

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Four Aggies make All-SWC tennis team

The number one A&M men's and women's doubles teams were named to the All-Southwest Conference tennis teams.

On the women's side, Nancy Dingwall and Wilson Pate, who helped the Lady Aggies place second at the SWC Championships, were named along with Melissa Castro and Greta Gibson of Baylor University and Kelly Pace and Cristina Moros of Texas.

On the men's side junior Blake Arrant and senior Bernardo Martinez, who helped the Aggies finish third at the SWC Championships, were named along with two Texas Christian University teams. Ashley Fisher and Jason Weir-Smith and the number one team in the nation Paul Robinson and David Roditi were the other two teams.

1995 SWC Players of the Year Paul Robinson and the University of Texas' Kelly Pace topped the balloting of league coaches in men's and women's singles. Pace is ranked No. 1 in the ITA/Rolax Collegiate Rankings.

Both coaches from the University of Texas, Dave Snyder and Jeff Moore were named men's and women's Coach of the Year, respectively.

### Plans announced for baseball tournament

One more victory for the Texas A&M baseball team and it will clinch the Southwest Conference Tournament. Because of the quick turnaround between the SWC regular season and the SWC tournament, Texas A&M has announced a policy concerning ticket sales.

Season ticket holders will have Monday and Tuesday, May 15 and 16 to renew their option for their same seats during the regular season. Any season tickets options not purchased by the close of business on Tuesday will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 17.

Reserved seat tournament tickets are \$36 each and general admission tournament packages are \$25 each. Both packages include all six sessions as well as an additional seventh ticket in the event of a second championship game in the double-elimination format.

Individual session ticket prices are \$6 for reserved seats, \$5 for adult general admission and \$3 for high school age and under. Single session tickets will go on sale Thursday morning, May 18, at 8 a.m. at the Olsen Field ticket booth.

For more information or ticket sales, contact the athletic ticket office at 845-2311 or 1-800-800-7928.



Senior Brian Parker winds up for a pitch against Cal.-St. Northridge.

## Versatility big asset for Parker

His numbers may be up, but senior Brian Parker still has mastery of the classroom.

By Kristina Buffin  
THE BATTALION

He has had success on the mound as well as in the classroom. Aggie pitcher Brian Parker has become the epitome of a student-athlete. As a recipient of the GTE Academic Achievement Award for the last four years, Parker has maintained over a 3.6 GPR while filling roles as both a starter and a closer.

"It has simply been a matter of managing my time," Parker said. "Once the season starts I don't have a lot of extra time. It has been a matter of creating a routine, it's not that hard."

Parker, a senior biomedical science major, came to A&M from Arlington High School where he compiled a 25-7 record with a 1.10 ERA. At A&M Parker has become the most versatile pitcher on the staff.

"As a pitcher Brian has a very unique role," head coach Mark Johnson said. "He was All-SWC (in 1993). He can play short relief, long relief, the middle, and start."

Although Parker redshirted in 1991 as a true freshman, he believes that it helped him adjust to college life and the team.

"At first I was in awe of everyone," Parker said. "Some freshmen come in with a strong mentality. It took a year but I learned to go out and compete and not worry about failing."

get to pitch every day. I've enjoyed both but I have become accustomed to closing."

Parker's breaking pitch and control have been the keys to his success.

"He has average velocity but great control," Johnson said. "He has control over all four pitches. It's nice to be able to go to the bullpen with someone you now you can count on."

This season, Parker has pitched 37.1 innings with a 5.30 ERA and 35 strikeouts. Parker has not been pitching as much this season but is still maintaining his consistency.

"He has been hit a little harder (this season)," Johnson said. "It is the intangibles like responsibility that have helped him lead as one of the team captains."

Parker's leadership skills have helped the team this season by assisting pitching coach Jim Lawler and become sort of a second pitching coach.

"We need an on-the-field leader and he was chosen for his contributions to the team. He has helped us turn the corner this season," Johnson said.

"It took a year but I learned to go out and compete and not worry about failing"

— Brian Parker  
senior pitcher

In his first season, Parker pitched 24.7 innings with a 3.28 ERA and 14 strikeouts. In 1993 Parker helped the Aggies reach the College World Series with a 5-3 record, 1.93 ERA, 29 strikeouts and five saves.

Parker was named to the All-Southwest Conference team and the CoSIDA GTE District VI Academic All-America team in 1993.

Parker does not have a real preference to starting or closing. He sees advantages to both.

"I have not started that much," Parker said. "Closing has become like a routine where you

## Weldon finds a place to call home

The freshman right fielder adjusts not only to college life but also a new position.

By Robert Rodriguez  
THE BATTALION

The transition from high school to college softball is tough for Weldon, but she said she was confident she could play at the college level.

"Collegiate softball is a lot more of a mental game," Weldon said. "The pitchers were a lot harder and that was a big change. In order to adjust, I had to find a lot of confidence in myself and the support from the team."

This season, Weldon is fourth on the team in hitting with a .296 average and is third on the team in doubles with nine. Her only home run of the season came at Louisiana Tech and Weldon said this was one of her memorable moments as an Aggie.

Coming out of high school, Weldon was recruited primarily as a power hitter. She was a three-time All-District first team selection at Kingwood and was named to the All-Greater Houston team

by the Houston Chronicle. Weldon started playing softball at the age of six and had always wanted to be an Aggie when she got older.

"From the time I was little, I came out and got their autographs of the team," Weldon said. "This was the one place I had always wanted to go no matter what. I have enjoyed it ever since."

Weldon did not immediately start for the Lady Aggies. "Coming out here for the first time, I was so nervous," Weldon said. "However, I became so excited and pumped up, it was just a great feeling."

Weldon has started 44 of the 48 games she has played in. She said she has enjoyed being on the softball team, regardless of her role on the team.

"My teammates and my roommate (Marianne McGuire) and I have become real close," Weldon said. "Just going and traveling places with them, seeing places you have not seen before and winning games, all of it is exciting."

## Best athletes shine in 'run for the roses'

A horse is a horse of course, of course. And no one can talk to a horse, of course. That is of course, unless the horse is the famous...



SHELLY HALL  
SPORTSWRITER

Those fans who prefer the printed word have been fortunate to read about the replay of America's greatest sporting event through the

likes of New York Times turf writer Joe Durso or Billy Reed of Sports Illustrated and a host of other writing professionals that relay the excitement of the race of champions.

The backside of the twin spires, saturated with over 2,000 sports journalists jockeying for position to interview the trainers and jockeys behind history's greatest athletes, are in a race all their own to obtain the best quotes and edge out their fellow sports journalists for the deadline.

The printed word and the voices that have echoed through the twin spires are the voices that have brought the race to horse racing fans beyond the borders of the Blue Grass state.

These media personalities tell of their experiences and their brush with the making of a legend. They tell the story of the births, trials, successes and relationships champions have with their trainers and jockeys.

They tell the story of hard work and the making of a champion. They tell the story that music tells in "the run for the roses."

It's the harmonious symphony of horse and jockey conducted by trainers and "hot walkers" that will wear the blanket of roses on Derby day.

The roses will wilt and the champion will live eternally in the ring of honor alongside legends like Aristides, Affirmed and Secretariat.

They will live on in the hearts of sports fans who hold the memories of their great performances. And that performance will speak for itself, of course.

## Men's tennis finds rocky road back to top

After finishing 23-4 in 1994, the men's tennis team rode 13-9 roller coaster this year.

By Robin Greathouse  
THE BATTALION

With success comes the expectation to perform at a higher level. The Texas A&M men's tennis team found that out the hard way in 1995, facing a barrage of ranked teams while compiling a 13-9 record, down from last year's 23-4 highwater mark.

Texas A&M head tennis coach David Kent said that the year was up-and-down for the team.

"The high points are we beat some teams that are very good during the year," Kent said. "The low point is that we've lost a lot of 4-3 matches."

The Aggies began the season ranked 19th in the country and opened play by routing Southwest Texas State University 7-0.

They peaked in the rankings by midseason at No. 15 with

their win against Clemson but slipped to 22nd by year's end.

A&M finished third in the Southwest Conference Championship Tournament behind Texas Christian University and the University of Texas.

TCU stung the Aggies twice during the season with a 7-0 shellacking on April 14 and a 4-1 beating in the SWC Tournament at the Omar Smith Tennis Center April 23.

Kent said that one player especially stepped up to the challenges this seasons' schedule offered.

"The biggest surprise has been Eric Horan," said Kent. "He won the No. 3 singles in the SWC and he has been good the entire year."

Junior Blake Arrant, the No. 1 singles player and one half of the No. 1 doubles team for A&M, said

that the team's 13-9 regular season record has not left them without hope for postseason success.

"We can make this year even better than last year even though we haven't had the same success," Arrant said. "We have a good chance of putting this together in the regionals and then going on to the NCAA (Championships)."

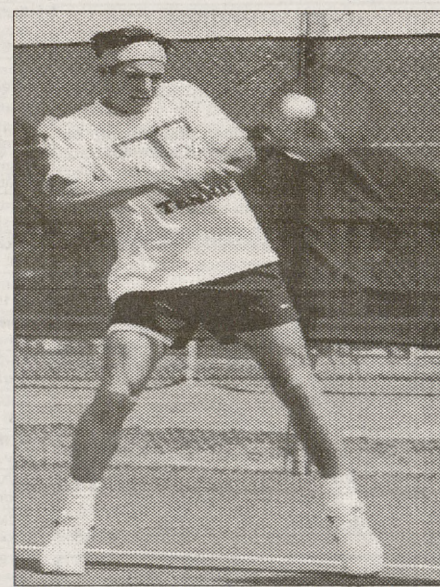
Kent said that things look bright for the '95-'96 season despite the loss of two influential seniors, Bernardo Martinez and Rico Rodarte.

"I think we're going to have a powerhouse next year," Kent said. "We've got two very good recruits coming in."

"Carlos Tori has had to play the high position. I think he'll be a lot better next year."

The Aggies head into the Regional Tournament this weekend as the No. 3 seed. They will face off against the No. 2 seed Arkansas.

Texas A&M will host the tournament at the Omar Smith Tennis Center. Play will begin Saturday morning at nine.



Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Junior Blake Arrant plants his feet as he prepares to hit a backhand shot during the SWC tournament held at A&M two weeks ago.

research abroad

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