

Ags face Hogs at Regional

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

Can lightning strike the same place twice? The Texas A&M men's tennis team is betting on it.

Last year, the Aggies upset top-seeded Arkansas in the NCAA Region VI Championship, gaining a bid to the NCAA Tournament. Now the Razorbacks, the No.2 seed in Region VI come to College Station to face the No.3-seeded Aggies on Saturday.

Texas A&M head coach David Kent said homecourt advantage will be a big factor in Saturday's match.

"We've never beaten them in Fayetteville, but we've been really tough on them outside of there," Kent said. "We are happy to be playing them because they are a class bunch of guys."

The two teams have already met once this season, with the Razorbacks taking a close 4-3 decision. Kent said the team realizes how close they came in Fayetteville and will be ready to throw the first punch on Sunday.

"It was a very close match that came down to them winning the doubles point," Kent said. "We desperately need to come out and win that point to get ahead of them 1-0 this time."

The tournament will mark the final home performances of Aggie seniors Bernardo Martinez and Rico Rodarte. Martinez said this weekend will be the time that he has waited his whole career for.

"I've been waiting for this moment since I was a freshman," Martinez said. "It's going to be tough because I know it's my last match here, but I've done a lot of work and I'll let it all hang out this weekend."

"I really owe a lot for all the help I've received from my coaches and my teammates."

If the Aggies do advance past the Razorbacks, the road to the automatic bid still will not be

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Local product works way back to A&M

□ William Shiflett was a junior college All-Conference in 1994.

By Robert Rodriguez
THE BATTALION

Home. Never has a word described a player as well as it does Texas A&M's William Shiflett. He has lived near home his entire life and when he takes the field, the Aggie catcher protects home with all of his abilities.

Shiflett is a junior college transfer from Blinn Junior College and played high school baseball in Navasota. Even though he lived in the Brazos Valley, Shiflett was not obsessed with playing for the Aggies.

"I didn't really care if I came to A&M or not," Shiflett said. "However, I ended up here and I'm happy with it."

Shiflett originally committed to A&M after high school and attended school during the 1992 fall semester. He said he transferred for several reasons.

"The biggest reason why I transferred was for playing time," Shiflett said. "When I came here, they had Rob Trimble and Rob Lewis catching. When I came out of high school, I needed to get better. Playing in JUCO (junior college) was a good experience for me."

At Blinn, Shiflett lettered both years and was named to the All-Conference team last season. In 1994, Shiflett batted .315 and hit five home runs.

Shiflett said there were some major differences between junior college baseball and Division I baseball.

"The work ethics of the players are a lot different," Shiflett said. "The players work a lot harder in Division I and the pitching is a little bit tougher. You see better pitching every day."

This season, Shiflett is platooning at catcher with freshman Matt Garrick. Shiflett said his goal at the beginning of the season was just to get some playing time.

"I just wanted to get here and try to get into the lineup," Shiflett said. "I didn't think I was going to be a superstar and I'm not. I've accomplished my goal of getting into the lineup and now, I just want to help the team out."

At Navasota High School, Shiflett set the career home run record with 21. He was a three-year letterman and helped his team advance to the Class 3A regional championship game at Olsen Field in his senior season.

He also lettered three years in football and was an All-State linebacker in Class 3A. Shiflett said no big schools offered him a football scholarship despite his honors.

"I received some offers, but not from anybody from Division I," Shiflett said. "I'm only 5-foot, 9-inches tall, so I knew I wasn't going to play football anywhere."



Roger Halseh/THE BATTALION

Junior William Shiflett looks for the play from the pitching coach in Friday's game against the University of Texas.

It seems baseball is in his blood since two of his brothers played college baseball and another brother, Matt, played in the Montreal Expos and the Atlanta Braves organization. Shiflett said his brothers have always influenced him when it comes to baseball.

"I listen to them because they know what they're talking about," Shiflett said. "Matt is a coach and another brother is a high school coach, and they want to help me out. I listen to them when I go home."

Shiflett has set some lofty goals that he wants to accomplish before he leaves A&M. "Hopefully, we will win the Southwest

Conference tournament this year," Shiflett said. "My personal goals are to have a bigger contribution to the team next year since this will be my senior year."

Johnson called Shiflett "a scrapper" and that's how the Aggie catcher wants to be remembered.

"I want to be remembered as someone who gave it all he had," Shiflett said. "I came up and did everything that I can do behind the plate. If the winning run was coming in, I would do everything in my power to prevent him from scoring. I'm just a hard-nosed player."

...And I'll see you at the movies

NICK GEORGANDIS

COLUMNIST



You know what summer time means, don't you? Yes of course, a plethora of new blockbuster movies. Not just mainstream, comedy, romance and action flicks though, for this year filmmakers have decided to delve into the world of sports to make the summer of 1995 the biggest moneymaker ever.

Let's sneak a peak into the theater and see what's in store for the summer:

The Sherminator: A Boston Celtic point guard travels back to the days when he used to be a good player, finds his game and returns to the present to combat the nearly unstoppable Orlando Magic.

Grumpy Old Men II: The Texas Rangers introduce their starting rotation.

Stone Cold: Ken Burns' documentary on the condition of former Seattle Seahawk Brian Bosworth's acting career.

Village of the Damned: The Houston Oilers converge on San Antonio for training camp.

The Shaw-Shaq Redemption: Orlando Magic sixth man Brian Shaw keeps Shaquille O'Neal from going crazy in mini-camp by teaching him how to shoot free throws.

While You Were Sleeping: Grossly out of shape. See **Georgandis**, Page 11

The Tradition Continues...

We extend our congratulations to these students on the completion of their college studies and look forward to the start of their professional careers at Price Waterhouse LLP.

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Kathy Groff
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Todd Fry
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David Kinnebrew
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We also wish our future and former interns continued academic success.

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Scott Koch
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Cherie Portele
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