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Aggies face vital battle with Baylor

Important road series to help determine second place in SWC standings

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M baseball team enters this weekend's series against Baylor trying to hold onto second place in the Southwest Conference standings.

The Aggies, 12-13 in the SWC, hold a 13-11 record, just 1 1/2 games better than the Rice Owls' 13-14 mark. The Bears also are breathing down the Aggies' necks with a 12-13 conference record. Texas is leaps and bounds in front of the rest with a 20-5 league record.

Every game is crucial for the Aggies as well as the other SWC contenders. Without a conference tournament this year, the NCAA Tournament committee is likely to pick only two SWC teams to go to the regional tournaments. A&M holds the second-best overall record, 28-15, after picking up two wins from Stephen F. Austin on Tuesday.

A&M's series against Baylor will begin tonight at 7 at Ferrell Field in Waco. The two teams will meet again Saturday at 1 p.m. for a doubleheader.

Earlier this season the Bears surprised the Aggies by sweeping a Saturday doubleheader after the A&M took the first game of the series the night before.

A&M pitcher James Nix relieved Jeff Granger after 8 and 2/3 innings and picked up the win. Senior shortstop Jason Marshall singled home pinch runner Stephen Claybrook with one out in the 10th inning to give the Aggies the victory.

Baylor grabbed a three-hit shut out in Game two Saturday and rallied from a 6-1 deficit in Game three to steal a 7-6 win

and take the series.

A&M's series against Texas Tech the next weekend marked the last time Granger picked up a win. Granger, a freshman All-America and All-SWC pitcher last season, has posted a 4-3 mark this season in 12 appearances. On April 17, 1991, the pitcher had a 5-2 record in 12 appearances. He also had 84 strikeouts at

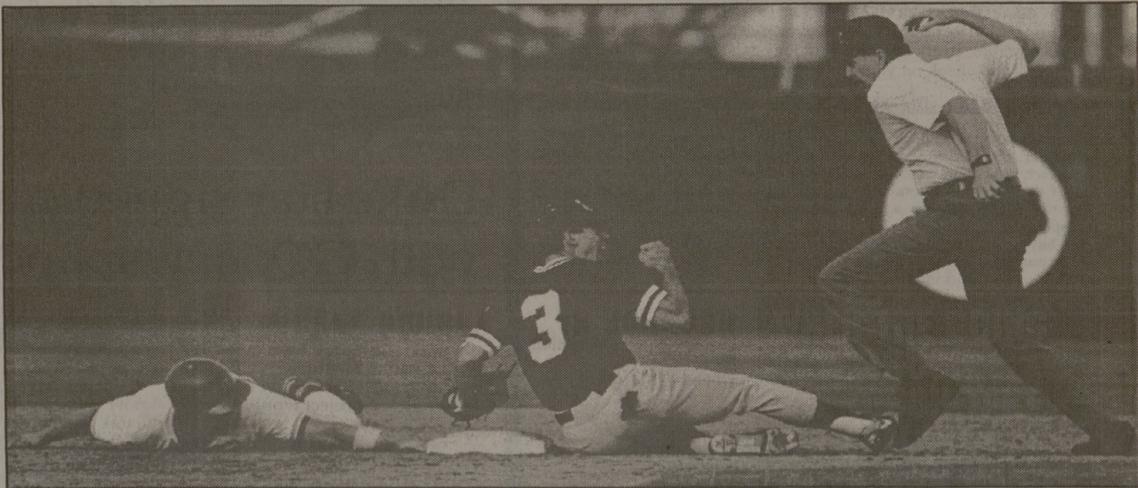
that time, compared to 90 so far in 1992.

A&M reliever James Nix leads the Aggies in wins this year with a 7-4 record.

The A&M bats have picked up the pace in the last three games. The Aggies slapped out 16 hits in an 11-5 victory over Texas last Sunday. After picking up six hits in the opener against SFA on Tuesday, A&M came back and punched out 10

hits in a 12-0 shutout.

Redshirt freshman Rob Trimble leads the team in batting average in conference games. Trimble has a .386 average headed into today. Senior Jay Estes has a .333 average in the SWC and leads the team with a .355 average over the course of the season. Estes also leads A&M with four homers.



Senior shortstop Jason Marshall and the A&M baseball team lost two of three games to Baylor at Olsen Field in March.

Battalion file photo

A&M tennis teams head to Austin for SWC tourney

Men's team hopes to rebound against first-round foe Tech

The Battalion News Services

The Texas A&M men's tennis team takes its No. 3 seed into this weekend's Southwest Conference Men's Tennis Championships this weekend in Austin.

A&M takes on No. 6 seed Texas Tech today in a first-round match at 1:30 p.m. at the Penick-Allison Tennis Center on the University of Texas campus.

The Aggies, 16-5, finished the SWC season with a 4-2 record. The Aggies were 4-0 before season-ending losses to Texas Christian and Texas ended any hopes of the Aggies' first-ever SWC crown.

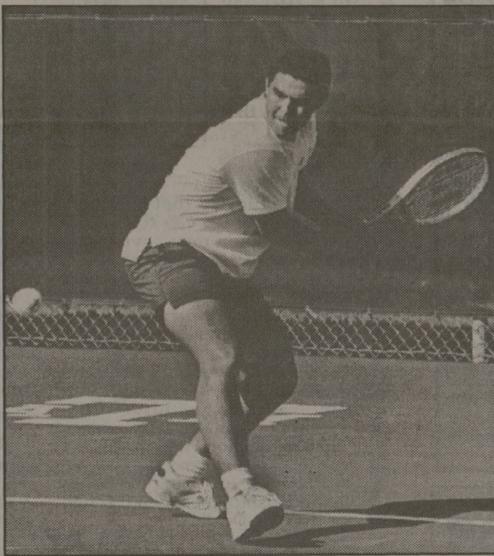
Earlier this season, the Aggies defeated the Red Raiders, 8-1, in College Station.

"Texas Tech has a solid lineup of guys who can serve and volley," said A&M head coach David Kent. "When they're on their games and hitting first serves, Texas Tech can beat anybody in the conference."

"We had a pretty easy time with them during the regular season, but I think we'll be seeing a different team on Friday."

Kent thinks the Aggies, the No. 16 team in the nation, need to put aside their recent losses and look ahead to the tournament.

"It was a shame to finish out of the regular season like that, but we've got to shake it off and get ready for Texas Tech," he said. "It's not that we played that poorly against them, Texas simply played extremely well. We've got to rebound quick and be ready to play on Friday."



Battalion file photo

Doug Brown will be part of the A&M contingent at the Southwest Conference Tennis tournament in Austin.

Lady Aggies attempt to upset No. 3 seed Rice for 2nd time

The Battalion News Services

The Texas A&M women's tennis team hopes to pull off some upsets this weekend in the Southwest Conference Women's Tennis Championships in Austin.

The No. 6 seed Lady Aggies will face No. 3 Rice in a first-round match Friday at the Penick-Allison Tennis Center at the University of Texas.

A&M enters the tournament with an 8-13 record. The Lady Aggies were 3-4 in SWC action, including a win over Rice.

"We played exceptionally well when we played them the first time and we'll have to play like that again to get another win," said A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke. "We know we can do it again, but we also know it's going to take a good effort."

"Rice has turned it up a notch since we played them, so they'll be ready for us."

Aside from the top-seeded Texas, who are ranked No. 3 in the nation, Kleinecke believes there is no clear-cut favorite.

"I told the girls they have a new life," Kleinecke said. "Now we can go out and prove those were bad losses to SMU and Baylor. We have as good of a chance as anyone of playing in the tournament finals against Texas."

"Texas will definitely be hard for anyone to upset, but everything else is a tossup."

Saturday's semifinals will take place at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with Sunday's final scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Carnessecca - Taste for wins, not sweaters

I can't ever remember a time that I didn't associate Lou Carnessecca with ugly sweaters.

He spent nearly a quarter of a century coaching St. John's basketball teams to national prominence in some of the most disreputable attires imaginable.

To say he doesn't hold a subscription to GQ would be an understatement. If Mr. Blackwell was a sports fan, Carnessecca would make the Ten Worst Dressed List consistently.

One of the most familiar images of the Redmen coach was several years ago when he was making a late-season run in the Big East. They had a so-so start to their season, and it was evident that they needed a spark.

They caught on fire in early February and won umpteen games in a row. It just so happens that the Redmen's streak started the same time Carnessecca wore a hideous looking brown sweater to the game.

He put two and two together and determined that the sweater was the reason for their good fortune.

So he kept wearing it and wearing it, and the Redmen kept winning and winning. It was an amazing run considering that this was the period of Georgetown domination in the Big East and the rest of college basketball. Patrick Ewing and the Hoya Paranoia were unstoppable.

However, St. John's was starting to catch up on the Hoyas with "The Sweater Streak." Carnessecca's wardrobe made national news. Never before had such attention been given to such an unattractive piece of clothing.

It all culminated in the Big East Tournament that March in New York. Georgetown met the Redmen in Madison Square Garden in The Sweater's big test.

When the teams came out, Georgetown coach John Thompson had a surprise for Carnessecca. Underneath Thompson's coat, he was wearing an exact replica of The Sweater.

It was a strange sight to see a short little man with glasses shake hands with a 6-foot-10 behemoth, each wearing the same sweater.

The Sweater prevailed, but St. John's didn't win the game. Carnessecca had been beaten by his own secret weapon.

This March, in the frenzy of NCAA tournament games, another episode from the 67-year-old coach was overshadowed.

St. John's was playing Tulane in a

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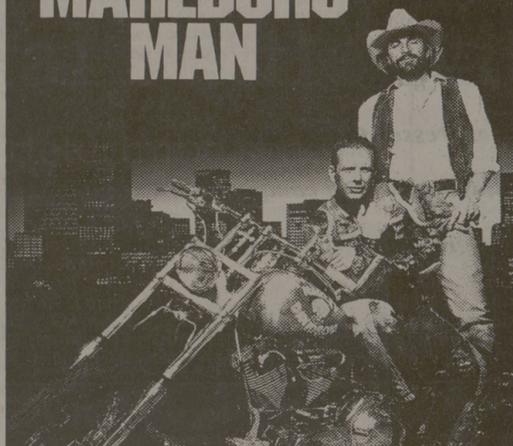


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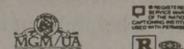
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