

SPORTS BRIEFS

A&M softball team goes 2-2 against USC

The Texas A&M softball team held its own in a four-game weekend series against No. 13 South Carolina, winning the second game of a Saturday doubleheader to split the four game series with the Lady Gamecocks.

In the second game, Erin Field outdueled Trinity Johnson, the nation's strikeout leader, as the Lady Aggies took the 6-5 decision with a run in the top of the eighth inning. A&M lost the first game on Saturday 4-2.

Field put on one of the greatest athletic performances of the season, starting and pitching all four of the games in a two-day span. Field, going 2-2 over the weekend, moved her record to 13-12 on the year.

On Friday, Field faced Johnson for the first time and the two matched zeroes until South Carolina broke through to score two runs in the bottom of the sixth season. The Lady Aggies could not come back and lost the game 2-0.

In the second game, the Lady Aggies' bats finally came alive as they pounded out three runs in the third inning and four more in the fourth to take a 7-3 decision over the Lady Gamecocks. Mya Truelove led the offensive attack by going 2-for-4 with a three-run triple in the fourth.

A&M pair take first in SWC championship

Two Texas A&M freshman golfers showed the rest of the Southwest Conference a glimpse of the future at the women's 1995 SWC Golf Championship in Dallas this weekend.

Isabelle Rosberg and Jamie Hullett each finished the 54-hole, three-day course with a score of 230, good for a first-place tie.

The University of Texas won the overall tournament with a team score of 951. The Lady Aggies finished second, just four strokes behind the Lady Longhorns with a score of 955. No other team came within 40 shots of the top spot.

The Lady Aggies had the tournament lead after the first day of competition, shooting a 312 to take a four-stroke lead over Texas. On the second day, Texas outshot A&M by six strokes to take a two-stroke lead, and held the Lady Aggies off Sunday, outshooting them 320-322.

Hullett shot a 74 on Sunday to tie her teammate for the individual championship. She shot a pair of 78s in the first two rounds.

Rosberg opened up the competition with a round of 75, leading the pack along with Texas junior Kori Johns.

The men's SWC Championship begins today.

Color commentator Cosell dies at 77

NEW YORK (AP) — Howard Cosell, whose caustic "tell it like it is" personality made him the world's most celebrated sportscaster and turned "Monday Night Football" into a national institution, died Sunday. He was 77.

Cosell, who underwent cancer surgery in 1991, died of a heart embolism at New York University's Hospital for Joint Diseases, grandson Justin Cohane said.

He was the strident, colorful voice of ABC radio and television from 1953 to 1992. It was a period of phenomenal growth and change in America's pastimes, spurred by television's cascading millions and increased greed among athletes and promoters.

Cosell chronicled it that way, revolutionizing a broadcasting industry more used to parroting the party line.

"Howard Cosell was one of the most original people ever to appear on American television," said ABC News President Rooney Arledge, who was head of ABC Sports during Cosell's heyday. "He became a giant by the simple act of telling the truth in an industry that was not used to hearing it and considered it revolutionary."

Bailey's grand slam shocks Red Raiders 9-8

□ A five-run 10th inning gives the Aggies a split with Texas Tech.

By Tom Day
THE BATTALION

For every baseball player, there is one common dream. At Olsen Field on Sunday, that dream came true for A&M first baseman Jeff Bailey.

With the Aggies trailing Texas Tech 8-5 with two outs and the bases loaded in the bottom of the 10th inning, Bailey smashed a grand slam, propelling the team to a dramatic 9-8 victory. The blast was Bailey's second home run of the game and seventh of the season.

"It was the biggest moment of my life. I was just gliding around the bases. I don't even think I touched them."

—Jeff Bailey, Aggie first baseman

"It was the biggest moment of my life," Bailey said. "You dream about being in a situation like that all of your life and to be in one is just great."

"I was just gliding around the bases. I don't even think I touched them."

Through the game's first 4 and 1/2 innings, it did not look like Tech would allow A&M the chance for any late-inning heroics. The Red Raiders jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead on the strength of shortstop Dion Ruecker's second inning two-run homer.

However, A&M struck back in the middle innings with Bailey's first home run of the game, a two-run shot in the fifth. Junior reserve David Minor's sixth inning pinch-hit single knocked in two more runs to knot the game at four.

The Aggies would rely on the

sharp pitching arm of Dean Mitchell to carry them to the 10th. After taking over in the third inning, the junior hurler silenced the powerful Tech bats until leaving the game with the bases loaded in the final inning.

"Dean came in and did an amazing job," Bailey said. "Tech has some incredible hitters who are going to get their ten hits and score six or seven runs and Dean shut them down."

"My first inning, we got a 1-2-3 inning and that got some momentum going," Mitchell said. "After that, I kind of struggled, but seemed to work my way through."

In the bottom of the ninth, the Aggies had a golden opportunity to win the game after a lead off double by Chad Alexander. But the Aggies failed to capitalize, ending the inning with three



Roger Hsieh/THE BATTALION

The Aggie baseball team celebrates their 6-4 win against the Texas Tech Red Raiders Friday afternoon at Olsen Field. A&M split the series with Tech 2-2 and stayed in first place in the SWC with a 12-6 mark.

straight outs.

Unfortunately for A&M, the floodgates opened in the top of the 10th inning, as Tech scored four runs on two bases loaded walks and a two-run single by Ruecker.

"The emotions go so high and so low," A&M head coach Mark Johnson said. "Chad leads off (the bottom of the ninth) with a double and you think things are going to work out and then it doesn't. But, momentum is still on our side and we felt like if we got out of (the 10th), we were going to win the ball game."

"(But then) we have trouble, and you think it's all over."

Then came the bottom of

the 10th.

Following one-out singles by Robert Harris and Paul Barber, Ryan Huffman lined a base hit, driving in Harris and bringing the Aggies within three runs. A two-out walk by Alexander loaded the bases and set the stage for Bailey's miracle hit.

"I called (Bailey) over and said look for something you can turn on," Johnson said. "You have to set the table as best you can, and with him being the winning run, you have to go ahead and let him hack and see what happens."

"Dean Mitchell gave us a chance to get back in the game and Minor came off the bench and got a key single," Johnson said. "There were a lot of heroes, but obviously Jeff was the kingpin."

Sunday's dramatic victory capped a bittersweet weekend that saw the Aggies split the four-game series with the Red Raiders.

Friday, A&M opened the series on a strong note, riding the arm of pitcher Justin Atchley to a 6-4 victory. The senior hurler threw eight strong innings, allowing only three earned runs and striking out four. Sophomore third baseman Jason Stephens paced the Aggies, driving in three runs on 4 for 4 hitting.

On Saturday, A&M's 15-game winning streak was snapped as the Raiders swept a doubleheader from the Aggies by the scores of 13-6 and 4-0. The victories marked the first regular season wins ever for Tech at Olsen Field.

However, after Sunday's comeback triumph, a series split never felt sweeter for the Aggies.

"(Saturday), we didn't play well and we were kind of down," Bailey said. "We started out the series well, but then we got in a lull."

"We came out today and had to make a stand. We picked it back up and we have a little momentum going for the Texas series."

Lady Aggies' run ends against No. 3 Texas

□ The women's tennis team falls to UT 5-0 in the Southwest Conference Championship.

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's tennis team may have had the homecourt advantage but the third-ranked University of Texas Longhorns could not be stopped. Texas defeated the Lady Aggies 5-0 at the Southwest Conference Championship final this weekend at Omar Smith Center to win their eighth consecutive title.

"This was the second time we played Texas this season," head coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "We competed well and were right there but we didn't catch the breaks."

The Lady Aggies had an easy first round matchup against the University of Houston, winning 6-0. Houston had only five healthy players and had to default at the number six singles and the number three doubles matches.

The second round was a little more difficult for A&M. The Lady Aggies defeated the Rice Owls 5-3. Rice had health problems as well. Two of their top six players were injured.

"There's no question that this was a tough fight, and that's exactly what we expected," Kleinecke said. "That's with Rice playing without two of their top six players. It was a battle all the way down the lineup."

The Lady Aggies split the singles matches with Nancy Dingwall, Wilson Pate and Julie

Beahm winning their matches. In doubles play, Dingwall and Pate defeated Mysliveccek and Veloso 6-3, 6-2.

Lonna Logan and Anna Strakosova defeated Rice's Ivanova and Talton 7-5, 6-4 to win the doubles point.

"Individually, Dingwall did a fantastic job putting us in a position to win," Kleinecke said. "Lonna, Wilson and Christine put us in the same position as well. Rice was a tough match in the tournament."

Dingwall and Pate finished the season as the number one doubles team in the SWC while Beahm and Monica Rebolledo finished third. Beahm also finished as the sixth best singles player in the conference.

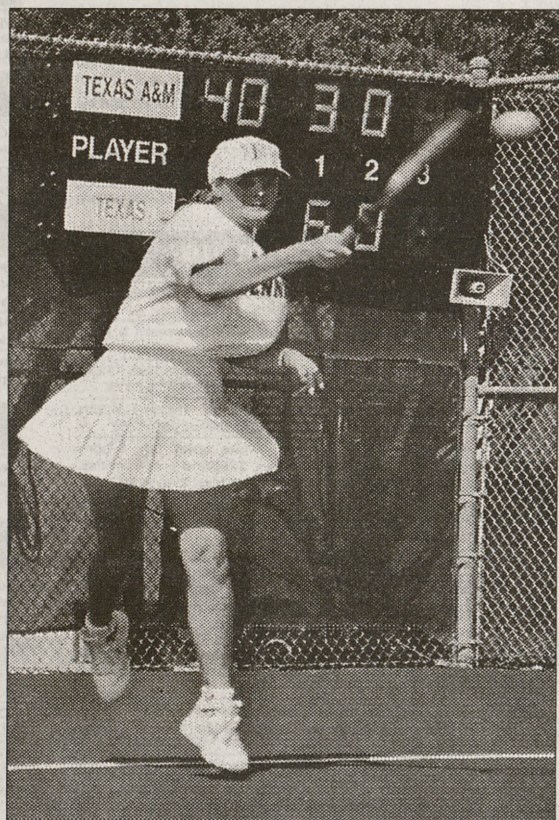
By defeating Rice, the Lady Aggies advanced to their third straight SWC final to face the Lady Longhorns. While the score, 5-0, indicates a blowout, the match was quite close.

"It was a good match," Dingwall said. "We played a little better at the one, two and three positions today. We played and competed well, but we were a little tired and running out of energy."

Texas won all the singles matches with the closest match involving number one seed Dingwall. Dingwall was beaten by Texas' Kelly Pace 7-5, 7-5.

"What was different about the match tonight was that they came up with the shots at the key times," Kleinecke said. "But Texas is losing key players next year and our team will be all upperclassmen. I'm looking forward to next year."

The Lady Aggies finish the season at 12-12.



Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Junior Lonna Logan returns the ball to her Longhorn opponent Sunday afternoon.

TCU too strong for A&M tennis

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

In a field of several nationally ranked teams, the defending Southwest Conference champion Texas A&M men's tennis team finished third in the SWC Championships held at Omar Smith Tennis Center this weekend.

"We had a good weekend," head coach David Kent said. "We were two of three and this will help us in the regionals two weeks from now. We will be ready and confident."

The third-seeded Aggies defeated Texas Tech 4-0 on Friday. Leading the Aggies were freshman Carlos Tori who defeated Tech's Brick Guzman 6-4, 6-3, and Robbie Krause who defeated Marco Borrelli 6-2, 6-2.

"(Carlos) Tori has an unlimited future," Kent said. "He is only a freshman and is already an outstanding tennis player. He is the star of the future."

Despite their resounding defeat of the Red Raiders, the Aggies had problems with 13th-ranked Texas Christian University. The Aggies lost 4-1.

"I'm disappointed," junior Eduardo Martinez. "It should have been closer to TCU. We didn't win the key points when they counted."

The Aggies sole point in the match came from doubles play. The team of Blake Arrant and Bernardo Martinez defeated Paul Robinson and David Roditi, the No. 1 doubles team in the nation, 8-4.

"We had played them before, so we had a good strategy and a good frame of mind," Bernardo Martinez said. "I just wanted to get the doubles point for the team. It was a huge win, too bad we didn't win in the singles."

The weather was a factor in the tournament on Saturday. Several rain delays and postponements forced players off the court.

"The weather hurt us a little bit," Kent said. "They (TCU) has some big strong guys and the wind favored them."

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Draft picks give hope to long-suffering Oilers' fans

Floyd Reese, I love you. The Houston Oilers' general manager, whose claim-to-fame used to be his striking resemblance to former Astros' manager Art Howe, has become a popular man in Houston by doing the unheard of:

He's trying to make the Oilers a better team.

...Sorry, I passed out again. I just can't fathom a Bud Adams' owned football team addressing player needs during the off-season; it just doesn't seem right.

But there the Oilers were before the draft, picking up All-Pro center Mark Stepnoski from the Dallas Cowboys and snatching super return man Mel Gray from the Detroit Lions.

I asked myself what was going on: Were the Oilers planning to package these two free agents in a deal for the Carolina Panthers' seventh round draft pick? Was Bud trying to over-compensate for the loss of War-

NICK GEORGANDIS
SPORTS EDITOR



ren Moon by signing a team of stars and trading them all for Moon? I was confused and scared.

As April 22 neared, I tried to keep my mind off the impending draft. But thoughts kept nagging at me: Would the Oilers have the guts to draft Steve McNair? Or would they go with a safe pick like Kerry Collins or Michael Westbrook?

I had to go to Houston on Saturday and targeted my departure time for 11:40 a.m. I had to know the Oilers' decision before I hit the road.

It seemed to take an eternity for Cincinnati to move up and snatch Ki-Jana Carter and then for the Jacksonville Jaguars to take Tony Boselli. Finally, the commissioner walked slowly to the podium with the Oilers' draft pick on a slip of paper in his hand.

What name would Tagliabue speak? McNair? Westbrook?

Drugfensive end Warren Sapp? Stormy Case? Brian Bosworth? Yinka Dare?

I was nervous, borderline crazy, but suddenly jubilant when the phrase, "Quarterback, from Alcorn State" tumbled out of Tagliabue's mouth.

I jumped around in my apartment and said "Oh, yeah!" 325 times. That's once for every time the Oilers have blown a fourth quarter lead since 1980.

Driving the 93 miles to Houston, I would spontaneously sing "Houston Oilers #1" and "Luv Ya Blue" at the top of my lungs, scaring passing motorists and defying the laws of rhythm.

It wasn't until 10 hours later did I realize what else the Oilers had done Saturday. Watching the local news, I was completely unaware of the Oilers' other three picks of the day. Imagine my surprise when Rodney Thomas' mug appeared on the screen.

Jubilation again. The Oilers' had picked up one of the classiest guys of all time and a hell of a bruising back too.

It had been rumored that the

San Francisco 49ers would nab Thomas with the 30th pick in the first round, but that fell through when the Niners made their move and traded up to 10th to grab J.J. Stokes, the new heir apparent to John Taylor as Jerry Rice's opposite receiver. Somehow, no one else picked up on Thomas, and the Oilers, after drafting defensive end Anthony Cook and wide receiver Chris Sanders (not that one), took Thomas with the 89th pick overall.

Was Thomas only the 89th best player in the draft? Not likely, considering he's A&M's third all-time leading scorer and just as adept at running around defenders as over them.

Thomas could very likely be the Oilers' starting running back in September. Especially with Lorenzo White testing the free agent waters and the Oilers' braintrust extremely disenchanted with Gary Brown's weight problem last year.

Cook looks like another potential starter, which seems strange since McNair, the savior himself, probably won't see much action

during the season to come. The management seems adamant on teaching McNair the Oilers' offense, what that might be is still unclear, before throwing him to the wolves.

That's why the Oilers shelled out the bucks to Chris Chandler. While McNair learns the system, the Oilers need someone who can be consistent while taking the team through the regular season.

Signing McNair will probably be difficult unless the Oilers dump someone with a big contract. With Chandler starting and Bucky Richardson as back-up, that leaves a certain ex-Baylor Bear out in the proverbial cold.

That's right, Cody Carlson, you off-injured, non-producing punk, your days in the Columbia Blue are ending. Granted the Oilers will have to eat most of Cody's salary, but they need the space under the salary cap for McNair's contract.

Air McNair, Rodney, Gray and Stepnoski, for the first time in years, the Oilers' future is shining bright.