

THE BATTALION
SPORTS

Ags ready to make run at NCAA berth

A&M netters will try to hunt down Bears today

By DENNIS RAMIREZ
THE BATTALION

On the long ride back from Oklahoma last weekend, the members of the Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team had many lingering questions on their minds. Despite dropping two matches and facing a disappointing season, the Aggies still have a chance to land an NCAA Championship berth.

"Both Oklahoma teams are really good and deserve a lot of credit," Head Coach Tim Cass said. "There is no doubt, though, that our doubles play has let us down and that has cost us five or six matches this year. While the guys are disappointed, we still have our NCAA hopes alive."

After dropping those doubles matches, the Aggie netters have their work cut out for them as the Baylor University Bears claw their way into town today.

Cass said swapping among doubles teams and emphasis on certain fundamentals were the top priorities at practice this week.

Freshman Gonzalo Anderson admits doubles play has faltered, but said the team is strong and looking to accomplish bigger and better things.

"We really haven't been doing too well at doubles, so some restructuring has been going on as we face Baylor," Anderson said. "The team has been down because we had higher expectations for this season. Our main goal and emphasis is the

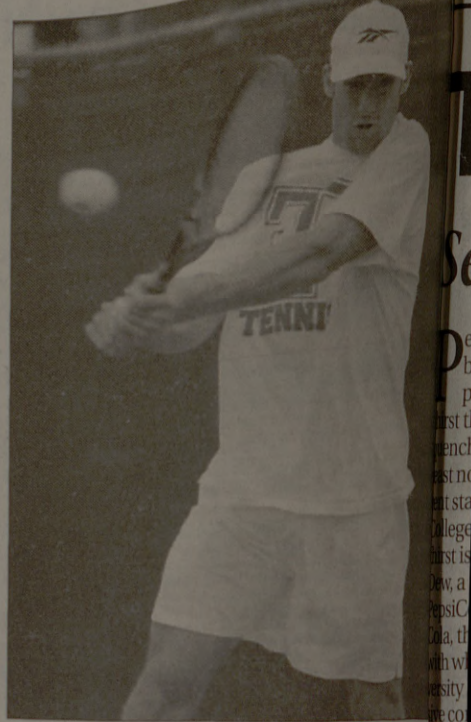
Big 12 Championship, but we do have a young team, and I hope to get experience for next year."

While Baylor does come into the Aggie confines with a restructured program, they are a stronger and tougher team than in the past. Junior netter Carlos Tori said the Baylor match is going to be a platform for the Aggies to show what they have and build on an NCAA berth.

"Baylor has a solid team, but they are not awesome and are at about our level of play," Tori said. "We must go out and compete, fight hard at every match, and do well in our doubles play. This match will be big and we know what we have to do. I think we are ready to go out and beat Baylor."

When 5 p.m. rolls around at the Omar Smith Tennis Center today, Baylor will mark the first of three matches the Aggies must win to qualify for the NCAA's. Cass said as long as the guys go out and play with all their hearts, everything will work out for the squad.

"Baylor is a very important match and is one of three which will have NCAA implications," Cass said. "While the guys are still disappointed about the tough road trip, we still have a chance to go to NCAA's out of our region, and that has gotten us going. We have had great practices and our hopes are high. I feel good about today and know the team is ready to go and take care of business against Baylor."



Rony Angkriwan, The Battalion
Freshman **Gonzalo Anderson** practices his backhand at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

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Robertson released from hospital Tuesday

► **Basketball great Oscar Robertson donated a kidney to his sick daughter.**

CINCINNATI (AP) — Basketball great Oscar Robertson, in tears when asked about his decision to donate a kidney to his daughter, was released from the hospital Tuesday.

Tia Robertson, 32, is stricken with lupus and received her father's kidney on Thursday. She was reported in good condition and could be released from the hospital this week.

Oscar Robertson, 58, appeared at a news conference before leaving University Hospital and cried when

he recalled the family discussions about who would give up a kidney.

"He's been through a lot; she's been through a lot," said Robertson's wife of 37 years, Yvonne.

The Robertsons have two other daughters, Shana, 35, and Mari, 27. Doctors determined Shana also could have been the donor. Oscar Robertson said he insisted on being the donor because his daughters are of child-bearing age.

"I'm the strongest person," he said. "We just went through a process of elimination, and it was me."

Added Yvonne Robertson: "I hope people don't overdramatize it. It's something any parent would do."

"We've gotten a lot of letters and cards from people around the country that we don't even know," the basketball Hall of Famer said.

"It's overwhelming."

Tia Robertson developed lupus when she was 25. Since November, she had been using a dialysis machine to cleanse her blood.

Lupus is a chronic disease that can affect the skin and internal organs. Her form of lupus afflicts an estimated 750,000 to 1 million Americans.

Her father, a Cincinnati businessman, plans to begin a gradual exercise program in about a week. He could return to full activities, including golf and shooting baskets, within three months, said Dr. Roy First, medical director of the hospital's transplant program.

Robertson, asked if the experience would prompt him to serve as a spokesman for organ donation, said: "If I could be a spokesman for any cause that would be helpful, I'd

consider it."

Robertson played 14 years in the NBA, first with the Cincinnati Royals and then the Milwaukee Bucks. He was a 12-time All-Star and the 1964 MVP. He played with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

At the University of Cincinnati, Robertson is still Cincinnati's all-time leading scorer in basketball's all-time leading scorer until Pete Maravich broke the record 10 years later at LSU.

Robertson is still Cincinnati's career leader in scoring and rebounding. He played on the U.S. Olympic team that won the gold medal.



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