of Houston.

The win in doubles was no cakewalk, Staley said.

"They started dominating the net a lot more (in the second set)," Staley said. "We were holding up the net in the first set, but then we let it slip away from us."

The Lady Ags' No. 2 doubles team of Tami Agassi and Cindy Churchwell won in straight sets (6-3, 7-5) over Patricia Riddell and Cynthia Sanchez of Houston.

Staley, the No. 9 singles player in the country, soundly defeated Houston No. 1 seed Julie Cass in two sets, 6-1 and 6-2.

"It was real windy out today, so I knew to just keep a lot of balls in

play," Staley said. "I was a little apprehensive about playing her because she's a serve and volleyer and I knew that she could keep me off-balance."

A&M fifth seed Burton-Durham and fourth seed Jenny Graf were the only losers in singles action.

The victory over Houston is extra nice after last year, Staley said.

"They beat us last year the same score we beat them this year," she said. "We just have a big rivalry with them. They got second in conference last year, and we got third just because we lost to them."

The Lady Ags' next match is Sunday in Las Vegas against UNLV.

Spurs blow lead, fall to Knicks

NEW YORK (AP) — Even a 19-1 deficit against San Antonio didn't stop the New York Knicks from extending their winning streak to four games.

The Knicks, despite missing their first eight shots while the Spurs started 9-for-10, got 27 points and 15 rebounds from Patrick Ewing to overtake San Antonio 100-93 on Thursday night.

"We never felt we were out of it," coach John MacLeod said. "The 19-1 start happened so quickly, we knew we had plenty of time to come back."

MacLeod called three timeouts in the first period to calm his team, which came back to lead briefly in the second quarter, then outplayed the Spurs in the second half.

"We told ourselves during the timeouts, 'Let's try to get as close as we can in the first quarter,'" said reserve guard Trent Tucker, who scored 10 points in 17 minutes. "There aren't any 18-point plays."

"We knew it was dim in the beginning, but it was early in the game, so we didn't panic," said Gerald Wilkins, who scored 22 points, his fourth straight game with more than 20. "When you're down like that, you have to keep fighting. We refused to lose, once we got back in the game."

It was the first time since Jan. 3-6 against Denver and the Los Angeles Clippers that the Knicks have won two straight games at Madison Square Garden, where they

are now 13-17 for the season.

The loss knocked the Spurs out of first place in the Midwest Division after they briefly regained the top spot from Utah by defeating Portland twice this week.

"We let them off the hook," coach Larry Brown said. "They called some great timeouts, which made them settle down."

David Robinson scored 23 points, but was outbounded 15-5 by Ewing. Sean Elliott and Terry Cummings each had 19 points for San Antonio, now 5-1 against Atlantic Division teams this season.

"I wasn't concerned with the matchup against David," Ewing said. "I wanted to play well and win. The statistical numbers against David mean nothing to me."

"Our defense plays well in cycles, but we have to do it for the full 48 minutes," Robinson said. "Getting a big lead and losing it was a trait of this team last year. We haven't done that very much this season, but we did the last two games."

A jumper by Wilkins gave the Knicks the lead for good at 89-87 with 2:42 left. San Antonio scored seven straight points, the last three on a 23-footer by Elliott, to tie the score 87-87 with 3:02 left.

Ewing scored 10 points in the third quarter as the Knicks pulled ahead 74-68 going into the final 12 minutes, then took their largest lead, 79-70, with 10 minutes to go.

Young

Continued from page 7

control of the game."

Young is in control of the game if she has control of all four of her pitches. She throws a rise pitch, a curve, a drop ball, and a knuckle ball.

A&M softball coach Bob Brock said that Young has excellent command of those pitches and moves the ball around well.

"Missi throws hard enough," Brock said, "but the rise ball is her pitch to get people out with."

Strikeouts are often associated with fast pitching, but Young gets her share of strikeouts.

Last season, Young amassed 272 strikeouts in 254 innings, placing her fifth on the A&M career strikeout list. So far this season, Young has struck out 21 batters in 21 innings pitched.

Brock describes the rise pitch as one that comes in to the hitter as a fastball, but jumps upward just before it reaches the plate. This type of movement is just enough to throw the hitters off stride, he said.

Keeping the hitters off guard is an

important part of Young's game.

"If you just throw speed, eventually the hitters will catch up to the pitch and hit it," she said. "When you move the ball around, all the hitters can do is second guess."

Young, a sophomore English major, plans to get a teaching certificate and use her degree for teaching.

Young said she chose to attend A&M because of its prestigious academics in addition to its positive, winning softball program.

One of the integral parts of the A&M program is the teaching of coach Brock, she said.

"He takes the time to teach you and show you what he wants you to do on the field," Young said.

One aspect of Brock's teaching is helping Young gain confidence in her pitches. He has helped her with her drop ball, which complements her rise pitch.

Communication is often an important part of coaching, and Brock

said this is one of the things that makes Young coachable.

"It is easy to communicate with people who really know how to pitch," Brock said.

In addition to the physical aspects of pitching, it is equally important to be into the game mentally. Young said that pitching doesn't seem to wear on her mentally.

But Brock disagreed. He said that Young doesn't notice the fatigue because she is mentally tough.

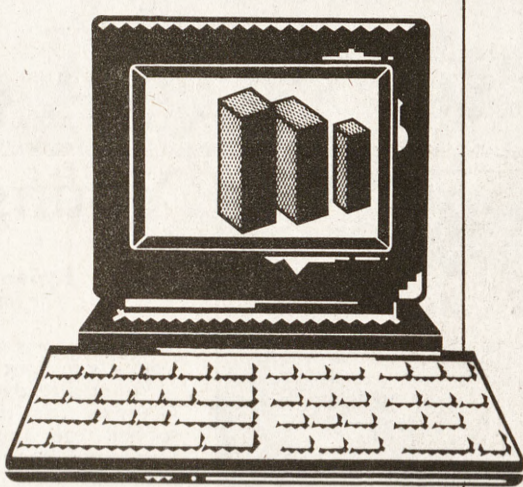
"Missi is a player who handles pressure well and doesn't settle for second in anything," Brock said. "These traits have allowed her to win some big games for the team."

Young is respected by her teammates because of her behavior on the field, Brock said.

When she is not pitching, she plays the role of cheerleader, yelling encouragement to her teammates.

The Lady Aggies hope this artist turned cheerleader can use the art of pitching to mold the team into a winner this season.

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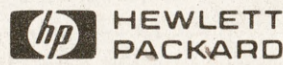
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