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TONY BARONE & LYNN HICKEY

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Guerrieri

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on her to get any (coaching) tasks handled."

Guerrieri said that one of the differences between coaching at A&M and his past coaching positions was that A&M placed a strong emphasis on strength and conditioning.

Head strength and conditioning coach Mike Clark put together the Lady Aggies' conditioning program, and Guerrieri said graduate strength coach Trey Teichelman was very good at executing the program for the women.

Hlista, who is currently the top-ranked mountain biker in Texas, said that Teichelman's pro-

gram has helped get her in the best shape of her life.

"With Trey, I felt more explosive and stronger than I have ever been," Hlista said.

Rebe and Hlista said that Guerrieri was the most important reason for the success of the Lady Aggies compared to last year, no matter how he tries to deflect credit away from himself.

"Under coach Guerrieri, I liked it more because I can always respect him," Hlista said. "By putting Kathi in on drills he proved to us why we should do our drills."

Rebe said that the difference this season was that Guerrieri had a definite strategy for the team and he made sure the Lady Aggies were always striving to execute their strategy.

Hlista said that another impor-

tant difference from last year's team was that Guerrieri stressed teamwork through discipline in practice.

"He would treat everyone the same," Hlista said. "If a freshman or senior got out of line he treated us all the same."

Correction

The Battalion published a women's soccer story on Wednesday that had run last week previewing last week's games.

There are no games this weekend, as the story indicated, the Battalion regrets the error.

Netters

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same expectations that the Lady Aggies do.

"This team has the potential to be as good as the 1985-86 team," Kent said. "I consider them to be one of the best we've had here."

"I'm excited, but it's a cautious excitement because we have a lot of work to do to reach where we want to be. We want to be one of the top 15 or 20 teams in the nation, and we can do it."

The 1985-1986 squad went 21-10 and sent two singles players and one doubles team to the NCAA tournament. Kent said he has the players to accomplish that feat and mentioned several players that should stand out, notably sophomore Blake Arrant and senior Mark Weaver.

"We're having success from everyone on this team, and the

spring is looking even better," Kent said. "Blake Arrant has been working hard all fall, and we're expecting him great things from him."

"And anytime you have Mark Weaver on your team, good things happen."

Weaver said he is looking for his senior year to be his best so far, and is currently ranked in the top 10 in singles.

"We're definitely very capable of being a top 25 team," Weaver said. "This is as good a team as we've had in my years here. There's talent at every level, and we should only get stronger."

Arrant said that the young players will make the big difference this year.

"The biggest thing I've noticed is how good the freshmen are. They're pushing us and making us play much better," Arrant said. "That's important because you have competition every day instead of just during matches."

Kent said that the University of Texas should prove to be the men's toughest foe, also, but warned against the rest of the Southwest Conference, as well.

"Texas is always tough, and this year they are one of the nation's best teams, if not the best," Kent said.

"The Southwest Conference is probably the best conference in tennis – that's usually the Pac-10, but not this year."

"Texas Christian has a really good team this year and anybody in the conference will be tough, but when all the smoke clears, it should be us and Texas."

Weaver said Texas is beatable and its high expectations may come crashing down against an upstart A&M squad.

"It's not going to be easy, but we're going to go in there with nothing to lose, and they're going to be the ones that are tight," Weaver said.

"That's got to work in our favor."

Jump

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"Most people didn't know him," Barone said. "He was a guy with a tremendous personality. He had worked his way up the coaching ladder (and) was a coach that took his teams to the highest level."

Barone reminisced over one of the most memorable moments that he shared with Valvano. Several years ago when the two had a chance to face each other in a pre-season game in Hawaii, Barone, then in his third year at Creighton University, lost the game. But it was the winning Valvano that brought inspiration to the defeated coach and his team.

"After the game, he came into our locker room and told us that we played really well and that we had a real chance to be

great."

As is turned out, Barone guided that team to consecutive appearances in the NCAA post-season tournament.

"The thing about Jim was, he was a player's coach," Barone said. "He had that special bond between himself and his players."

Barone wanted people to know that this year's symbol of inspiration is not in any way a memorial of Valvano.

"The 'V' is not a dedication of the season to him," Barone said. "I think Jim wouldn't like that. The 'V' is for his spirit. He fought cancer for almost a year and he tried to show the spirit of life."

"The spirit of life is what we are trying to capture. Valvano's character was something that helped everyone and showed that he had true zest for life."

Barone said that the team has

spent time talking about what they want to get out of the season and that they chose the "V" because after deciding to remember the importance of enjoying life's precious time whether alone or on the court in front of thousands.

"The team doesn't want to throw away their minutes, they want to maximize their time," Barone said. "That was the spirit of Jim Valvano."

The team has chosen one specific quote of Valvano that hangs in the men's locker room at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Barone and the players chose the quote because they believe it embodied the spirit of the late Valvano.

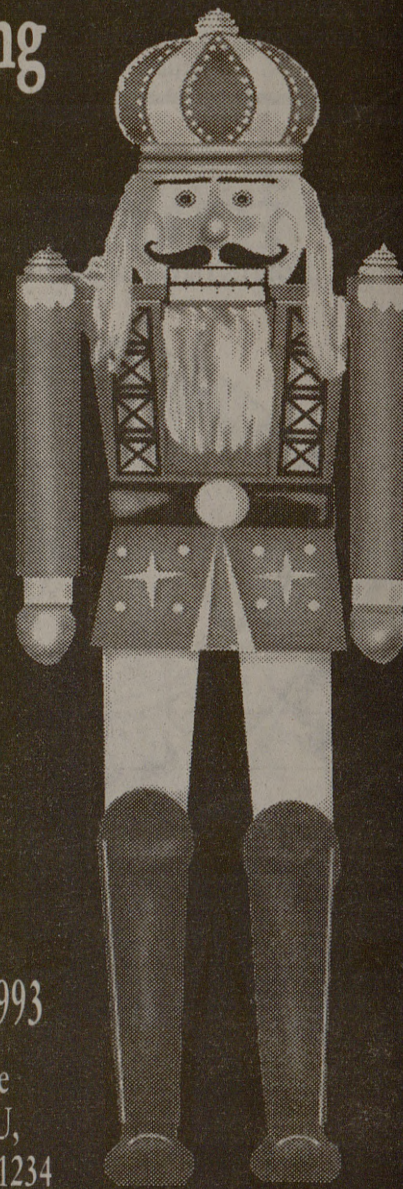
"You have to take time each day to think a little, laugh a little, and cry a little to establish a full day," the late coach said.

"If you do that every day, you have had an emotional and exhausting day."

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