

Tennis

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came on senior Julie Blackburn's last match as a Lady Aggie, defeating the 43rd ranked player in the nation, UT's Vickie Payuter.

Blackburn said she played confident and error-free, beating Payuter's net game with passing shots while Payuter beat herself by missing serves.

"I was playing confident in the final match; I didn't make any mistakes," Blackburn said. Blackburn, a walk-on at A&M who transferred from Arkansas, said her last game playing for A&M was special. "I felt important here, more than at Arkansas, and I think next year the team will be

much better." With the exception of Blackburn, A&M will return four out of five of their conference

tournament starters. Kleinecke said his young team will be very deep, returning number--one player Janine Burton-Durham and Christine DiNardo, the SWC champion in the third slot.

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High product has also contributed at the plate with a .358 average and 41 RBI's.

Harris also said that if the improbable happens and the Aggies drop one to UTSA, it would have little effect on the team's play this weekend.

"Tomorrow's outcome will not effect this weekend's series at all," he said. The Aggies will try to main-

The Aggies will try to maintain their recent offensive output as the season draws to a close. The offense has been on a roller coaster ride of late, scoring a few runs in one game, then coming back to score in double digits the next.

Lewis added that the Aggies will do offensively the things that have made them number one in the nation.

"We're going to put the ball in play, hit it hard, and if we stick with it, the ones that are not dropping in right now will fall in." Lewis said.

in," Lewis said. "We're going to do what got us here."

The first pitch will be thrown at 7 p.m. at Ölsen Field.

Plumer

The Battalion

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record, until Southwest Texas State put an end to the talk that the Aggies would go undefeated the whole season.

Of course, that is impossible because in the game of baseball the law of averages catches up with a team.

But now it boils down to the big series. Longhorns vs. Aggies. A championship on the line. As the week winds down to an end, the excitement should mount.

Not only for the fans, but the participants.

"It's the big one next weekend," A&M centerfielder Brian Thomas said. "We are going to kick back for a couple of days and then get prepared to play them. in

"We've got to be positive about where we are and take care of business when the time comes. If we can do that, then we will be sitting pretty." A&M catcher Robert Lewis,

A&M catcher Kobert Lewis, who was the hero of last weekend's demolition of Rice, said he that

to anyone. "I don't want to be co-champion with Texas," Lewis said. "I can't wait until next weekend because I think we are going to be tough to beat. This is what playing baseball is all about.

was not going to take backseat

"I want to win the championship outright. I don't plan on sharing anything with anybody."

Enough said. There seems to be a stigmatism attached to sharing a championship. It can make a player feel like he just got done kissing his sister.

To avoid that, the scoreboard from one game needs to show A&M with more runs than Texas at the end of the contest. Of course, that will not be easy because, after all, it is Texas.

Texas head coach Cliff Gustafson will not have to make any motivational speeches to get his team prepared. If playing A&M is not enough, then how about the fact that the Longhorns could rain on A&M's wictory parade?

A&M's victory parade? Heady stuff, no doubt about

But don't be surprised if the Longhorns become the team that needs the umbrella.



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