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Weaver

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nice to see him get the championship in his senior season.

Last year, when he was SWC Player of the Year, singles champion and doubles co-champion, might have been an indication for Weaver.

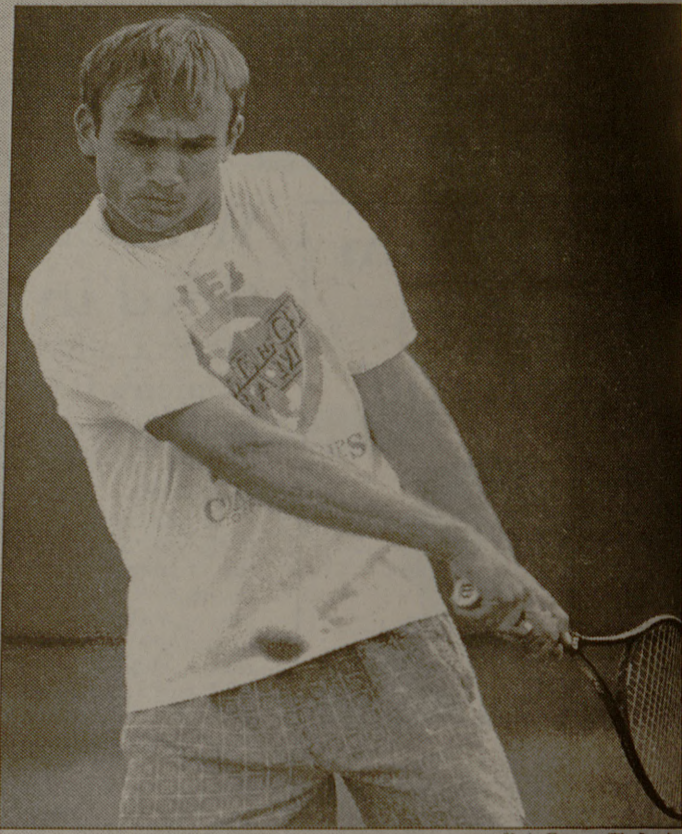
Weaver and junior Bernardo Martinez again set the pace for A&M by winning their second consecutive doubles championship.

Weaver gives Martinez most of the credit for their championship, but Martinez points the finger and accolades to his partner.

"We wouldn't have won it if he wouldn't have been here," Martinez said. "He is our number one player. Every time he comes out, he has a tough match."

Playing against Texas and TCU has provided the Aggies with some of the hardest competition in the country. Even when Weaver is successful against these teams he down plays the significance.

"I really felt that if I could win," he said, "we could win."



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

A&M senior Mark Weaver takes some practice swings this spring at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Pathfinders

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surprised us," Voelkel said. "This was her first orienteering season and she did well."

Training for the competition begins in the fall and continues into the spring. Members usually run in the mornings and concentrate on long distance and sprint workouts. Voelkel said the team will workout a schedule so new members do not have to come out so early.

Voelkel said he participates in the sport because of the athletic development and the team spirit.

"You get to know everyone really well and you develop close friendships," he said.

Sophomore Beau Mollinary agrees with Voelkel. "It's so much fun," Mollinary said. "You're on your own and you get a great sense of accomplishment."

The Aggie Pathfinders compete in five to seven competitions a year. The team plans to host a competition at Easterwood Field next year.

'Big 12' may arrive early

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The sooner the Southwest Conference disbands, the sooner the "Big 12" could become reality.

A two-year timetable for the beginning of competition in most sports among the full new membership was set last month when four SWC schools accepted an invitation to join the Big Eight. But with three of the four remaining SWC mem-

bers announcing Tuesday they're going into an expanded Western Athletic Conference, the birth of the "Big 12" may not be two years away.

"We will not do anything on the competitive side in the Big Eight until two things happen," Delois Dodds, athletic director at Texas, said Wednesday. "When the four institutions we're leaving agree to it And, No. 2, when the Big Eight says we're ready."

Gymnastics

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Gymnastics Federation—a private club.

As a sophomore in high school, Bergeron tore a ligament in her knee. After reconstructive surgery, she went through nine months of rehabilitation, then came back strong as a senior.

"I went to the regionals, which involved seven states (in-

cluding Texas), and I ended up placing tenth in the all-around competition," Bergeron said.

Despite her high placing in the latest competition, Bergeron said she plans on working harder and getting better.

"This next year, I hope to increase some of my skill level," Bergeron said.

"I have decided I'd like to get back into the strength conditioning, that way I can get stronger and be able to do all these new tricks."

Little Story

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Through all of this futility, they even had their share of good ballplayers. Hall of Fame pitchers Ferguson Jenkins and Gaylord Perry once called Arlington Stadium home.

1974 American League MVP Jeff Burroughs played there for a while. Bobby Bonds, father of San Francisco Giants' star outfielder Barry Bonds, hit a few dingers out of Arlington Stadium as a member of the home team in the late 1970s. The all-time strikeout and no-hit king Nolan Ryan ran his torrid express through town for the final five years of his illustrious career.

Still, this poor little ballclub couldn't win even a division title.

My story got ya cryin' yet Ags?

I'm gettin' a bit choked up myself and oh yeah, if you're waiting for Old Rock to make an appearance you might as well stop reading this column.

Old Rock is too much of a winner to be associated with a story like this.

Fast forward to 1994.

A new era of hope for this otherwise hopeless ballclub? It was supposed to be.

A new uniform, a new slugger, and a new ballpark, but guess what Ags? 13 games into the new season and our poor little ballclub is a pathetic 4-9. That's right Ags, pathetic.

Pitching problems?

You betcha. The supposed "ace" of what you could call a pitching staff is a paltry 0-4 with a 11.63 earned run average. He's already given up 46 hits in only 21 and two-thirds innings. 46 hits Ags. Pitiful with a capital P!

Since this poor guy ain't no damn t-sipper, I'm not gonna mention his name. He knows who he is.

The poor pitching doesn't stop with Mr. Brown. Gosh darnit, I mentioned the shameful sucker's name. Oh well. Going into last night's 4-3 loss to Toronto, Mr. Brown's pitching staff had a collective 6.86 earned run average.

Now I'll be the first to admit that this ballclub is pretty gifted when it comes to swinging the

lumber but there is no way a team can consistently win games 7-6 or 9-8 or 10-9. Doesn't fly Ags, just doesn't fly.

I'll tell what does fly though, the ball out of the yard when opposing batters face our good friend Mr. Brown and his pitching peers. Off of Brown alone, the opposition has already hit six home runs. Keep in mind the fact that Brown has only pitched a hair over 21 innings this season. Now I'm just a functionally illiterate Liberal Arts major but if my math serves me right, that's one dinger every 3.5 innings. That's bad Ags, bad.

Obviously the Texas Rangers' lifelong futility had nothing to do with the fact that they played all those years in Arlington Stadium because the new park has not helped their record out at all.

Ags, the Rangers need help getting the ball from the mound to the plate. Until they get a quality pitcher or five, the rest of the American league is gonna beat the ever livin', ever lovin', compound, complex Fightin' Texas Aggie hell out of 'em for the rest of the season.

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Los Angeles Times

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