

SPORTS
BRIEFS

Knauer named asst. golf coach

In what is a first for the Texas A&M golf program, John Knauer was named assistant coach for both the men's and women's teams on Friday.

Knauer, who was a volunteer assistant coach under men's Head Coach Bob Ellis last season, graduated from A&M in 1995.

Knauer said he is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of him.

"This is something I have always wanted to do," Knauer said. "Working with both the men and the women has given me a better understanding of the operations of the entire program."

Aggie harriers finish in top five

Despite fielding a youthful and inexperienced squad, the Texas A&M Men's Cross Country Team finished fifth and the women finished third at the Audobon Invitational in New Orleans, La. this weekend.

Leading the way for the Aggies was sophomore Scott Lenefeld who finished 10th with a time of 15:03 in the 3.2 mile event.

"The one thing we don't have on the men's side is depth, so my top five are going to have to get it done," A&M Head Coach Greg Hinze said.

Junior Millie Ondras led the way for the Lady Aggies by finishing 10th with a time of 11:41.

Hinze said he was pleased with the women's performance despite the inexperience of the team.

"Running with five freshmen, I was reasonably pleased," Hinze said. "But we're not going to use youth as an excuse."

Lady A's fall to Badgers in final

For the second consecutive weekend, the Texas A&M Volleyball Team went 2-1 in tournament play, this time at the Inntowner Invitational in Madison, Wis.

Following victories over Loyola Chicago and the University of Maryland, A&M fell in the championship match to host team Wisconsin Saturday night. After dropping the first two games to A&M, the Badgers came back to take a 12-15, 11-15, 15-11, 15-8, 16-14 victory.

Despite the loss, A&M junior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud set a school record during the match with a 35-kill performance.

A&M Soccer completes sweep

The eighth-ranked Texas A&M Soccer Team extended its record to 30 with a victory over 17th-ranked Vanderbilt University in Nashville on Friday and another triumph over the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on Sunday.

A&M defeated Vanderbilt 4-1 on the strength of two goals by junior midfielder Diana Rowe.

The Lady Aggies finished the weekend with a 2-1 overtime victory over the Crimson Tide.

Junior forward Bryn Blalack scored both goals for A&M as the team avenged its 3-1 upset loss at home last season to the same squad.

"Alabama did a good job of trying to keep us in check," A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri said.

Oilers, Cowboys break even
George, Chandler orchestrate Houston offensive display
Aikman passes Giants dizzy

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Houston Oilers showed the capacity for the big play on Sunday. So did Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George.

George broke open the game with a 76-yard run that set up Chris Chandler's third touchdown pass, and the Oilers hung on for a 34-27 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

George, the No. 6 overall pick in the draft, finished with 143 yards on 17 carries and one touchdown.

The Oilers (1-1) had a play of at least 20 yards on five of their first seven possessions, and they put the game away with two big plays by the defense.

Leading 34-20, Blaine Bishop jarred the ball loose from tight end Pete Mitchell at the 2-yard line, and Rafael Robinson recovered with 3:08 remaining.

The Jaguars (1-1) made it close when Chris Hudson returned a punt 46 yards to the 3, and Keenan McCardell made a juggling catch for a touchdown to get within 34-27.

Dave Thomas recovered the onside kick, but Mark Brunell's pass on the first play after the two-minute warning bounced high off Mitchell's hands, and Marcus Robertson dove for the interception at the 10-yard line.

Chandler hit Willie Davis on a 11-yard touchdown pass two plays later for a 31-13 lead.

The Jaguars, which held Pittsburgh to 187 yards last week, never had an answer for Chandler.

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ed more than 10 minutes and ended with Al Del Greco's 29-yard field goal.

Brunell was 27-of-38 for 302 yards. The Jaguars had no trouble moving the ball, but Houston's defense came up with timely plays twice inside the 20.

At first-and-10 from the 11 with Houston leading 17-10, Gary Walker broke through the line and stuffed James Stewart for a 3-yard loss. The Jaguars then were called for procedure and wound up settling for a 37-yard field goal.

Houston led 24-13 at halftime. Brunell hit six different receivers on the first drive of the second half to get down to the 6. But Micheal Barrow tackled Stewart for a 2-yard loss, then Brunell didn't check off in time and was penalized for delay of game, and Mike Hollis missed a 31-yard field goal.

If that didn't demoralize the Jaguars, George might have finished them off.

On first-and-20 from the 11-yard line, Jeff Lageman and Joel Smeenge had their hands on George on a draw in the backfield. He skirted outside, made safety Travis Davis miss, then galloped to the 13 for a 76-yard run.

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IRVING(AP) — Cancel the burial detail. The Dallas Cowboys finally looked like Super Bowl champions again.

Troy Aikman rediscovered Dallas' lost offense by throwing three touchdown passes Sunday, and the Cowboys, stung by a b u m b l i n g loss to Chicago, celebrated their home opener with a 27-0 victory over the New York Giants.

The much-criticized first-team offense, which hadn't scored a touchdown since the exhibition season opener against Oakland, went 50, 81, and 71 yards for touchdowns to lead 21-0 at intermission.

Emmitt Smith showed no problems with his neck injury and rushed for 94 yards on 25 carries.

Aikman completed 19 of 27 passes for 228 yards for the revamped Cowboys offense.

Chris Boniol hit field goals of 23 and 29 yards in the second half as the Cowboys played conservatively.

The Giants' Dave Brown hit only 10 of 19 passes for 55 yards, and the Dallas defense held Rodney Hampton to 44 yards on 15 carries. The last time Hampton played in Texas Stadium last December, he rushed for 187 yards.



Aikman

Graf storms past Seles, 7-5, 6-4

NEW YORK (AP) — Steffi Graf timed her final volley perfectly, knocking off Monica Seles once more and beating a rainstorm by seconds Sunday to secure a fifth U.S. Open title.

Near the end of one of the greatest and worst years of her life, Graf captured her third straight Grand Slam title and the 21st of her career to strengthen arguments that she is the best women's tennis player in history.

Amid thunder and lightning, Graf's forehead volley clipped the net cord and hopped out of Seles' reach to finish off the 7-5, 6-4 victory.

Graf's timing and accuracy were nearly perfect the whole match. She served 10 aces and kept Seles scrambling from corner to corner.

"Steffi clearly is No. 1. Anyone can see that," said Seles, who still shares the No. 1 ranking with Graf.

They began this match in hot, humid, sunny weather, and Graf set the tone by making Seles work hard to hold serve in the first game before tying it 1-1 by holding at love.

Graf broke to 2-1 and stayed ahead to 5-3 as Seles tried all kinds of novel tactics for her — serving and volleying, chipping and charging, dropping shots — with little success.

Seles also kept attacking Graf's strength, her forehand, but that didn't work, either. But serving for the set at 5-4, Graf finally suffered

one lapse when Seles bore down and forced her to chase down shots in the corners. With the first break point Seles managed, she capitalized on it with a solid overhead smash to make it 5-5.

But Graf broke right back after getting four break points and watching Seles sail a backhand long at the end of a long rally. Graf didn't waste that opportunity, closing out the set with a service winner up the middle.

Seles' serve-and-volley attempt to start the second set failed, and Graf broke her, then held serve to win her fourth straight game. That was all the lead Graf needed as she raced the approaching thunderstorm to close out the match.

Sampras secures No. 1 ranking with Open victory over Chang

NEW YORK (AP) — Staggered and sick one match, tight and worried the next, Pete Sampras put on an impeccable show of force and grace in the final Sunday night to claim his fourth U.S. Open championship.

From his first 125 mph service winner to his last at 117 mph, Sampras defended his title by blowing away Michael Chang 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) in two hours — a half-hour less than the rain delay after Steffi Graf's straight-set victory over Monica Seles for the women's title.

Sampras secured his No. 1 ranking and salvaged a tortured year by dominating Chang in every aspect of the match, even winning long rallies to prove he could beat Chang at his own game.

To see Sampras sprinting so lightly, moving so quickly and hammering shots so hard for his eighth

Grand Slam title, no one who hadn't heard of his problems a few days earlier would believe he could have been so close to defeat in the quarterfinals.

"I never thought I'd be here as a winner," Sampras said. "This is the most difficult (championship) I ever won. The ranking was up for grabs, but the title is so much more important than the ranking. I wanted the title."

"This was one of the best matches I played in my career. I had to adapt and I did that today. Everything was clicking. These are the kind of days you dream about, especially in the final."

The grit Sampras exhibited in beating Alex Corretja in the quarters, even after vomiting and wobbling wearily on court in their fifth-set tiebreaker, showed up in his unflinching attack against Chang.



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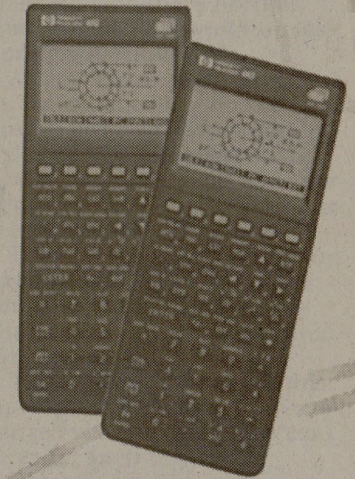
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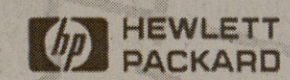


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