

## sports GLANCE

### Astros shut out Reds in exhibition game

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Shane Reynolds and four other Houston pitchers combined for a two-hit shutout Monday as the Astros beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-0 in an exhibition.

Derek Bell had two hits and drove in a run, and Brian Hunter and Bill Spiers had RBIs for the Astros.

Reynolds picked up the victory with three scoreless innings. Donne Walle also pitched three innings, followed by one inning each for Dean Hartgraves, Scott Bankhead and Alvin Morman.

Losing pitcher Mark Portugal allowed three runs on five hits and a walk in the first three innings.

The Astros took a 1-0 lead in the first when Bell singled home Craig Biggio. Houston stretched that lead to 3-0 in the next inning by scoring twice off two hits and a walk.

The final run came in the seventh, when Spiers singled home John Cangelosi.

### Strickland returns to Blazers' practice

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Disgruntled Portland guard Rod Strickland turned up Monday at the Trail Blazers' practice gym, appearing for the first time since walking out more than a week ago with a vow never to return.

Strickland arrived about a half-hour before the scheduled 11:30 a.m. practice. He declined to speak to reporters waiting at Lewis & Clark College, saying he would meet with them later.

After being suspended for walking out of a practice, Strickland missed two home games and a four-game road trip. Strickland said he could no longer play for coach P.J. Carlesimo.

He reportedly went home to New Jersey last week.

Strickland had lost about \$168,000 in salary for missing six games. His agent, Mark Termini, arrived in Portland Sunday, presumably to try to break the impasse between his client and the Blazers.

In a fight with Golden State, Sacramento and Denver for the final two playoff spots in the West.

### SCORES ROUNDUP

#### NBA

Boston 105, Milwaukee 98  
Detroit 99, Atlanta 93  
Orlando 110, Philadelphia 97  
San Antonio at Denver (n)  
Washington at Vancouver (n)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Men's Basketball

The Aggies will play No. 1 seed Texas Tech on Thursday at 6 p.m. in the first round of the Southwest Conference Tournament at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

#### Women's Basketball

The Lady Aggies will play No. 5 seed Rice University on Wednesday at noon in the first round of the Southwest Conference Tournament at Moody Coliseum in Dallas.

#### Aggie Baseball

The Aggies will play at Lamar today at 3 p.m.

## Aggies bringing plenty of lumber against Cardinals

□ The A&M Baseball Team is averaging over 10 runs per contest.

By Lisa Nance  
THE BATTALION

The boys of summer are back on the road, and they are taking brought big bats with them.

After sweeping the Maine Black Bears back into hibernation this weekend, the Texas A&M Baseball Team heads to Beaumont where they will face the Lamar Cardinals in a 7:00 p.m. game.

The No. 15 Aggies are 13-4 for the season and are undefeated at home in 1996 with an 11-0 home mark.

The Aggies hold an all-time lead

of 22-5 in the series with Lamar. A&M won the last meeting with the Cardinals last spring, a 6-1 win at Olsen field. The last time that A&M and Lamar met in Beaumont, Lamar swept a twinbill 7-1 and 3-2 in 1994.

The Cardinals are 7-5 after taking two of three games at the Rice Invitational where they defeated Oklahoma State, 3-2, and Southwestern Louisiana, 9-4 before dropping a 13-12 decision to Rice.

Aggie infielder Jason Stephens said pitching was the key to the team's success over Maine this weekend.

"We're hitting the ball well and scoring a lot of runs," Stephens said. "This weekend our pitchers really came out. Saturday, they didn't even give up a walk and that allowed us to keep them to a few

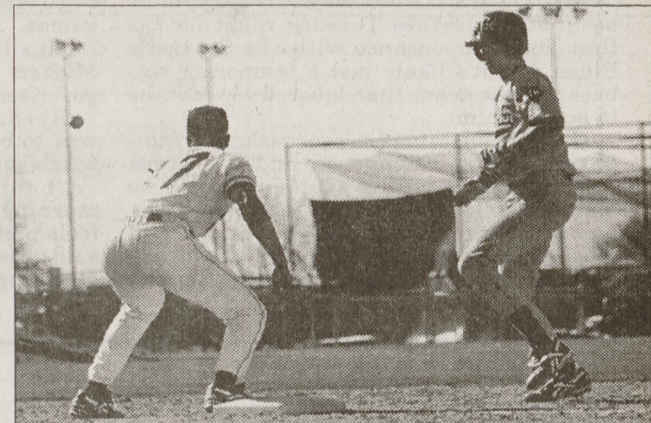
runs. The key to pitching is throwing strikes, and that's how we're going to keep winning.

"We are the type of ball club that can score a lot of runs. Overall, we're hitting the ball well and I think that we are going to keep it up because we have the talent to do that."

The Aggies' only four losses have come while on the road and three of those four losses were by only one run.

Stephens said he is glad that the team is facing these close games early in the season because it will allow them to learn from their mistakes before they start conference play.

"When you're at the end of a game and you have a chance to win



Dave House, THE BATTALION

A throw from the pitcher chases A&M's Jason Tyner back to first base during action against Maine this weekend.

See Baseball, Page 8

## INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

### A&M star Carlos Tori knows the world of tennis

By Lisa Nance  
THE BATTALION

Carlos Tori is an international tennis player, literally.

The sophomore netter from Lima, Peru, has seen action in the junior divisions of Wimbledon, the French Open and the U.S. Open. Tori said that his international experience has helped him to become the No. 1 player on the Texas Aggie Men's Tennis team.

"It was great competition," Tori said. "Although it is a different level of experience, it got me ready to come here and play in a better league."

"It was different because I have never played team tennis. It makes a great difference because you are not having to win for yourself — you have a responsibility to your team to win. There is a lot more pressure involved."

Tori said it is being a part of a team that encourages him the most.

"There are a lot of motivating factors," Tori said. "I like the sport. The reason I play and what motivates me most is the team. We have a great team. That's my main motivating factor, for the team to win."

Winning is something that Tori is used to. Ranked No. 92 nationally, he rates as one of the most decorated players to ever sign with A&M. He has compiled a 17-8 overall, 3-3 dual and 14-5 tournament record in singles play and has racked up a 10-6 overall, 4-3 dual and 6-3 tournament record playing dou-

bles with teammates Blake Arrant, Robbie Krause, Eric Horan and Eric Elek.

Head Tennis Coach David Kent said that Tori brings a lot of skill to the Aggie team, but his best is yet to come.

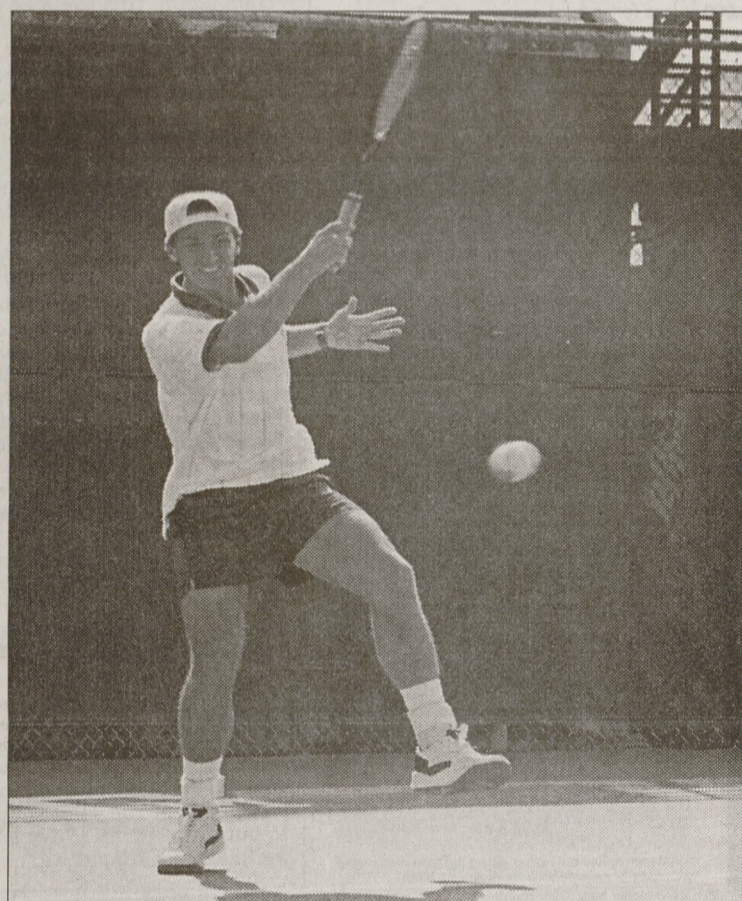
"He has enthusiasm, talent and consistency," Kent said. "He's a very, very talented player. Where else would you find a sophomore playing the number one position. He's the star of the future. His best tennis is still ahead because he is so young. He will just get better and better. He's a good team man and gives 140 percent every match. He would run through a wall to get a ball, that's what I like."

Tori showed his enthusiasm Saturday as he defeated Tulane's Robert Samuelsson 6-4, 6-2, then paired with Arrant to defeat the Green Wave's doubles team of Chip Kelley and Ben Wenger.

Tori came to Texas A&M after achieving a No. 30 singles and No. 5 doubles ranking in the Prince Junior World Rankings. He has been the top-ranked junior player in Peru in all age groups.

As a freshman, he competed in four fall tournaments while also playing in the Junior U.S. Open. In the Open, he defeated John Hui of Hong Kong, 6-3, 6-1 in his first round singles match before falling to seventh-seeded Andrew Ilie of Australia, 6-4, 7-5, in the second round.

Tori will lead the team into the H.E.B. Team Championship this weekend at the H.E. Butt Tennis Center in Corpus Christi.



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore Carlos Tori returns a volley during this weekend's action at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

## Too early to tell if Chicago is really unbeatable-Bull

I've tried not to talk about it. I've tried not to write about it. I've even kept it from my therapist.

But, alas, I can carry the burden no longer. I feel the need to come clean on something. And, no, it has nothing to do with barbituates — I kicked that habit way back in junior high, thank you very much.

What's the big confession, you ask. I'm a card-carrying member of a small group of stubborn dissenters that believe this year's edition of the Chicago Bulls ain't all that good.

That's right, you read it correctly. Wait a minute! Hold on a second. Let me retract that statement. What I meant to say is the

Bulls are good but just not great. Not yet, anyway.

I'm not saying the Bulls don't have a whole lot going for them. Chicago currently stands at 52-6 and has not been beaten at home in 28 games this season. And, as everyone knows, they're on pace to shatter the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers' single-season record of 69 victories.

They've also got more than their share of star power. Michael Jordan is Michael Jordan. Scottie Pippen has developed into the league's best and most versatile small forward. Dennis Rodman is the game's king of rebounding.

You could even make a strong case for

Phil Jackson as the NBA's most effective coach. Add all this together and you've got automatic greatness, right? Not so fast.

There are several reasons why I'm hesitant to join the ranks of the awe-struck consensus that already views the Bulls as the NBA's best ever.

First and least important, I very much agree with Wilt Chamberlain, who has said many times that a team with Luc Longley at center shouldn't be considered at the head of the league's all-time class. Longley is not horrible by any means, but at least the Chicago teams of the early '90s had the relic Bill Cartwright down low. But that's beside the point. I have more substantial reasoning.

See LEONE, Page 8

PHILIP  
LEONE  
SPORTSWRITER



### Correction

A Page Seven story in The Battalion on Monday should have stated that freshman guard/forward Jason Cornelius is not related to Soul Train's Don Cornelius.

Jason's father, Mike Cornelius, said, "Jason's family gained the name Cornelius from Jason's great great grandfather, who after slavery took the name Gabriel Cornelius from the Bible so as not to have the name of his former owner. Jason's ability comes from a long line of strong black women and men."

## On-Campus Residents

Your signature is requested at  
**Contract Renewal**  
**March 4&5**  
**7 - 10 p.m.**  
**in your residence hall**

Options:

- Renew your contract
- Hall change
- Room change
- Transfer to the Corps
- Co-op
- Student Teaching
- Study Abroad
- Intern
- Graduate
- Cancel

All on-campus residents must renew their contracts or cancel their housing for the Fall 1996 - Spring 1997 academic year.



## Class of '96

General Class Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 8:30 p.m.

Rudder 410

Come hear Class Gift Ideas!!!!

Door Prizes from  
Wings n' More  
will be given away  
along with

'96 FREE FOOD '96