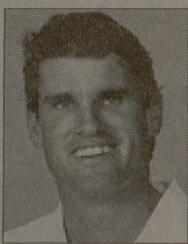


Men's tennis team takes ACC trip

By AL LAZARUS
Staff writer

The No. 19 Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team knocked off No. 30 TCU, 5-2, Thursday afternoon at the Omar Smith Tennis Center and will travel to North Carolina this weekend to take on No. 40 University of North Carolina and No. 13 Duke University.



Cass

The Aggie victory brought to an end A&M's seven-match losing streak to the Horned Frogs, which dated back to 1994, when the two schools were still doing battle as SWC foes.

For only the second time this season, A&M (10-2, 4-1) started the match by losing the doubles point. Freshmen Rafael de Mesa and Cody Hubbell won their match, 8-5, but that would be the only doubles victory the Aggies could muster.

Coach Tim Cass expressed his disappointment in losing the doubles point against the Horned Frogs. "I feel like our doubles is better than anybody's in the country," Cass said. "So I get down when we lose (the doubles point)."

In singles play, de Mesa won a three-set battle with TCU freshman sensation Esteban Carril, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Having a much easier go of it for the Aggies in singles play were senior Carlos Tori, freshmen Shuon Madden and Cody Hubbell and junior Brent Horan. All won in straight sets. Hubbell, a College Station native

who attended A&M Consolidated, said Thursday's victory was an important one for the Aggies.

"This is a really big win for us; this past month we've had a lot of tough matches that we've grinded out, and to get another win today was huge," Hubbell said.

After a month-long homestand, the Aggies will take to the road for their next five matches, starting with UNC and Duke.

"We have a lot of respect for Duke and North Carolina," Cass said. "We know them well and understand their style of play well."

Tori, A&M's team co-captain, stressed the importance of this weekend's matches.

"This will be a really big weekend for us," he said. "They are tough road matches, but we need to win them to accomplish our goals."

Texas A&M tackles Volunteer State

By KATIE MISH
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team (13-6, 6-3) travels to Tennessee this weekend to meet up with Middle Tennessee State and Vanderbilt.

Coach Bob Kleinecke said Middle Tennessee State is a team the Aggies can definitely beat, but they have a good team and the Aggies still need to play hard.

Senior Monica Robolledo said she does not know what to expect from Middle Tennessee State, but that she expects everyone to play hard.

"I don't think we've played them before," Robolledo said. "I expect everyone to do their best and try to win the match. If everybody in the lineup plays their best, I think we can come away with a big win."

Vanessa Rooks, senior captain of the team, said Middle Tennessee State will be a tough match for the Aggies.

"We can't take them lightly," Rooks said. "It's really important for us to concentrate on what we have to do, and go in there and take care of business."

Kleinecke said Vanderbilt is a good team, but they have weaknesses, and the Aggies can take ad-

vantage of the weak points.

He said the Aggies need to hit their right places and be ready to fight.

Robolledo said the Aggies played Vanderbilt a couple of years ago in a close match with Vanderbilt coming out on top.

She said Vanderbilt is a good team, but if the Aggies believe in themselves they can get the win.

Rooks said she thinks the Vanderbilt match will be tough, and the Aggies have to go into the match with certainty.

"We can't go in there thinking, 'What if we lose?'" Rooks said. "We've got to go in there believing and just ready to go."

Rooks said the team is at a strong point. "We have the fundamentals down even though we're a young team."

"It's just a matter of playing more matches and getting more experience," Rooks said. "Every position has someone who is good on this team."

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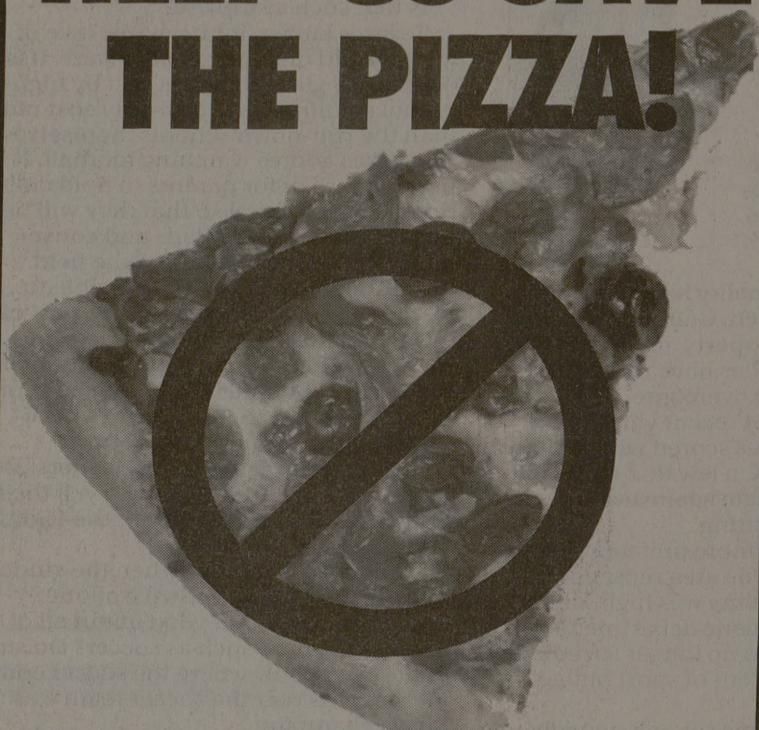
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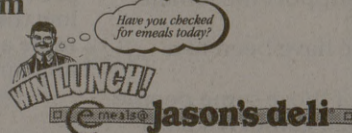
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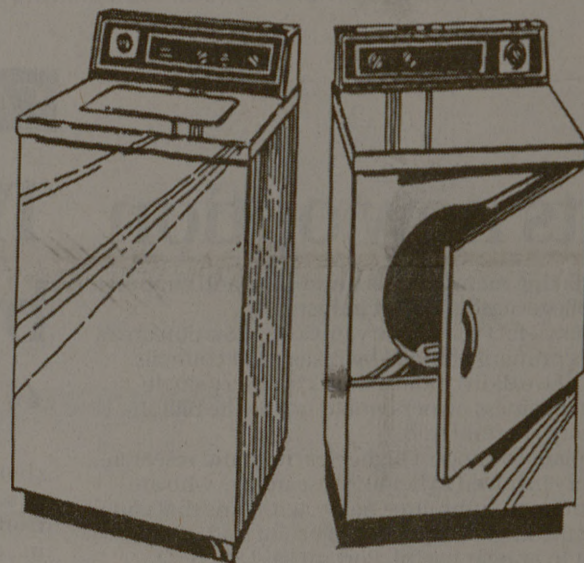
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