

JNCC's Watkins rumored for A&M post

DALLAS (AP) — North Carolina-Charlotte basketball coach Melvin Watkins has accepted the head coaching job at Texas A&M, *The Dallas Morning News* reported Monday.

The school has scheduled a news conference for 4 p.m. Wednesday to announce Watkins' hiring, the newspaper reported in a story on its World Wide Web site, citing unidentified A&M sources.

The newspaper reported that Watkins has accepted a five-year guaranteed contract with an annual compensation package worth \$550,000.

Watkins is scheduled to meet with Judy Rose, UNC-Charlotte's athletic director, and his players on Tuesday before flying to College Station Wednesday to meet with A&M President Ray Bowen and attend the news conference, the newspaper reported.

The 43-year-old coach could not be reached for comment by the newspaper and did not return a telephone message from *The Associated Press* Monday.

Texas A&M athletic director Alan Cannon confirmed that a news conference has been scheduled for Wednesday "regarding the Aggies' men's basketball program and the appointment of a new head coach." He declined comment on *The News*' report.

The *Charlotte Observer* in North Carolina had reported in its Monday editions that an offer had been extended to Watkins. Watkins met with Groff in San Antonio Friday, *The Observer* reported. He then flew to College Station Saturday for more interviews and a tour of the campus. Watkins was offered the job during that visit, the newspaper reported. The school expects a reply by week's end.

Ms. Rose had told *The Observer* on Sunday she was unaware of Watkins' trip to College Station. She plans to meet with the coach this week.

"I believe Melvin doesn't want to leave UNC Charlotte," Rose said.

Watkins, 43, would replace Tony Barone, who resigned after seven seasons at A&M following a miserable 7-20 season.

Watkins has become one of coaching's hot commodities after the 49ers' 93-83 overtime loss to No. 1-ranked North Carolina in the East Region's second round.



Watkins

Aggies prepare for rumble with UTSA

Revenge-minded Texas A&M hopes to put hot bats, pitching to use against the Roadrunners today



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Jason Tyner will look to help the Aggies steal one from UTSA at Olsen Field.

By TRAVIS HARSCH
Staff writer

The A&M Baseball Team has shaken off whatever dust may have been on their bats, winning five straight and eight out of nine. It is a streak the Aggies will be hoping to continue at home Tuesday against the UT-San Antonio Roadrunners at 7 p.m.

Coach Mark Johnson said he thought the team was beginning to heat up again.

"We're on a little bit of a roll and hopefully we can keep it going," Johnson said.

Jason Tyner said that although A&M's bats have become hot, there are still some things which the Aggies need to focus on.

"We've made a few errors and if we're going to be a championship ball club, we can't make those errors," Tyner said. "But we're getting our strokes going, we're starting to hit the ball better. Our pitching's going to hold

us in there, and our starters are going to win the game for us."

One of those starters is Chance Caple, who has been stellar this season, recording a perfect record of 5-0, with 36 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.85 which leads the team. Johnson said he thought Caple's earlier successes this season would make for a good game.

"Chance has given us some great outings, so it ought to be a good contest," Johnson said.

UTSA is looking to continue its success from this past weekend, when they took two of three from Southland Conference rival Southwest Texas. All has not been rosy for the Roadrunners, however.

The wins last weekend improved their overall record to 17-17 and their conference record to 4-8. In the first meeting between the teams on March 17, UTSA beat the Aggies 3-1, despite getting only five hits off Chris Fulbright.

Tyner said the Aggies ran into

a hot pitcher and some bad luck in the first meeting.

"That game, they had a pitcher who threw a really good game against us. It was a combination of him pitching well and we hit the ball right at people the whole game," Tyner said.

Tyner said the team's recent offensive binge is happening at an opportune time. He also said he was looking for a little revenge for the early-season loss to UTSA.

"It's fortunate that we're going to get hot right now. We're in the home stretch, and this is where we're going to have to do it," Tyner said. "I look forward to playing them again. I think we owe them something and it's going to be fun to play them here."



Johnson

Women's tennis whips up on Oklahoma State, 8-1

A&M improves their record to 14-6, 6-3 in Big 12

By KATIE MISH
Staff writer

The Texas Aggie Women's Tennis Team defeated Oklahoma State University by a score of 8-1 yesterday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Aggies took both doubles matches by the scores of 8-2 and 8-2. Monica Re-

bolledo said. "She really dominated right from the first point. I thought she just played a great match."

Kleinecke said the team played well under the conditions, and the wind they faced was comparable to the wind at the Stanford match last Thursday.

"This is really tough conditions, with this wind the way it is blowing around," he said. "It takes a lot of guts, and you can't walk off the court feeling good about your game. It's just a matter of getting enough balls in to be able to win the points."

Kleinecke said this match was an important match for the Aggies, because they needed another conference win for the Big 12 Tournament.

"This was a big match for us in the sense that we needed to beat Oklahoma State and up that conference record," he said. "We're trying to work on getting the higher seed for the conference tournament."

Eva Marcial, a freshman on the Texas A&M team, said the OSU team is a tough team to play, because it is hard to anticipate how they will play.

"Their top four are really tough, and their five is really tough because she's really athletic," Marcial said. "Overall as a team, I think they were pretty tough. They are one of the unpredictable teams, so you can't take them lightly."

The Aggies' next matches are at Middle Tennessee State and next weekend at Vanderbilt.



Kleinecke

"Monica San Miguel played one of the best matches I've seen her play this spring."
Bobby Kleinecke
A&M Tennis Coach

bolledo and Monica San Miguel beat OSU partners Stoudt and Tabisz.

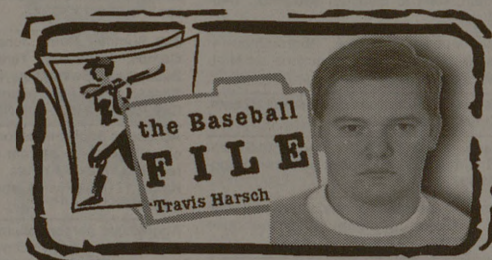
Both San Miguel and Rebolledo won their singles matches as well, with scores of 6-2, 6-1 and 6-4, 6-0. The Aggie pairing of Eva Marcial and Kathryn Scott defeated Wirthova and Chmelova of OSU.

They each won their singles matches with scores of 6-2, 6-0 and 6-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Coach Bobby Kleinecke said his team played really well overall, and that he was especially impressed with the play of outstanding junior San Miguel.

"Monica San Miguel played one of the best matches that I've seen her play this

Scheschuk leads A&M "O"



A&M takes a break from its Big 12 schedule this week to take on the UTSA Roadrunners. The Aggies are looking for revenge after losing the first game with UTSA this season.

Call John Scheschuk Butter, because he's on a Roll

John Scheschuk has been on fire in his last four games, homering in all of them, with two grand slams figuring in the total. Scheschuk leads the team in three major categories, home runs, with eight and batting average, with a .380 mark. In the series against Kansas State, Scheschuk had seven RBI to improve his season total to 31 and giving him the team lead in that department. If Scheschuk wants to catch Jason Tyner for the team lead in steals, however, he has some catching up to do. Tyner leads Scheschuk by 16, with 18 swipes for Tyner and two for Scheschuk.

El Nino huffs, puffs, blows down Cornhuskers' schedule

Nebraska, picked by many to be a contender for the Big 12 tourney this season, hasn't had a chance to live up or down to expectations. With the Big 12 season now at its midpoint, the Cornhuskers have played just one conference game, thanks to weather cancellations which have decimated their schedule. The rain-outs, cold-outs and snow-outs, which have affected every team in the conference except A&M, threaten to upset

the plans for the six-team Big 12 tournament. A team must play at least 60 percent of its conference games to qualify, something several teams will have a hard time doing, prompting speculation the Big 12 may invite all 11 schools to the tournament. Imagine how much worse things could be if Colorado had a team. On an ironic note, with nice weather in Nebraska this weekend, the Cornhuskers could be found in Maui, playing in the Hawaii Rainbow Classic.

Schedule favors Aggies for Stretch Run

A&M's sweep of Kansas State propelled the Aggies into second place in the Big 12 standings with a 10-5 mark behind Baylor. The Aggies are tied for second with Missouri, which has a 4-2 conference mark because the standings are based on winning percentages. A&M may have an edge on the Bears in the home stretch thanks to their schedule, as they play four of their final five series against teams who have conference records below .500, while Baylor must play three series against teams with records at or above .500.

Rupe better season marks in strikeouts

Ryan Rupe did more than improve his record to 7-1 Friday night against Kansas State. His nine strikeouts gave him a season total of 71 in just 60.1 innings of work and a new career high for strikeouts in a season, bettering his mark of 63 in 80 innings that he set last season. With one more win, he will tie his career high for victories in a season with the eight he also recorded last year. Rupe has been on a hot streak, with his last loss coming against Ole Miss in mid-February.

— Travis Harsch is a freshman journalism major.

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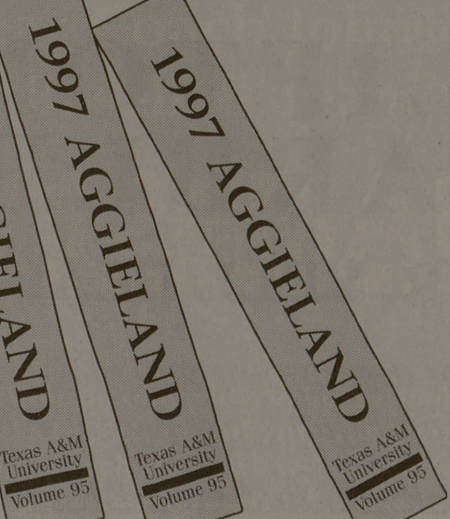
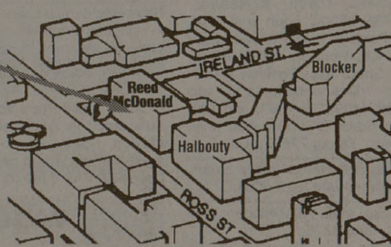
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