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## Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team hosts Southwest, then travels to Lubbock for conference opener

By AL LAZARUS  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team will take on Southwest Texas State today at 2 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center, and



Freshman Rafael de Mesa will face a double-dip against Southwest Texas and Texas Tech this weekend.

will travel to Lubbock on Sunday to play Texas Tech.

The Aggies lost to Tech last year, 4-2, and did not play Southwest Texas.

The 33rd-ranked Aggies (2-1) played a close match against No. 6

LSU last Friday in Baton Rouge, losing 4-3. After winning the doubles point, they needed only three singles victories to win the match, but could only manage two.

Coach Tim Cass said despite the Aggies near-victory against a top-ten team on the road, he still considers the LSU match a loss like any other.

"There's really no such thing as a moral victory, we had talked about going out there (to LSU) and winning," he said. "But the match gave me some ideas of what we need to work on."

Although it would be easy for the Aggies to look back on the LSU match and think about how close they came to victory, Cass said he does not expect this to happen.

"We really don't have enough time to look back," he said. "If we do, it could get us in trouble."

Freshman Rafael de Mesa, currently ranked No. 37 in the nation, said dwelling on LSU should not be a problem for the men's team.

"We are looking forward to playing Tech and Southwest Texas. They are good teams," de Mesa said.

Cass said that while he does not want to look past the Southwest Texas State match on Friday, he is excited about playing Tech.

"Texas Tech will be our first conference match," he said. "And winning the conference is a serious goal for us this year."

## AGGIE SPORTS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

### Ags try to avoid record streak

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team (6-17, 0-13) will attempt their first Big 12 Conference win when they host Texas Tech (12-7) at 12:45 p.m. Saturday.

The Aggies tied their longest winning streak in school history with a 74 loss to Texas in Austin Wednesday night.

With a win, Texas A&M could set the all-time school record for consecutive losses at 15 in the Big 12 Tournament loss to Iowa State last year.

The school record for consecutive conference losses in the Big 12 is 10, set by the Red Raider senior guard Cassius

scored 33 points.

When the two teams met in Lubbock on Feb. 7, Carr and sophomore guard Rayford Young combined for 50 points and Carr led the team

### Swim team enjoys Big 12 success

The Texas A&M Women's Swimming Team had a productive first year in the Big 12 Championships in Austin on Thursday.

Senior all-American Stacie Kames and sophomore Tracy Evans and freshman Katie Ramos qualified for the 500-yard freestyle. Kames is the Big 12 champion in the event this year. The times of the athletes earned them all consideration for the Division I Women's Swimming and Diving Championships March 13-15.

Monica Stroman also earned consideration for her 2:03.16 in the 200-yard individual medley.

The Aggies will return eight athletes to competition with the opportunity to score points for the team and white in later competition.

The Phillips 66/Big 12 Women's Swimming and Diving Championships will continue through Saturday with preliminaries beginning each day at 8 a.m. and finals at 7 p.m.

### SOFTBALL

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didn't make the routine plays she said. "We would make the routine plays and then make tactical mistakes on the routine plays. We have to be more consistent."

Sophomore shortstop Janelle Smith agreed, saying inconsistent play has been the team's biggest problem.

"If we are going to win consistently, we have to make the routine plays," she said. "We also need to hustle more. Our hustle on the field is not that great right now."

Evans said she believes the team needs to improve its pitching more playing time which will allow the players to settle in and into a rhythm.

Despite the inconsistent play, the Aggies are still racking up the wins.

"Our composure and our ability to come from behind impresses the most," Evans said. "We don't panic. We settle in and come together as a team and we get the job done."

Freshman pitcher Ashley Lewis said the team's ability to come from behind creates an intimidation factor.

"It says to the other team, 'Even though you scored some runs, we didn't play our best, we still won,'" Lewis said. "We want to intimidate them. It makes a statement."

Evans has also been impressed with the team work ethic and likes to see the players push each other for starting positions.

Evans said she is pleased with her pitchers' performances well. The Aggies have an all-time men pitching staff which causes concerns earlier this season, but they have responded well.

"All of our pitchers have struggled some this season, but somehow they still come through at the end when we need them the most and get the win," Evans said.

Next weekend, the Aggies will travel to Columbus, Ga., to participate in the NFCA Tournament.



Evans

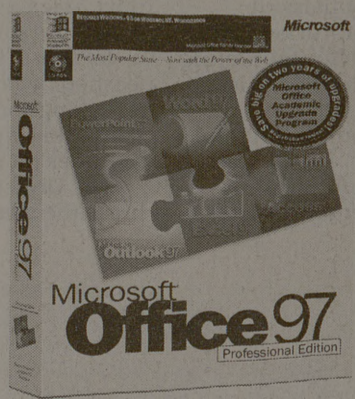
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