

For the Dingwalls, tennis is all in the family

Younger Dingwall carries on elder sister's A&M tennis legacy

Elder Dingwall looks forward to playing last season with sister

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

Many athletes try to make their final year one to remember, but Nancy Dingwall, a senior on the Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team, has less than obvious reasons for making her last semester a memorable one.

Dingwall has individual accolades in mind as she wraps up her collegiate tennis career, but she also has something more to think about on the court—a new doubles partner.

After three years of playing without her, Dingwall was reunited with her younger sister, freshman Lisa Dingwall, for the 1996-97 season. Not only did the rookie fill the void this year in Nancy's doubles competition, but Lisa also brought forth a whole new set of goals for Nancy.

"Every year I have the same goals, which include being named All-American and one of the Top 50 tennis players in the nation," Nancy Dingwall said. "I haven't got any of them so this is my last chance at it. With my sister here, I can strive to make NCAA's in doubles competition and individually as well."

Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke said Dingwall knows what it is like to be at the top and he has no doubt she can achieve her goals.

"Her performance has been better than I have seen in the long stretch," Kleinecke said. "With Nancy, you get no dips and you know that she won't beat herself. Basically, what you see is what you get with Nancy."

As captain of the Lady Aggies, Dingwall has captured almost every title A&M has to offer.

She is a two-time All-Southwest Conference selection and ranks in the Top 10 at A&M in both singles and doubles victories. She has also been ranked in the Top 100 tennis players in the nation three straight years. Additionally, she earned her

first SWC individual doubles championship two years ago with former partner Wilson Pate, which gave them a No. 28 national ranking in her junior year.

Her sister, Lisa, said people respect Nancy because of all she has accomplished.

"Nancy never tries to be anything she is not," Lisa Dingwall said. "She portrays maturity and shows by example rather than by words. She is an extremely hard worker and is a true leader."

When Dingwall was told her sister Lisa would be joining her at A&M, Nancy said she was more excited than anything else.

"I wasn't apprehensive at all with her coming here," Nancy Dingwall said. "We only got to play together one year in high school, so I was really looking forward to playing alongside her again. She is a totally different person and has a different personality from mine so we both are able to do our own thing."

Despite the fact that the sisters only played together for one year, the pair was able to capture the first place ranking and State 5A doubles title Nancy's senior year. That same year, they were also ranked No. 8 in doubles by the United States Tennis Association.

Along with trying to go far in doubles competition with her sister, Nancy Dingwall said she wants to concentrate on her individual tennis game as well.

"Even though I am able to do a lot on the court overall, I still need to work on my serve," Dingwall said. "I have another year until I graduate, but this is going to be the end of my tennis career. Hopefully, I will be able to accomplish the goals that weren't within my reach before."

Lisa Dingwall said her sister will be remembered for her personality as well as her accomplishments.

"She is really quiet if you don't know her," Lisa Dingwall said. "She keeps a lot of things to herself and doesn't like a lot of people to know personal things about her. I have never seen her let up."



Freshman Lisa Dingwall (top) and senior Nancy Dingwall (bottom) joke around after practice Monday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team does not need to look far when trying to find good tennis players. It appears all A&M Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke has to do is look toward the Dingwall family.

As senior Nancy Dingwall heads into her last season at A&M, her younger sister, freshman Lisa Dingwall, prepares to carry on the Dingwall legacy.

Kleinecke said Lisa is a good player who will benefit the team greatly.

"We brought Lisa to our program because she was a good tennis player," Kleinecke said. "It was not based on the fact that her sister was already here, even though having them both on the team has worked out as an advantage for us."

During her time at St. Stephens High School in Austin, Lisa Dingwall was ranked as one of the Top 100 tennis players in the nation by the United States Tennis Association for three years. She also held the No. 3 seed in Texas two consecutive years in 1994 and 1995 and even shared the State 5A Doubles title with her sister Nancy her freshman year.

Although she was recruited by both A&M and the University of Virginia, Dingwall said the last place she wanted to end up was A&M.

"To be honest, it was very uneasy for me when I first got here because my sister played here," Dingwall said. "Although she never really had a problem with it, I was having trouble with comparing myself to her. It took a while to get past that point, but now we get along better and laugh at whatever happens."

Kleinecke said because the Dingwalls have played together before, they should provide the one-two punch A&M needs in

doubles competition.

"We talked to both of them at the beginning of year and both put each other as their first choice for doubles," Kleinecke said. "They have very different personalities and both bring individual abilities to their game. From a coach's standpoint, neither of them have to worry about living up to anything on the court."

Although Lisa said she and her sister laugh more together at game time and at practice, it was not always that way.

"We played doubles together in high school and would fight a lot," Lisa Dingwall said. "I got so mad at her during a match one time that I whacked her with my tennis racket. I am definitely the rowdy one, but now I don't see things that way."

Aside from that, she doesn't plan to compare her goals to what her sister has accomplished.

"I have a strong baseline game that should help me, but right now I am not making any long-term goals," Dingwall said. "I think that the best thing for me to do is take things step-by-step and year-by-year."

Many agree Dingwall's step-by-step philosophy has worked for her, given the fact she defeated top collegiate player, the University of Texas' Farley Taylor, last fall.

Dingwall said as a freshman she wants to be ranked in the Top 80 in the nation in singles, in the Top 20 in doubles competition with her sister and wants to qualify for the NCAA Tournament in both events.

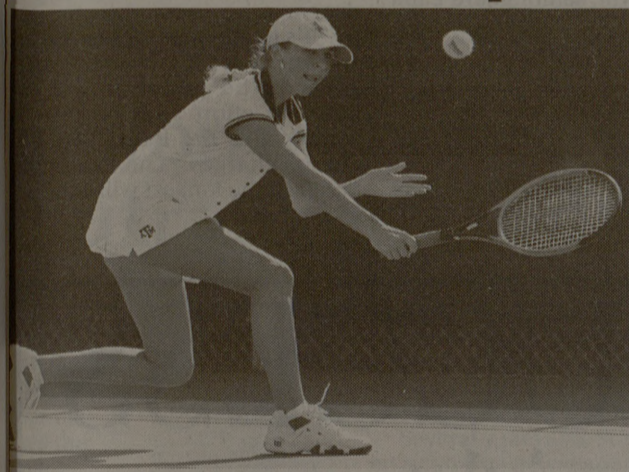
Nancy Dingwall said her sister has a lot to offer on the court and sees great things in store for her.

"Lisa can play well consistently and should remain at the top of the lineup," Dingwall said. "In my opinion, she deserves to be in the Top 50 of the nation. All she has to do is make sure that she keeps her concentration up."

"I got so mad at her during a match one time that I whacked her with my tennis racket."

Nancy Dingwall

A&M sweeps UNT Eagles for first win of season, 9-0



Vanessa Rooks defeated UNT's Dawna Denny 6-1, 6-0 at the Omar Smith Tennis Center yesterday.

By SARA DUESING
THE BATTALION

The morning clouds disappeared, the sunshine emerged and the Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team kicked off its first match of the 1997 season. Going up against the University of North Texas at the Omar Smith Tennis Center yesterday afternoon, the Lady Aggies came away with a dominating victory as they defeated the Lady Eagles 9-0.

"I thought we had a great showing for the first match," A&M Head Women's Tennis Coach Bobby Kleinecke said.

Beginning with the singles competition, A&M dominated early as No. 1 senior captain Nancy Dingwall downcast UNT's Claudia Aguilar 6-2, 6-3. Dingwall's teammates followed suit

and all came away victorious. Junior Monica Rebolledo, who defeated Melissa Spann 6-1, 6-3,

"We were pretty excited and pretty confident that we were going to win."

Monica Rebolledo
Junior tennis player

said she was pleased with the team's performance.

"We've been practicing really hard and finally the day [to compete] ar-

rived," Rebolledo said. "We were pretty excited and pretty confident that we were going to win."

Kleinecke said he felt the singles performed well although there was a slight struggle.

"We fell behind with (freshman) Lisa (Dingwall) and (sophomore) Monica (San Miguel)," Kleinecke said. "But you like to do that early in the season so you know you can come back. They fought real hard and never gave up."

Dingwall finally overcame her opponent, Patty Vital, 6-4, 7-5 and San Miguel beat Myriam Jimenez 6-1, 7-5.

The doubles competition followed the singles matches and once again, the Lady Aggies prevailed.

The sister duo of Dingwall and Dingwall shut out the Lady Eagle team of Dawna Denny and Andrea Giesick 8-0. Freshmen Leslie Dees and Kathryn Scott

also setback their opponents, Jimenez and Stacy Whitaker, 8-1. The No. 2 team of senior Julie Beahm and junior Vanessa Rooks faltered at first but came back to beat Aguilar and Patty Vital 8-6.

"The big question is still doubles," Kleinecke said. "Beahm and Rooks struggled but they still found a way to win. We need to improve there so we can compete better against tougher teams."

Despite initial strong wind and first game jitters, Rebolledo said she and her teammates are looking forward to delving into the season's competition.

"Everyone gets nervous before every match but today it was a little more than usual," Rebolledo said. "We will work more on being aggressive and keeping the ball in play."

"I'm just glad we all played well and ended up winning."

Two answers for skid — defense, rebounding



Desperately searching for answers, the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team is in the midst of a midseason slide. The Lady Aggies have lost four straight games and seven of their last eight. Shooting just 28 percent from the field, A&M lost its last contest to Iowa State by 28 points, 79-51.

A&M Head Coach Candi Harvey said the answers are simple—defense and rebounding.

"Regardless of who we're playing, this team has got to learn you can only win championships with defense and rebounding," Harvey said. We simply have not been committed to working hard to get better on the defensive end. They're learning the lesson the hard way by losing games that we shouldn't lose."

Tucker Joins The Walking Wounded

Senior guard Lana Tucker continues her ascension to the A&M Women's basketball record books. Tucker's 18-point performance against the University of Missouri Jan. 29 vaulted her into seventh place for career points scored with 1,025. She added six points to her tally last Saturday against Iowa State University. Tucker (1,031) now has set her sights on former A&M standout and current Lady Aggie assistant coach Lisa Jordan (1,104).

However, Tucker's achievements have not come without a price. Having already battled ailing knees, Tucker broke her nose against the University of Missouri.

Tucker said she tries to block out the injuries so they will not affect her game.

"I try not to think about it," Tucker said. "If I do, I know I'll get mental about it. I'll start playing scared, quit going after loose balls and be afraid to fall on the floor. I don't want that to happen."

Big 12 Rookie Of The Year Watch

Freshman forward Prissy Sharpe continues to make a run for Big 12 Rookie of the Year honors. Through 19 games, Sharpe has posted a team-leading three double-doubles (points and rebounds), scoring in double digits nine times. The 6-foot-1 freshman leads the team with 6.3 rebounds per game, while averaging 9.2 points. Sharpe's 14 blocked shots rank her among freshman leaders in the Big 12.

Linder Designated Co-Captain

Junior center Kim Linder was named co-captain by Harvey this past week. Harvey said she bestowed Linder with the honor because of her recent play.

"Last week I named her co-captain because I felt she exhibited all the traits that we're looking for in a player," Harvey said. "She's become more verbal and I felt it was a good time to do it because she will be the lone senior on the team next year."

See BURCH, Page 8

Lady Aggies search for elusive win

By JAMIE BURCH
THE BATTALION

After traveling to Middle America three times last week, the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team is ecstatic to return to the familiar confines of G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Lady Ags (7-12 overall, 1-8), return to home sweet home tonight to play the University of Oklahoma (5-13 overall, 1-7) at 7 p.m.

The contest is the second of the season between A&M and the Lady Sooners. The Lady Aggies came up short in their first meeting Jan. 4, losing 71-69. The loss came as a result of their sluggish start. A&M scored just 22 points in the first half and trailed the Lady Sooners 35-22 going into the locker room. The Lady Ags dominated the second half of play, outscoring OU 47-36, but were unable to overcome the 15-point half-time deficit. Sophomore forward Michele Workman torched the Aggie defense, scoring 31 points, while freshman forward Phylesha Whaley cleaned the boards, ripping down 10 rebounds.

Junior center Kim Linder said A&M must play a full 40 minutes to

beat Oklahoma. "Last time we had a slow start and had to come back in the second half," Linder said. "This time we need to come out in the first half, ready to play, and put two halves together."

The Lady Aggies are trying to find a way to reverse their current slide. A&M has lost four straight games and seven of their last eight. Against Iowa State University, the Lady Aggies shot a dismal 28 percent from the field, losing 79-51.

A&M Head Coach Candi Harvey said Iowa State's defense was the key to the Cyclones' win.

"They (ISU) play a match-up zone," Harvey said. "They force you to beat them from the outside. They face-guarded Lana (Tucker), virtually taking her out of the game. Offensively, we never got in sync. It just takes discipline and focus."

"If you lose your discipline or focus [for a split second], a good team is going to make you pay."

Overlooking the mental breakdowns, senior forward Melissa Rollerson said the team knows there is a light at the end of the tunnel.



Senior guard Christy Lake drives the ball up court against Kansas.

See PREVIEW, Page 8