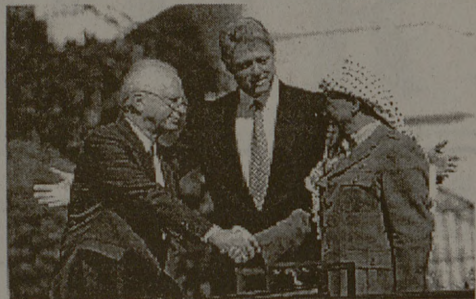


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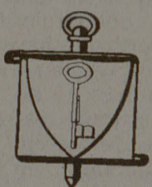
7p.m., April 14th

Memorial Student Center, Room 292A

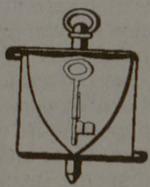
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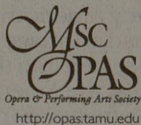
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THE BATTALION SPORTS

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Friday • April 11, 1997

Ags look to start new streak

By MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

After having a seven-game winning streak snapped by an inspired Southwest Texas squad Tuesday night, the Texas A&M Baseball Team looks to start a new one this weekend when they take on the Nebraska Cornhuskers in a three-game series at Olsen Field. Friday and Saturday's games are both slated for 7 p.m., with Sunday's finale scheduled for 2 p.m.



Johnson

The Aggies (27-15, 10-8) have won 11 of their past 14 contests and are looking to establish postseason position as they begin the final quarter of their season.

"With only 14 games left, every game become critical," Aggie third baseman Sean Heaney said. "Especially since Texas and Tech are our last two series and they're away, we have to take advantage of playing at home."

The Aggies were unable to do such Tuesday, as the Bobcats ambushed them early to win 10-4. The Aggies' poor play lends a sense of urgency to this weekend's series with the Huskers.

"After losing to Southwest Texas, I think we realize that every game is a big game for us," Heaney said. "We need all the wins we can get. This is a big series, and we won't be taking them lightly."

While Head Coach Mark Johnson admits his squad did not play particularly well Tuesday, he is quick to add that playing a midweek game is not the same as preparing for and playing a weekend series.

"We were disappointed we didn't

win, but we also recognize that's west Texas is a good team," Johnson said. "We didn't play as well as we could on the weekend and that's a problem on the game. It happens at the league level; it happens on every level. We just have to be sure that we do our best to correct it this weekend."

Though this weekend marks the second-to-last home series of the season for the Aggies, Johnson keeps the impending conference pressure on his team by emphasizing the Nebraska series.

"The significance of it is our next series," Johnson said. "We've done well over our last games, [and] been able to win the last three conference series we want to get in the hunt, and going to have to continue to do it and it's a lot easier to do on the road, so we want to play well this weekend."

Golfers look to build on success

By CHRIS FERRELL
THE BATTALION

This may come as a shocker, but the All-American Intercollegiate at Houston's Pine Forest Country Club is not the only golf tournament being played this weekend.

Another Southern-based tournament will have the eyes of the golfing world fixed on Augusta, Ga., but the Texas A&M Men's Golf Team will try once again to earn their spot as the Master's of the college ranks.

Last time out, the Aggies brought home the Border Olympics title to claim their first championship of the season.

Despite the fact the Aggies have not played a tournament in three weeks, Head Coach Bob Ellis said the team has not lost its momentum.

"The last tournament you play in is always the uppermost in your mind," Ellis said. "I'd rather have them coming off a win than a bad performance."

The Aggies shot an 855 to claim the top spot by 12 strokes after trailing Sam Houston State by five shots through three rounds.

"I don't see any change," Ellis said. "The change is going to be mental. Hopefully, we'll see that at the All-American."

"When the pressure comes on they'll be able to say, 'This is what I've worked on,' instead of, 'Here we go again.'"

The pressure also is off senior Jeff Brown, who picked up the first individual title of his career in Laredo. Brown,

the team's lone senior, shot a third-round 68 to tie with a 209 for the 36-hole event, winning by two strokes.

Ellis said Brown's win will help inspire his team as well.

"I think that Brown is a guy who gets a lot out of a game," Ellis said. "I think the others see that and try to adopt some of the things he does. And Jeff is the kind of guy who will go out there and try to help the team."

A&M also got big performances out of junior Del Angel and Ryan Palmer who tied for eighth and ninth, respectively, in average scoring and in total strokes to shoot a final-round 69.

Freshman Lee Reed finished strong as well, ending a third-round 72 after rounds of 75 and 77 to tie for 11th.

Sophomore Ty Cox finished 36th in Laredo on a three-round total of 225.

The All-American will serve as A&M's final tournament before the Big 12 championships in Hutchinson, Kan., April 27-29.

The 18-team field will include conference foes Colorado, Kansas, and Texas Tech. The Aggies also battle former Southwest Conference rivals Rice, SMU and Houston.

Houston and SMU tied for top honors at last year's All-American. The Aggies finished third.

Ellis said the course requires a lot of "local knowledge," something which should help the Aggies. They have played it several times.

Lady Ags try to remain undefeated

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

The 23rd-ranked Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team, undefeated in the Big 12 with a record of 7-0, hopes to keep its streak going by winning its last home dual meet, against the University of Oklahoma Lady Sooners today at the Omar Smith Tennis Center starting at 5:30 p.m.

Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke said the team has to be ready to play well against anybody in their last few matches.

"OU only has two people back this year because they lost five seniors last year," Kleinecke said. "They have definitely had their ups and downs, but at the same time, they beat Texas Christian University, who beat us early in the year. It doesn't amount to their abilities, though. It amounts to us and how well we play."

Individually, freshman Lisa Ding-

wall is unbeaten in conference at the No. 3 position, while senior Julie Beahm shines at the No. 6 position with a 16-0 record for the spring, the longest winning streak of her career.

In addition, the Lady Aggies have the Dingwall sister pair, who rank 31st in the nation after capturing two big wins against Baylor University and the University of Colorado last week.

Kleinecke said the key to success for the Lady Aggies will be to jump on the Lady Sooners early in the singles matches.

"The match is in our hands to win or lose," Kleinecke said. "We have the depth and we have our goal of staying undefeated, because right now we are tied with the University of Texas. We are focused on beating Oklahoma, but at the same time we are looking forward to going head-to-head with Texas on April 15th."

Aside from being the team's last home match, today's match

also will highlight senior Julie Beahm, Julie Beahm and Michelle Prejean.

Dingwall, who has had trouble with the No. 1 position for the Lady Aggies, dropping her last two matches to bring her Big 12 record to 4-2. This match has come at a crucial time for the team.

"We need to keep our momentum in Oklahoma and not look too far ahead to Texas," Dingwall said. "We need to play each match contently and steadily, especially since it is our last home match."

Overall, Kleinecke said he is extremely pleased with the team's performance, and he hopes the Lady Aggies will continue to play well until conference championships.

"Every person has fought hard to win their matches," Kleinecke said. "We have won a majority of our matches, which shows that we are doing well."

Softball faces 'Horns for first time

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

Almost every sport has been able to enjoy the rivalry between Texas A&M University and the University of Texas. Well, except one that is.

The Texas A&M Softball Team has finally received their opportunity, and will encounter the Lady Longhorns for the first time Saturday at the Lady Aggie Softball Field at 2 p.m.

To make it even more interesting, the Lady Aggies will travel to Austin to face the first year team again on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the East Austin Youth Complex.

Assistant Head Coach Joy Jackson said the Lady Aggies are excited to play Texas and are ready to put their best foot forward.

"It was funny because Coach Evans came by to see the girls about the game and you could see it in their eyes that they are ready to go out there and play," Jackson said. "We just plan on going out there with intensity every inning and hopefully will come back with some wins."

Currently, the Lady Aggies have a Big 12 Conference record of 2-6 while Texas is one game ahead at 3-5. For the Aggies, freshman Jamie Smith leads with a .321 average and 43 hits while senior pitcher Lori Co leads on the mound with a 1.51 ERA.

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