

Navratilova brought life to women's tennis

KRISTINA BUFFIN

Sportswriter



Tuesday marked the end of an era in women's tennis. Legend Martina Navratilova brought her career to an end at the Virginia Slims Championships with a first round loss to Gabriela Sabatini.

Unfortunately she could not have gone out with a win but the loss to Sabatini did not deny the fact that Navratilova is the greatest women's tennis player of all time. With her departure, women's tennis enters a new era where new blood is desperately needed and someone must step up and fill the void that Navratilova has left in the wake of her retirement.

From the time that she began playing on the women's ATP tour until this year, she always played at the top of her game and for a greater part of her 22 year career was one of the top women's players.

Throughout her career she was the no. 1 seeded player for over 300 weeks. Navratilova had 167 singles titles including 9 Wimbledon titles. This feat is unmatched by any other player in the history of women's tennis.

What makes Navratilova unique is her spirit and enthusiasm that she brought to the game. Tennis never became boring or repetitive for Navratilova. Every title win was special and treasured. The most memorable title was her defeat of a much younger Zina Garrison-Jackson to capture her 9th Wimbledon title in 1991. What made the Wimbledon title was that Martina defied the odds. Nobody thought that she had a chance because of her age, she was supposed to slow down not become even better.

Navratilova leaves a women's tour that is in transition. The competition is starting to become stale with the same two players, Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario dominating the majority of the tournaments. However, new faces are beginning to emerge.

The most anticipated is 14 year old Venus Williams. Although she only played in one tournament this year, she did well before losing in the second round to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. Williams will not be playing full-time on the tour until she is eighteen but her presence adds new life to a tour that has been pretty dull until now.

Although Jennifer Capriati left the tour last year in a scandal that revolved around her arrest for possession of drugs, Capriati is beginning her comeback at age eighteen. She may have lost to Anke Huber in her first tournament, but she said that she has regained her desire to play again.

Navratilova may have left the tour but she has left her legacy for other young players to follow. With her defection and the subsequent American citizenship, Martina sets an example for the younger generation that you can overcome any odds, no matter how big, and become extremely successful.

No one can fill the void that Navratilova has left but her departure will allow another player to take the initiative and rise to the top to become the next legendary women's tennis player.

Lady Aggies crush Houston Flight at G. Rollie

Accurate shooting, three pointers instrumental in blowout win

By Stewart Doreen
THE BATTALION

It was bombs away Wednesday night as the Texas A&M women's basketball team the shot lights out from the three-point line to defeat Houston Flight 109-84 in front of 299 people at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"The three pointer has been an emphasis from day one," head coach Candi Harvey said. "It's exciting and we have the ability to do it."

The Aggies shot 12-21 from the three point line with both sophomore Lana Tucker and freshman Carey Owens going 4-4.

After a twenty minute delay in the start of the game due to the Houston Flight's late arrival, the Aggies fell behind early. The Flight's Donna Roper, a former all-conference performer at A&M, had ten points in the opening five minutes to give the Flight a 19-12 lead.

The Aggies came right back taking advantage of Owens' hot hand. Midway through the first half, Owens scored 13 of her 15 first-half points in four minutes to bring A&M back into the game. The momentum stayed with the Aggies the rest of the half as they took a 55-43 lead into the half.

"Establishing the outside game and putting in the element of fear when peo-

ple had to defend us," Harvey said, "made our life in the paint much easier."

The second half started out like the first with Houston making a run to cut a 15 point lead to five. Roper's back-to-back three pointers cut the lead to 62-57 six minutes into the half. Roper's 33 points on the night was not enough to beat the Aggies but did leave an impression on Harvey.

"We won't face a better player all year long," Harvey said. "She did it off the dribble. She did it off the pass, and she'd post you up. That's not a look we get everyday in practice."

The Aggies answered the Flight's rally with three pointers by junior transfer

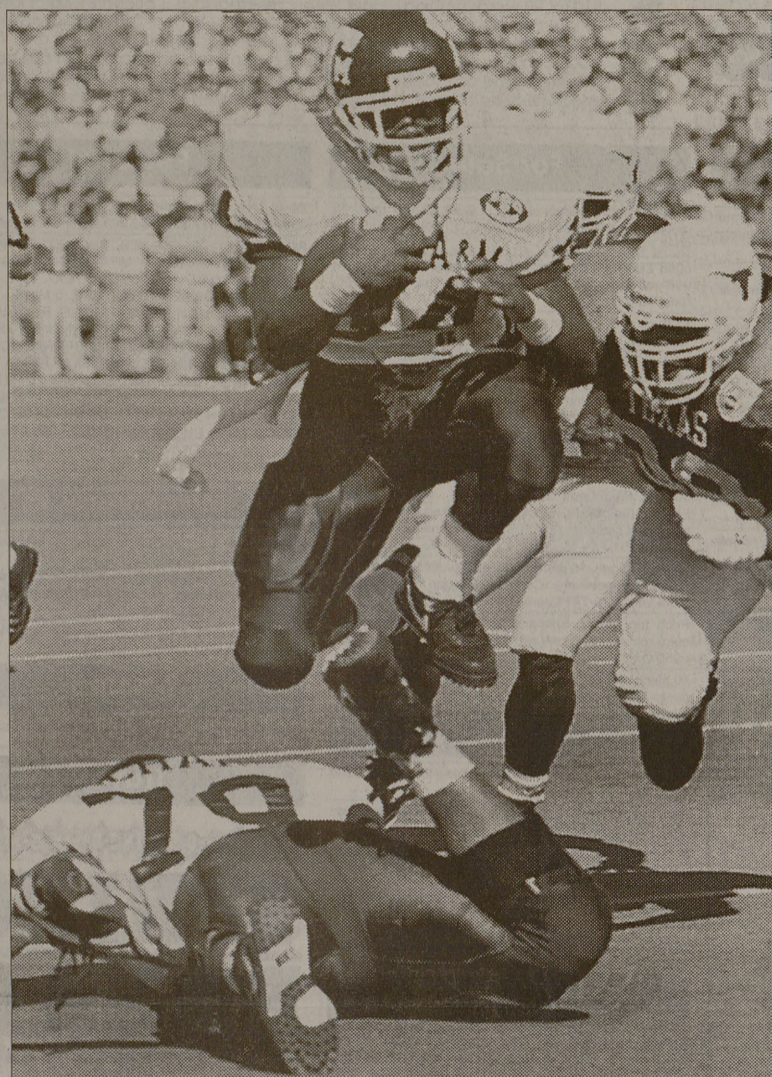
Angel Spinks and two by Tucker to extend the lead to 91-71 with seven minutes left in the half.

"In the second half, we took our intensity up several notches," Harvey said. "Then our defense fed off of it and developed a little bit of a killer instinct."

The Aggies would finish the Flight pushing the lead to the final 109-84 score.

Tucker led the Aggies with 20 points. Owens scored 18 points despite playing only sixteen minutes. Junior Lisa Branch had 18 and dished out 10 assists. Spinks also had a double/double with eleven points and ten rebounds.

The Aggies will play at 7 p.m. next Tuesday at the G. Rollie White coliseum against Russia's Club Uralmash in the last exhibition of the season.



Blake Griggs/THE BATTALION

Running back Leeland McElroy (#34) eludes a tackler during the Texas game. A&M plays their last game of the season against TCU, Saturday.

TCU's road to Cotton Bowl travels through Texas A&M

A&M seniors seek to end season with unbeaten SWC record; Horned Frogs want bowl appearance

Stewart Doreen
THE BATTALION

The upcoming Texas A&M-Texas Christian University match up can be called slightly one-sided.

The 9th-ranked Aggies have not lost to the Horned Frogs since 1972 winning by an average margin of 41 points. TCU, however, is ready to put the memories of past failures behind them and play for a shot the 1995 Mobil Cotton Bowl.

"It's time to forget the past and focus on the present," senior defensive tackle Royal West said. "It's exciting to be playing in a meaningful game in November."

The Horned Frogs can go to the Cotton Bowl, their first trip since 1959, if they win out and Baylor and Texas Tech get upset. Another win will assure the Frogs of their first bowl appearance since 1984.

"If we want to get our program where they (Texas A&M) are, we have to step up and play well," head coach Pat Sullivan said. "What we want to do is get TCU where we're involved in that situation."

The TCU Horned Frogs, 6-3 overall, 3-2 in conference, come into Saturday's game with one of the conference's more potent offenses

averaging a league leading 424 yards a game. Junior quarterback Max Knake is the conference leader in most statistical passing categories including yards, completion percentage, touchdowns, fewest interceptions and passing rating.

Junior running back Andre Davis is the conference's leading ground gainer with 136 yards per game this year. Last season, he gained 138 yards against the Aggie defense that gave up an average of 88 yards per game.

Knake thinks the Horned Frogs' well-rounded attack will be able to move the ball on the Aggies.

"We can move the ball on anybody," Knake said. "It's a matter of putting the ball in the end zone."

Sullivan, who is 12-18-1 at TCU, said the Aggie defense has not changed much since he first arrived at A&M in 1992.

"They don't look a lot different than the other two A&M teams," Sullivan said. "Defensively they may be quicker."

The defense is a spot where the Horned Frogs are quite vulnerable. This season the Frogs have given up 25.6 points and over 210 yards per game on the ground. Going up against A&M's duo of senior Rodney Thomas and sophomore Leeland McElroy, TCU knows that this could be a problem.

"The key to A&M is stopping the run and forcing them into passing situations," West said. "Rodney Thomas and Leeland McElroy are two of the best backs we will ever face."



Sullivan

Aggie swimmers, divers to compete in Nebraska invitationals

By Drew Diener
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's swimming and diving teams will get a preview of future Big 12 competition this weekend at the Husker Sprint Classic and the Husker Shootout Invitational in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The University of Nebraska, the University of Kansas, and the University of Missouri will be participating in the two meets.

A&M head swimming coach Mel Nash said the meets will be beneficial in evaluating future competition in the new conference.

"We don't get to see them (future Big 12 schools, currently in the Big Eight) except at the NCAAs," Nash said. "We want to get Big 12 exposure, get things going, and learn more about them."

The Husker Sprint Classic will take place Friday night followed by the Husker Shootout Invitational, which is scheduled for Saturday

and Sunday.

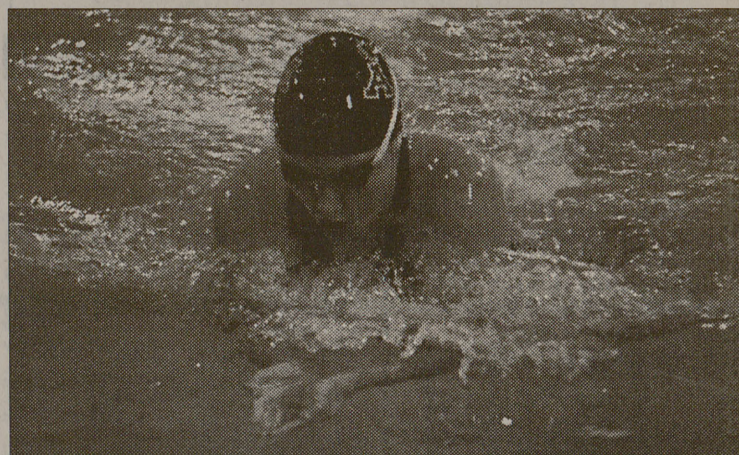
Nash said the format for the Sprint Classic is unique, with swimmers competing in 25 and 50 yard sprints. Normally, swimmers race a minimum of 100 yards.

"Hopefully that will make it exciting," Nash said. "They are trying to market the match for TV."

Nash said changes will be made in the diving competition as well. Teams will be limited to one diver, who can change his or her dive before an actual attempt. This enables the divers to play off the competition.

This weekend's events will also serve as a homecoming of sorts for four members of the A&M teams. Senior Rich Nolte and sophomore Robb Pantano are the two Nebraska natives on the mens' squad. Senior Susie Geyer and freshman Jodi Janssen from the women's team also hail from Nebraska.

Nash said the four are excited about getting a chance to swim in their home state.



Blake Griggs/THE BATTALION

An Aggie swimmer practices in P.L. Natatorium. The swim and diving teams travel to Nebraska to compete with future Big 12 schools.

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