

## Sports Ticker

### SWC Baseball

Southwest Conference baseball standings through games of May 1:

	xConf	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
Rice	13-8	.619	37-14	.725
Texas A&M	13-8	.619	35-17-1	.673
Texas Tech	12-8	.600	41-11	.788
Texas	14-10	.583	41-14	.745
TCU	10-11	.476	26-25	.510
Baylor	7-13	.350	25-24	.510
Houston	5-16	.238	24-27	.471

### Major League Baseball

#### National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	5	1	.833	—
Montreal	4	2	.667	1
Philadelphia	3	2	.600	1 1/2
New York	2	4	.333	3
Florida	1	5	.167	4

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	4	2	.667	—
Houston	3	3	.500	1
St. Louis	3	4	.429	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	2	4	.333	2
Cincinnati	0	6	.000	4

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Colorado	6	1	.857	—
San Diego	4	3	.571	2
San Francisco	4	3	.571	2
Los Angeles	3	4	.429	3

#### Tuesday's Games

San Francisco 4, Los Angeles 3, 15 min.  
 Atlanta 7, Florida 1  
 Montreal 9, New York 6  
 Philadelphia 6, Cincinnati 0  
**Houston 5, Chicago 2**  
 Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 6  
 Colorado 6, San Diego 5, 11 innings

#### Wednesday's Games

Pittsburgh (Loaiza 1-0) at St. Louis (Watson 0-0), 1:35 p.m.  
**Houston (Reynolds 0-1) at Chicago (Trachsel 0-0), 2:20 p.m.**  
 San Diego (Hamilton 0-0) at Colorado (Ritz 0-0), 3:05 p.m.  
 Atlanta (Glavine 0-0) at Florida (Witt 0-1), 7:35 p.m.  
 New York (Saberhagen 0-0) at Montreal (Martinez 1-0), 7:35 p.m.  
 Philadelphia (West 1-0) at Cincinnati (Smiley 0-0), 7:35 p.m.  
 Los Angeles (Astacio 0-0) at San Francisco (Leiter 1-0), 10:35 p.m.

#### American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	4	2	.667	—
New York	4	2	.667	—
Toronto	4	3	.571	1/2
Baltimore	2	4	.333	2
Detroit	2	4	.333	2

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Milwaukee	5	1	.833	—
Cleveland	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Kansas City	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Minnesota	2	4	.333	3
Chicago	1	5	.167	4

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	5	1	.833	—
California	3	3	.500	2
Oakland	2	4	.333	3
Texas	2	5	.286	3 1/2

#### Tuesday's Games

Late Games Not Included  
 Cleveland 11, Detroit 1  
 Chicago at Toronto, (n)  
 Boston 8, New York 0  
**Seattle 15 Texas 3**  
 Kansas City 4, Minnesota 3  
 Oakland 2, California 0

#### Wednesday's Games

Cleveland at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.  
 Chicago at Toronto, 7:35 p.m.  
 Milwaukee at Baltimore, 7:35 p.m.  
 Boston at New York, 7:35 p.m.  
**Seattle at Texas, 8:05 p.m.**  
 Kansas City at Minnesota, 8:05 p.m.  
 Oakland at California, 10:35 p.m.

# Lady Aggie tennis team weathers stormy 1995

□ Finishing second in the SWC Tournament helped A&M regain confidence.

By Tom Day  
 THE BATTALION

Like a wild roller coaster ride, the 1995 spring season was anything but smooth for the Lady Aggie tennis team. Mired in inconsistency throughout the season, the team hit every possible high and low in just three months.

The team started the season off with a bang in February, sweeping North Texas 9-0 at the Omar Smith Tennis Center. However, follow-up losses to Louisiana State and Southern Methodist convinced the Lady Aggies that adjustments would have to be made if they were to mount a serious charge in the Southwest Conference race.

"We started off (conference play) with a loss to SMU, but we caught ourselves and made the corrections we needed and got back on track," A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "I was really proud of the way we bounced back."

Picking up a little momentum, the team won four consecutive dual matches, including key conference wins over Rice University and the University of Houston. However, the team faltered in mid-March, suffering tough setbacks to top 25 opponents Wake Forest and Tennessee on their way to losing five straight non-conference matches.

"Our biggest disappointment was non-conference play," Kleinecke said. "In March, we didn't play as well as what we had set goals for."

"We didn't do what we needed to do and as a result, our ranking dropped."

The Lady Aggies finished the regular season winning five of their last eight dual matches, tying for second place in the conference.

"The highlight of the season was the conference race as a whole," Kleinecke said. "Finishing in second place after that (SMU) loss was a big feat."

Hosting the SWC Championships April

21-23, the Lady Aggies capped off their up-and-down season with impressive victories over Houston and Rice before losing to the University of Texas 5-0 in the final. Although the team finished the season with a 12-12 record, Kleinecke said the final score was not indicative of the Lady Aggies effort against third-ranked Texas.

"We competed well against Texas, they were just a little tough," Kleinecke said. "We were closer to pulling those matches out than most people thought."

"We had to play two matches in one day in bad weather, so we didn't have any easy matches. I thought they handled themselves extremely well and did a great job."

Kleinecke said the play of Lady Aggie sophomore Julie Beahm was instrumental to the team's spring success.

"Julie was 17-6 in singles play in the spring and that was a big plus for us," Kleinecke said. "She pulled us through a lot of holes."

"Nancy (Dingwall) and Wilson (Pate) winning the conference at No.1 doubles was big as well."

Although there were only two Lady Aggies with winning singles records, Kleinecke said his players backed each other up with key victories.

"Julie and Monica Rebolledo had winning records, but everybody else had a losing record in the singles," Kleinecke said. "That meant even the players with losing records had to come through at other times to make up for the others."

"The team pulled through where the individuals didn't."

After finishing the year with a disappointing No. 42 ranking, Kleinecke said the team will work hard in the next few months in preparation for next spring.

"We're not satisfied with (the ranking) at all and we're dedicating ourselves to making sure we correct that next year," Kleinecke said. "We need to work on some things this summer."

"What we do in the summer and fall is going to determine our success next spring. We're setting high goals again and there's nothing but big expectations for us in the future."



Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Senior Christine DiNardo smashes a backhand during a match in the SWC Tournament April 21-23. The Lady Aggies finished second in the tournament.

## A&M splits with SWTSU

Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M softball team staved off a potential non-winning season Tuesday night by defeating Southwest Texas State 5-2 in the second game of a doubleheader.

The Lady Aggies concluded their regular season with a 29-27 record, down from a 35-10 regular season mark last year.

A winning season was in jeopardy when the game entered the ninth inning with the score tied 2-2. But the Lady Aggies put together a three-run rally in the top half of the ninth and junior pitcher Erin Field shut out SWTSU in the bottom of the inning to preserve the victory.

The Lady Aggies were behind early in the game 2-0 as the Bobcats scored a run in the third and fourth innings. A&M tied the score however with two runs in the top of the sixth inning.

As was her norm this season, Field went the distance, pitching nine innings, giving up nine hits but only one earned run while not issuing a walk.

Field also spearheaded the offensive attack for the Lady Aggies, going 2-for-4 at the plate and driving in two runs.

Also enjoying a big game at the plate for A&M was sophomore first baseman Mya Trulove, who went 3-for-5.

In the first game of the doubleheader, the Lady Aggie offense simply could not get anything started, losing 2-0 in a six-inning game.

## Home cookin' spoils in playoffs

It is the rabid support of 18,000 fans pulling for you. It is the energizing atmosphere that gets the adrenaline pumping and sets spirits soaring.



It is the roar of the crowd that charges the home team up and intimidates the visitors. It is what every team desires but only the "lucky" teams obtain. It is the homecourt advantage.

In the NBA, teams jockey throughout the 82-game regular season to attain this treasured homecourt edge for the playoffs. Once the second season begins, teams are expected to hold serve on their home floor, as a loss there would be tragic.

Typically, in the first round of the NBA playoffs, the home team reigns supreme. This rang true last Thursday and Friday as the home team won the opening game in seven of the eight playoff series.

But like last season, this is not a typical year in the NBA and what happened in Game 2 in several of these matchups was unlikely, yet more entertaining and better for the game.

The top-seeded team in the Eastern Conference, the Orlando Magic, crushed the eighth-seeded Boston Celtics by 47 points in the opening game of that series. A 150 to 1 shot to win the NBA title, the Celtics laughed in the face of adversity and returned to the court two

days later to hand the Magic a seven-point loss in Orlando.

Suddenly more interesting, the series now shifts to the hallowed confines of the Boston Garden, where a young Magic squad will have to stave off elimination by beating the Celtics at least once on their storied parquet floor.

Last season, the Seattle SuperSonics led the NBA with 63 regular season wins and had the homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs, until they met Denver. Down 0-2 in their first round series against highly favored Seattle, the eighth-seeded Nuggets dumped the over-confident Sonics flat on their faces.

In one of the most unlikely comebacks in league history, Denver charged back for a 3-2 series victory.

Supposedly on a mission, the Sonics are said to be hell-bent on advancing past the first round this season. In Game 1 of the series with Los Angeles, they appeared motivated as they embarrassed the Lakers by 25.

But the Sonics have stumbled once again, dropping Game 2 at home and Game 3 in L.A. and now find themselves on the brink of elimination.

Does the homecourt really make that big of difference?

Denver hoped so. Last night, the Nuggets fell against the powerhouse San Antonio Spurs.

Jeez, after last year you would have figured they had them right where they wanted them.

That brings us to the Houston Rockets and Cleveland Cavaliers. The Rockets tied up their first-round series with the Utah Jazz in Salt Lake City while the Cavs evened their series with the New York Knicks in the Big Apple. Notice that both victories were on the road.

Last season in the Western Conference semi-finals, the Rockets had homecourt advantage over the Phoenix Suns, yet lost the first two games at home. Instead of panicking or folding, the Rockets came back, won two games in Phoenix, and eventually became the World Champions.

So if there is one thing the playoffs have taught us the last two years, it's that a team's homecourt advantage can be overcome. Coaches, players and fans constantly harp on the importance of getting the homecourt advantage in the playoffs.

Yet it is becoming more obvious that teams playing on the road are blocking out the noise and intimidation of the home fans and are just getting down to business and pulling out victories.

The homecourt advantage is nice to have, but as recent playoff results have shown, it can be blown out of proportion. What would be the point of sports in general if the team with the homecourt advantage always won? As NBA teams are finding out, there is always room for the underdog.

## Spurs take Nuggets, head to second round

DENVER (AP) — In a game marred by flagrant and technical fouls, Sean Elliott hit a driving layup with 33 seconds left Tuesday as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Denver Nuggets 99-95 to complete a three-game sweep in the best-of-5 playoff series.

San Antonio, which overcame a ferocious fourth-quarter Denver comeback, advanced to the second round of the NBA playoffs, where they will meet the winner of the Seattle-Los Angeles Lakers series.

After Elliott's basket, Denver's Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf missed a desperate 20-foot shot, and the Nuggets fouled Avery Johnson, who hit one of two free throws with 9.9 seconds left. Denver got the rebound, but Reggie Williams passed up a 3-point shot with the Spurs leading 96-93 in favor of a Dikembe Mutombo dunk. Trailing by one, Denver fouled Elliott, who hit 14 of 16 free throws, with 2.7 seconds left. Elliott made the first free throw and iced the game when he rebounded his own miss on the second shot.

David Robinson and Johnson scored 24 points each to lead the Spurs, who beat Denver for the seventh straight time this season. Elliott finished with 18 points.

Bryant Stith and Rodney Rogers scored 18 points each to lead five Nuggets in double figures.

The Aggie Players Association Presents

# FREUDIAN

2 SHOWS!!!  
 It's IMPROV!

# stip

Saturday, May 6, 1995

7 & 10 p.m. Rudder Forum

Ticket Prices:  
 \$3/person,  
 \$5/couple,  
 Doors open 30 min.  
 before the show.  
 Get there early!

## FREE MONEY

Pick up applications in  
 MSC RM 223 F  
 Due: Fri. May 12, 5p.m.

For programming a campus-wide  
 International Awareness Program for the  
 95-96 school year

Open to all International Student Groups  
 and Academic Departments

Sponsored by the Enrichment Fund of the L. T. Jordan  
 Institute for International Awareness, 845-8770

