

Friday, April 12, 1991

The Battalion

Hard-luck A&M baseball team faces big test this weekend

Aggies travel to Rice for crucial SWC series

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

with a 6-6 record to go along with a 4.89 ERA.

Last year, Allen shut out the Owls on a three-hitter, 10-0, and the Aggies swept the Owls in a three game series at Olsen Field.

Saturday, freshman Jeff Granger (4-2, 3.78) is slated to start the opener. Either junior righthander Jason Hutchins or freshman lefthander Kelly Wunsch will start for the Aggies in the night-cap.

Granger ranks fourth in the nation in strikeouts per inning. The lefthander has racked up 70 strikeouts in 50 innings, giving him an average of 12.6 strikeouts per nine innings.

The leading hitters for the Aggies are Brian Thomas, who is hitting .341 and Conrad Colby, with a .328 average.

The Texas A&M baseball team travels to Houston today to take on the Rice Owls in a three-game series.

The Aggies, who were swept by Baylor last weekend, have a 3-6 Southwest Conference record, and a 31-16 mark overall. The trio of losses to Baylor dropped the Aggies into last place in the conference, four games behind the league-leading Texas Longhorns.

Texas A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson refused to answer to speculation that he might leave his post to take the Mississippi State job. MSU skipper Ron Polk announced earlier this week that he would be taking over as director of the American Baseball Coaches Association after this season.

Johnson coached under Polk for six seasons before taking over the A&M helm in 1985.

Rice enters the series with a 16-25 record, 6-9 in conference play.

The Owls lost the first two games last weekend in Austin before winning the final game, 11-5.

The probable starters for today's 7 p.m. game are Ronnie Allen, who is 6-2 with a 2.93 ERA for the Aggies, and Darrell Richardson, a Rice freshman



J. JANNER/The Battalion

SWC opponents have not exactly rolled over for the Aggies this season. A&M has dropped five of its last six conference games and is mired in the league cellar with a 3-6 mark.

SWC Standings

Team	Conf.			Season		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Texas	7	2	.778	34	12	.739
Texas Tech	7	5	.583	36	11	.766
Baylor	4	4	.500	30	9	.769
TCU	4	4	.500	25	15	.625
Houston	4	5	.444	26	12	.735
Arkansas	5	7	.416	29	14	.674
Rice	6	9	.400	16	29	.359
Texas A&M	3	6	.333	31	16	.660

Friday's games
Houston at Baylor, 2 p.m.
Arkansas at TCU, 3 p.m.
Texas A&M at Rice, 7 p.m.
Texas Tech at Texas, 7 p.m.

Saturday's games
Arkansas at TCU (2), noon
Houston at Baylor (2), 1 p.m.
Texas A&M at Rice (2), 2 p.m.
Texas Tech at Texas (2), 2 p.m.

Douglas Pils
Asst. Sports Editor

Pils: take your time and do it right, Coach B.

Open letter to Texas A&M's new basketball coach Tony Barone:

Save our basketball program. Nothing more, nothing less.

You've got all the time you need. Lay the foundation and do it the "right way" which president William Mobley and Athletic Director John David Crow talk about so much.

Aggie fans have suffered through too much heartache and turmoil in the last year and a half for you to do it the wrong way.

A year ago, we all sat and listened to someone else give us the same spiel about building a solid program with honesty and integrity.

It's still unclear if that's not what was happening, but what is clear is that the engineer of the master plan was just a too bit naive to know a shady character when he saw one.

Having coached in Chicago, I'm sure you have a pretty good judge of character. However, the statistic that proves it is that 18 of 24 players graduated from your program at Creighton.

What makes that important is that those same Bluejays became winners on the court as well as in the classroom.

Anyone thinking that teams with brains can't have successful programs can look no further than in-state rivals and Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouses, North Carolina and Duke.

Of course, to expect A&M to one day mirror Dean Smith's and Mike Krzyzewski's programs would be the best-case scenario. But consider this — we've endured the worst-case side of the fence, so anywhere in between will do just fine.

Last season, the little things went unappreciated. Things like holding NIT-finalist Oklahoma to 86 points or being a handful of free throws away from beating Texas.

But this team made great strides all year long. Very rarely did they ever give up and most importantly, they all grew up very fast in the midst of a very hectic situation.

So happy hunting, Coach B. I hope you can find two or three more guys who "fit into your mix" on the recruiting trail. But even if you don't find those you need, the players you inherit have shown they can adapt to almost anything.

You were definitely right when you said this program is a sleeping giant. All it needs is a swift kick in the rear to get it rolling down the road to recovery.

P.S. — To Brooks Thompson: Stick around long enough to help turn the program around and don't be selfish with your talents by taking them elsewhere. I guarantee you'll be much more appreciated if you stay. It's just the classy thing to do.

Aggie netters host 'Horns, Hogs

Unranked A&M closes out home slate Saturday

From Staff and Wire Reports

The upset-minded Texas A&M men's tennis team faces a tough weekend. They face the No. 11 Texas Longhorns today at 1:30 p.m. and No. 25 Arkansas Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Both matches will be held at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Despite an overall 13-8 mark on the season, the Aggies are undefeated at home. Six of those losses have come against ranked teams. A&M, 2-2 in Southwest Conference play, knocked off No. 24 Rice earlier in the week.

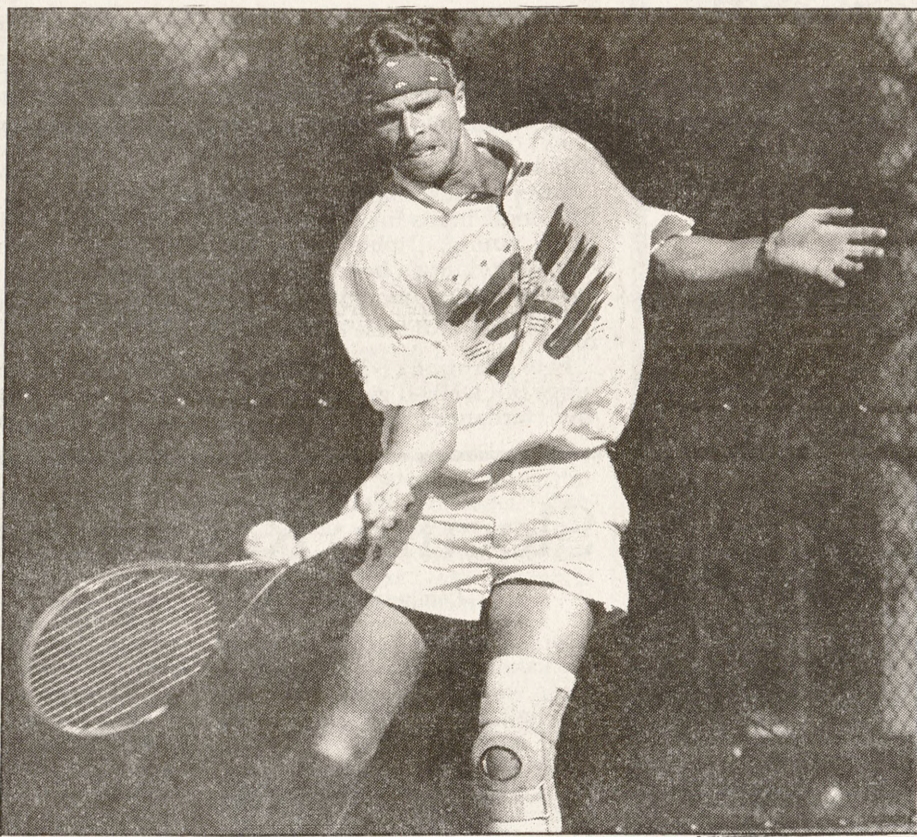
Aggie coach David Kent said the upset was nice, but that his squad has been underrated.

"We played well, but we certainly weren't playing over our heads," Kent said. "We were consistent in singles and doubles and that's just what we have to do to be successful."

"We have a good team, but we have to start knocking off the big teams. We match up well with Texas and these guys are not going to be intimidated, especially with our home crowd behind us."

Kent said that this is a good time to face tough competition.

"We're playing extremely well right now, and we'll have to keep it up to beat the Longhorns," he said. "We're very familiar with their players and them with us, so there shouldn't be any surprises out there."



S. ROBBINS/The Battalion

Steve Kennedy and the rest of the A&M tennis team have a big weekend ahead. The Aggies host Texas today and Arkansas Saturday, with both matches starting at 1:30 p.m.

"I expect a fight-to-the-finish match."

The weekend matches will be the Aggies' final home matches of the season.

Team Records		Singles	
Weaver, Mark	18-4	Kennedy, Steve	11-8
Phillips, Scott	18-4	Zisette, Matt	6-16
Brown, Doug	17-2	Barsalou, Blake	2-5
Johnson, Clayton	14-7	Doubles	
		Phillips, Scott	8-2
		Brown, Doug	9-5
		Kennedy, Steve	9-6
		Weaver, Mark	8-5
		Barsalou, Blake	3-4
		Zisette, Matt	3-4

Warriors sink Rockets

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Golden State broke open a close game in the fourth quarter by intentionally fouling Houston's Larry Smith, who missed six straight free throws, and Chris Mullin scored 26 points in a 111-99 victory Thursday night.

Golden State made a team-record 33 free throws without a miss, the third-best showing in NBA history, while the Rockets made only 18 of 34 foul shots, including 7 of 17 in the final quarter.

Houston trailed just 88-82 before the assault on Smith began. After Tim Hardaway's two free throws put the Warriors up by six points with less than eight minutes remaining, Golden State coach Don Nelson sent reserve center Paul Mokeski and backup guard Vince Askew into the game to carry out the plan.

After Smith was fouled and missed two free throws, Mullin hit a 3-point shot. Two more Smith misses led to another Mullin jumper and a 93-82 lead with 6:40 to play. Smith missed two more free throws and was finally taken out of the game for good, as the Rockets never got closer than seven points the rest of the way.

Houston fell two games behind Midwest Division leader San Antonio with six games to play. Golden State moved a full game ahead of Seattle in the race for the seventh Western Conference playoff spot.

Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon led all scorers with 28 points, 21 in the second half, and added 12 rebounds. Sleepy Floyd scored 25 for the Rockets. Hardaway finished with 24 points and Mitch Richmond had 23 for Golden State.

coffeehouse

friday

april 12

in rumours

8:00 p.m.

it's free

...bring only your open mind

MSC Town Hall



Dance Arts Society



Texas A&M University

presents

DANCE EXPRESSIONS

Sunday
April 14, 1991
8:00 p.m.

Rudder Theater

Admission \$1.00