

SPORTS
BRIEFS

Women's tennis hosts dual matches

The Texas A&M women's tennis team will host Southwest Conference dual matches against Texas Christian and Texas Tech on Thursday and Friday.

Weather permitting, the Lady Aggies will face TCU in a noon match at the Omar Smith Tennis Center, but if it is raining, the match will be moved to the Champions Tennis Club in Houston and start at 2 p.m. The Texas Tech match is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Friday and could also be moved because of weather.

UTSA doubleheader cancelled due to rain

The Texas A&M softball doubleheader vs. Texas-San Antonio scheduled for yesterday was canceled because of inclement weather.

The Lady Aggies will resume play Wednesday, April 5, in a doubleheader vs. Southwest Texas State at the Lady Aggie Softball Complex.

Georgia hires Tulsa basketball coach

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Tubby Smith, who led Tulsa to the NCAA tournament's final 16 the past two years, resigned today and was expected to become coach at Georgia.

"Much of the credit for the rise of TU's basketball program to its present level is directly attributable to the efforts and hard work of Tubby Smith and his coaching staff," Tulsa president Robert Donaldson said.

Georgia scheduled an afternoon news conference in Athens to address the Bulldogs' coaching vacancy. Georgia athletic director Vince Dooley was looking to replace Hugh Durham, who was fired March 19 after 17 years.

The 43-year-old Smith took over a Tulsa team that had lost favor in the community since Nolan Richardson left in 1985 for Arkansas. In four years, he restored excitement with an up tempo style.

Tight end Jackson traded to Green Bay

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Keith Jackson, the five-time Pro Bowler, has been traded by the Miami Dolphins to the Green Bay Packers for an undisclosed draft choice.

Jackson, 29, has caught 388 passes for 4,636 yards and 38 touchdowns in his nine-year career. He was deemed expendable by the Dolphins after they signed free agent tight end Eric Green.

He is also coming off a down year. He had 59 receptions for 673 yards and seven touchdowns but also was criticized by coach Don Shula and teammates for a number of drops.

Jackson was a first-round draft choice of the Philadelphia Eagles in 1988, spending four years with that team before moving to the Dolphins for the last three seasons.

Jackson is the second Miami player acquired by Green Bay recently. Wide receiver Mark Ingram was obtained March 21 in exchange for a fourth-round selection in next month's college draft.

Ramp Romp right around the corner

Texas A&M's Department of Recreational Sports is sponsoring the fifth annual Kyle Field Ramp Romp on Saturday, April 1 at 9 a.m.

The event includes a 5K course that will begin at Kyle Field, wind its way through the Texas A&M campus, and return to the stadium. Runners will tackle two miles on the flat course and 1.1 miles on the ramps.

The fastest male and female contest participants will receive a \$200 travel voucher from Continental Airlines.

For more information, call Drew McMillen at 845-1887.

A&M happens to be her 'Truelove'

Take-charge attitude provides challenge to Lady Ag first baseman.

By Robert Rodriguez
THE BATTALION

Some say true love is hard to find these days. Luckily for the Texas A&M softball team, they found it: Truelove at first base.

Sophomore Mya Truelove has been a starter for two years and said she has to assume a role as one of the leaders on the team.

"One of my personal goals this year is to be more of a team leader," Truelove said. "That's something that we lack on our team, someone who steps up and takes charge. I would like to step up and try to help everybody out."

"My dad played softball and he was really good and I used to watch him."

— *Mya Truelove*
Lady Aggie first baseman

Truelove flirted with the .300 mark in batting average last year and led the team in doubles. She also tied for the team lead in home runs and was the first Lady Aggie to hit a home run at the Lady Aggie softball complex.

"This year's team has so much more talent on it across the board than we did last year," Truelove said. "It's just taking this year's team a lot longer to pull things together than last year's."

A graduate from Deer Park High School, Truelove was a three-time first team All-district selection. She was named the

district's most valuable player in her junior year and was named on the first team All-greater Houston squad in her senior year.

Truelove was recruited by many schools and narrowed her choice to A&M, Oklahoma, and Southwestern Louisiana. Even though she enjoyed visiting Oklahoma, Truelove said A&M was for her.

"When I came here, I just loved it," Truelove said. "We went to a football game and it was great. A&M is a place where once you visit, if you are the kind of person that fits into that kind of life, that's where you want it to go."

Truelove began playing softball at the age of seven. Even though she tried other sports, she said softball was always her favorite.

"When I was young, it was always just softball," Truelove said. "That's all I ever played. Not until junior high did I play volleyball, and if I didn't play softball in college, I would definitely be playing volleyball."

Many influences helped Truelove get interested in softball when she was younger.

"When I was seven, softball was the thing to do," Truelove said. "My dad played softball and he was really good and I used to watch him. My mom was my soul supporter and probably never missed a game in my life."

One of Truelove's goals is to help the team finish strong the rest of the season.

"We really have not started off on the right step this year," Truelove said. "I just hope that our team pulls together the rest of the season and win every ballgame from here on out."



First baseman **Mya Truelove** (right) discusses strategies with Lady Aggie pitcher **Christy Bunting**.

Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Dallas off life support with eyes on playoff hunt

DALLAS (AP) — The once-woeful Dallas Mavericks have hit the 30-victory mark and are bearing down on the Denver Nuggets and Sacramento Kings for the eighth playoff spot in the NBA Western Conference.

"If your heart is beating and your blood is pumping, you've got to take a look at the standings now," said Dallas coach Dick Motta.

The Mavericks are two games behind Denver and three behind Sacramento with a hard road trip on the horizon. They play at Charlotte, New York and Boston in the next three games.

"We'll know more about our playoff chances after we come off the next road trip," Motta said. "If we are going to make the playoffs we have to win at least one and possibly two of the games."

There are 15 games left on the Dallas schedule.

Dallas won only 24 games in the last two seasons. But Motta, who abruptly resigned as coach in 1987, has turned things around in his first season back with the team.

"We're having a lot of fun now," said Jamal Mashburn. "We've won 30 games and we only won 13 all of last year. It's a great feeling. There's not much you can say about last year. We have some coaching now."

Quinn Buckner was fired after the Mavs disastrous season in which Mashburn chafed under what he considered a dictatorial rule.

"Coach Motta brings us stability, structure, and experience," Mashburn said. "He brought fun back to basketball."

Mashburn said there has been some "ridiculous talk" that the Mavs shouldn't get into the playoffs because they'd miss a lottery pick.

"That doesn't make any sense," Mashburn said. "We've got to win this for ourselves. This is what we've worked so hard for."

Dallas, which hadn't won five straight games since 1990, has won eight of its last nine games, including a 114-93 whipping of the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night. The Mavs are 10-6 since star forward Jim Jackson, their highest scorer, suffered an ankle injury.

Jackson could be back within a week.

"If we can hang in there until Jim gets back there is no telling what we can do," Mashburn said.

"We play better on the road than we do at home," said Dallas guard Jason Kidd.

Lakers prove to be no match for Spurs

David Robinson pours in 30 points as San Antonio racks up ninth victory in a row.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson scored 30 points and grabbed 16 rebounds Wednesday night to lead the streaking San Antonio Spurs to their ninth straight victory, 107-84 over the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Spurs' triumph set their season-best winning streak after

three previous eight-game streaks. San Antonio has won 28 of its last 32 games and is 43-9 since Dec. 10.

J.R. Reid added 14 points and 13 rebounds for San Antonio, while Sean Elliott had 13 points, Chuck Person 11 and Jack Haley 10.

Cedric Ceballos scored 17 points and Anthony Peeler added 15 for the Lakers, who saw their season-best five-game winning streak snapped.

San Antonio put the game away with an 11-1 run midway

through the third quarter. Reid's layup extended San Antonio's lead to 67-47, its largest margin until the fourth quarter.

Los Angeles led until Vinny Del Negro's 3-point basket gave San Antonio the lead for good with 1:31 left in the opening period.

Vlade Divac's alley-oop slam at the buzzer pulled the Lakers within 45-40 at intermission. Th basket culminated a run of eight straight Los Angeles points to close the first half.

Wednesday's victory marked

the seventh time the Spurs have won 50 games since joining the NBA in 1977. San Antonio's record of 50-18 is the franchise's best in history at this point of the season and is the best in the Western Division.

San Antonio has won its last six games with starting power forward Dennis Rodman on the bench. The NBA's leading rebounder suffered a third-degree separation of the acromioclavicular joint of his right shoulder March 19 while riding his motorcycle.

Aikman offers own 'Life's Little Instruction Book'

Troy Aikman is known for throwing long touchdown passes to Michael Irvin and handing off to Emmitt Smith. But one thing he is not known for is writing books for children.

While most of the sports world may be overwhelmed with the autobiographies of Nolan Ryan, Jimmy Johnson and Emmitt Smith, they will read a different kind of story from Aikman. "Things Change" is about the lessons of early childhood and success in life.

Although football plays a small part in the book, it's the lessons in life he learned from change that dominate the pages.

While Charles Barkley and other professional players have shied away from the title of role model, Aikman has said that parents should share that role

along with athletes.

That's exactly what he suggests in his book about change that draws from his experiences on the field and off. Lessons to be used not just in the competitive arena, but in life are the focus of the book.

Aikman writes about how to keep going when you're hurt, focusing on goals, finishing what you start, attitude and doing extra work to get better. He also mentions forgetting the problems of the past and wiping them off "like dust on a cowboy boot."

Aikman cites a time from his early childhood when he was playing teeball



and the coach put a boy in the game that Aikman didn't think was very good. He ended up voicing his opinion rather loudly on the field.

He goes on to explain that his mother just about ended his career with some well deserved discipline after the game.

Aikman's childhood is the framework on which his book is based and one to which we can all relate. Not all of us may possess two Superbowl rings and be at the peak of professional football, but we can relate to the experiences of change.

Hey, maybe this book isn't just for kids. The Houston Rocket's Vernon

Maxwell could learn about attitude. Where was his mind, when he proceeded off the court and into the stands to "discipline" a fan for his heckling remarks.

This book could also be a good for "I'm no role model" Barkley who tried to spit on a fan for his snide remarks and instead hit a little girl a couple of seasons ago.

Perhaps even Scottie Pippen could learn how to refrain from throwing tantrums when things go wrong on the court. No more throwing chairs, Scottie.

Hey, even whole organizations like Major League Baseball could learn how to share, monetarily and otherwise.

Yes, there are definitely a lot of individuals, children and adults alike, who could learn from the lessons of "Things Change."

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