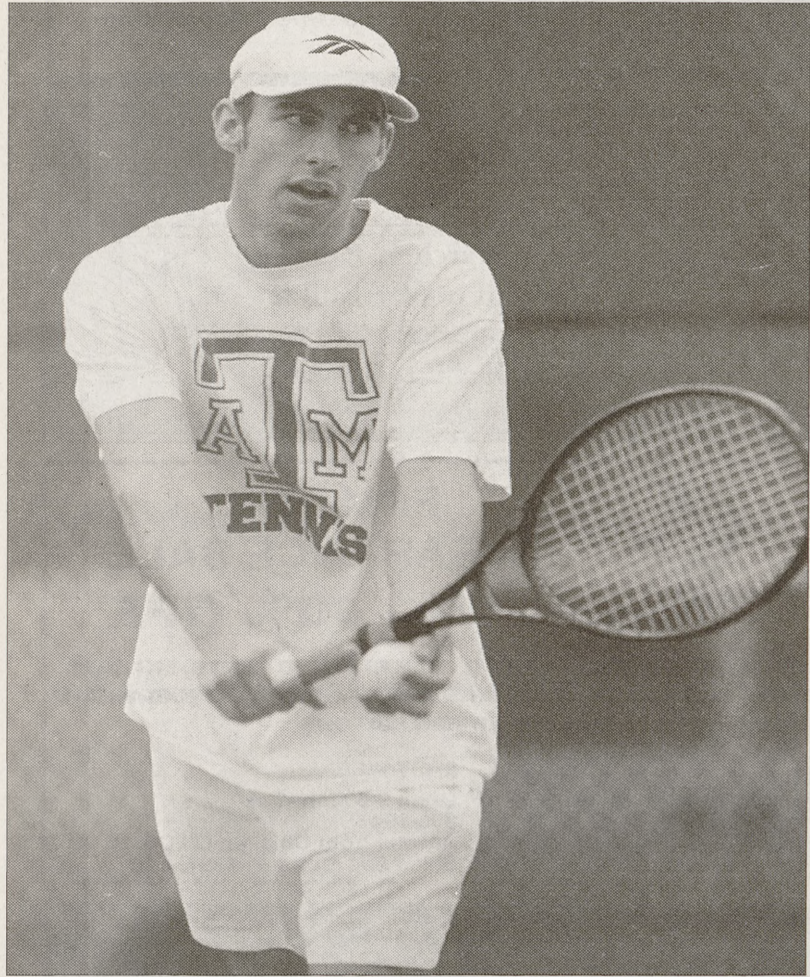


# Aggies drop to TCU, 5-2 LADY AGGIES

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Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Freshman **Brent Horan** prepares to serve during practice at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

BY DENNIS RAMIREZ  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team is still in search of their first dual-match win and the team hopes it will come from Southwestern Louisiana University (SWL) today at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

This match is not only the make-up for the rain out on Feb. 7, but it will prove to be a good match as both squads are off to shaky seasons.

After this weekend's loss to Texas Christian University 5-2, the Aggie netters look again to scramble through the leftovers and pick up the positive pieces.

"After being pounded for two-and-a-half hours, we fought back and put ourselves in a position to win," assistant coach Kel Lange said. "That is the third match in a row we do that and now we need to do it."

The Aggies did keep their composure after being swept in the doubles matches. The TCU assault kept on coming in as TCU singles play took 4 of 6 singles matches from the Aggies.

Brent Horan and Juan Aramburo were the only Aggies to pick up wins, the rest of the squad came up short.

Freshman Tony Young said the match was decided in the doubles portion of the match.

"We didn't do as well at doubles as expected and that was the key to the match," Young said. "Even though we were down, we knew we could pick up four singles matches, but that didn't come through. For now we just need to stay positive on the court

and try our hardest to win."

Now as the Aggies set their sights on SWL, they are expecting a tough match, especially since SWL has defeated one of the teams that beat the Aggies.

"Southwestern (Louisiana) is looking for a win because they are struggling, so it should be a close match," Lange said. "They are a tough team with a lot of heart, which feature some talented international players. If we show that same heart, and some strong points, and execute, we should come out on top."

Facing this squad will be a test. In the past two matches, A&M has lost the doubles point and as Young said, the test will lie in the doubles play as well as the heart of the squad.

"I think that if we win doubles it'll be big for us and allow some of the guys to step it up in the singles matches," Young said. "So far, we have been taking the loss with stride and for those new to the line up, they have been good experience. We know a win will come with time, and hopefully it will be against them."

As far as changing the game plan for today, Lange said A&M will stick to the strong points. He said the key to winning will be stepping up their play.

"The guys are disappointed that we haven't won, but they realize they are trying hard and that is a big motivator for them," Lange said. "We have to win though, we can't just play decent, we must play great in order to pick up that win, and so far nobody around here is dropping their head."

Despite the fourth-place finish, the Lady Aggies are not disappointed with the meet's results.

"Many of us swam our lifetime bests," Karnes said. "This was a good preparation for next year."

For Karnes, the season is not over yet. NCAA competition is next month, and until then Karnes will be training for the meet. Two other Lady Aggies hope to be training with her. Stromman and Evans turned in times that fall into consideration for the NCAA meet. However, they will have to wait until all of the other conference meets are over before they find out if they will be making the trip to Indianapolis in March with Karnes.

Regardless of whether they do qualify, Wagner said the girls will keep improving and will be ready for next year's meet.

"In my 20 years of coaching, I have never had harder working, more committed athletes," Wagner said. "I really enjoy working with them."



Rogge Hefflin, THE BATTALION  
Junior **Stacie Karnes** (right) and freshman **Tracy Evans** (left) finished 1-2 in the 500-yard freestyle.

## AGGIES

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"He had a rough start in the finals," Head Diving Coach Kevin Wright said. "We can learn from that."

Wright said part of the problem was that he and Naftanel had been concentrating more on the springboard events this year, and his performance reflected it.

"Now we have to go back to the diving board," Naftanel said. "We have to fix the trouble areas before zones."

Aggie senior Wade Diederich took fourth on the platform Saturday night, easily edging out Nebraska's Darren Thornbrugh.

"Wade did very well on tower tonight," Wright said. "He is the first diver since I came here in 1992 to go through the entire program for all four years — I'm proud of him."

The points Naftanel and Diederich earned on the diving boards helped push the Aggies to the team bronze, which made most of the team happy.

"We're in a good place going into NCAAs," Pantano said. "I'm really proud of where we are."

Pantano said his perspective has changed in the four years he has been on the Aggie team.

"As a fish, I did not know what to expect," Pantano said. "Now, as a senior, I feel more enthusiasm and pride. We've come a long way in four years."



Rogge Hefflin, THE BATTALION  
Freshman **Tim Campbell** dives off the starting blocks in the 500-yard freestyle at the Big 12 Championships.

## Barkley aims for fast return

HOUSTON (AP) — Charles Barkley said Sunday he hopes to rejoin the Houston Rockets by the end of this week after a hip injury suffered during Saturday's game with the Dallas Mavericks.

Barkley left the game in the first quarter after a collision with Mavs center Shawn Bradley that left the Rockets' forward with a lacerated left pelvis that required several stitches.

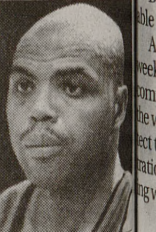
Rockets doctors said Barkley would be out seven to 10 days. Barkley says he is aiming for the end of the week.

On Sunday, however, he was still feeling the pain of a bone-to-bone collision between Barkley's hip and Bradley's kneecap.

"I can't lift my leg even today," Barkley told Houston TV station KRIV. "I can probably get it three inches off the ground and I'm frustrated by that."

It was the second straight game the Rockets lost a key player. Guard Brent Price was lost for the season with a torn ligament in his right knee on Tuesday against the Los Angeles Lakers. Clyde Drexler also is sidelined with a serious hamstring injury.

"I can't even put into words how frustrated and mad I am at not being able to play," Barkley said. "The Rockets gave up a lot to get me and I want to do things for them in return."



Barkley



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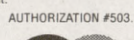
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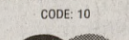
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