

**AGGIE  
SPORTS  
BRIEFS**

from staff and wire reports

**Men's team jumps  
to No. 17 ranking**

The Texas A&M Men's Tennis team just keeps moving on up. The Aggies have a No. 17 ranking in the latest edition of the Rolex Collegiate Rankings released Tuesday.

The Aggies (11-3, 4-1) jumped two positions in the national rankings for a two-week period beginning Tuesday. The Aggies are the second-highest ranked team in the Big 12, behind No. 7 Texas at No. 7. Other Big 12 schools in the top 50 include No. 25 Baylor, No. 37 Oklahoma State, No. 39 Kansas and No. 41 Colorado.

This ranking does not take into account any matches played on or after March 30, including the Aggies' recent wins over then No. 31 TCU and No. 40 North Carolina, or the loss in its past weekend to No. 13 Duke.

The Aggies only three losses this season are to teams in the top 15. A&M fell to 4-3 at No. 6 Louisiana State (now ranked No. 5), to No. 8 Texas on the road, 4-3 (now ranked No. 7) and to No. 13 Duke the road, 2-2 (now ranked No. 18).

**Madden receives  
conference honor**

Texas A&M freshman Shuon Madden has earned Big 12 Tennis Player of the Week honors for second consecutive time, the league office announced Tuesday.

Madden, who hails from Miami, Fla., has been a driving force behind the Aggies' success this season. His 13-0 overall record since joining the team has been vital in the Aggies' 11-3 record and their No. 17 national ranking.

This past week, Madden posted a 10-0 singles record as the Aggies took a break from conference play. Madden is the Aggies' leading dual match singles winner with a 13-0 record and in the Big 12 he holds a 4-0 record, all at No. 3 singles. Madden also has seen limited action at No. 1 singles.

# Ninth-inning A&M rally falls short

Aggies lose for second time to Sam Houston 5-4 after spotting Bearkats five early unanswered runs

BY TRAVIS HARSCH  
Staff writer

A ninth-inning rally came too late for the Aggie Baseball Team Tuesday night in a 5-4 loss to the Sam Houston State Bearkats that had several questionable calls. Coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies didn't come out with their best game.

"We hit the ball early, right at them, then we went into goose eggs," Johnson said. "I don't want to take anything away from their pitcher, but we see better pitching than that on the weekends, and there's no excuse not to be ready for it on Tuesday."

The Bearkats got on the board first in the second, as Chris Fulbright gave up a double with a man on second to make the score 1-0.

After giving up two singles and a walk to load the bases with no outs in the second, he worked his way out of the jam for the Aggies by getting a sacrifice fly that turned into a double play as a runner on third left before the ball was caught. A popout to Craig Kuzmic at third ended the inning and kept the score at 1-0.

Fulbright was pulled with two outs in the third after giving up two runs to make the score 3-0. Chance Caple came on relief and hit a bat-

ter with his first pitch before getting the last out of the inning.

Sam Houston State led 5-0 after the fourth, when the Bearkats put runners on first and second with no outs. A single and a sacrifice fly made the score 5-0.

A leadoff walk to John Scheschuk led to runs for the Aggies in the fourth, as Steven Truitt scored him with a triple to right that kicked up chalk as it landed fair and rolled to the corner in rightfield. Truitt then scored from third on a single by Sean Heaney to make the score 5-2.

Outstanding defense got the Aggies out of the sixth without allowing a run, as they picked off two Bearkat runners attempting to steal, one at the plate on a double steal attempt with two outs that ended the inning with the score 5-2.

Daylan Holt doubled with one out in the eighth and things were beginning to look up for A&M when John Scheschuk sacrificed Holt over to third. The umpire ruled, however, that Holt had left second before the ball had been caught, ending the inning and prompting Johnson to argue the call.

"I don't usually go out, I tried really hard this year not to go out, but I felt like he may have missed the

call," Johnson said. "He felt comfortable with his call, he didn't feel like there was a lot of question."

The Aggies' ninth began with controversy as Truitt hit a ball down the left-field line. The third-base umpire didn't signal whether the ball was fair or foul, however. With Truitt standing on first, the home plate umpire ruled the ball had been foul and Truitt headed back to the plate, striking out on the next pitch.

Sean Heaney then ripped a double to left. The third-base umpire signaled the ball fair this time and Heaney had a double. After a wild pitch advanced Heaney to third, Craig Kuzmic crushed a ball to deep right field for his ninth homer of the year and cut the Bearkats' lead to 5-4.

"Part of me wanted it to fall in and for me to get on base, they always say that a home run is a rally killer and you never know what could have happened with more singles," Kuzmic said.

With William Gray on first after a single, the Aggies' put the hit-and-run on to take advantage of Gray's speed with Scott Sandusky at the plate. A foul ball by Sandusky was caught by the Bearkat first baseman, who then beat Gray back to first to end the game.



Texas A&M catcher **Scott Sandusky** manages to tag out one Sam Houston State player who attempts to steal home in the sixth inning in last night's game.

## Big 12 game returns to St. Louis

DALLAS (AP) — The Big 12 football championship will return this year to the site of the inaugural conference title game at the Trans World Dome in St. Louis.

"It's a great city and the facilities are great," Big 12 Commissioner Steve J. Hatchell said Tuesday, adding that the supportive city and its hotels helped make the 1996 game a success.

The title game moved to San Antonio last season. This year's game is Dec. 5.

Texas defeated Nebraska 37-27 in the first Big 12 championship at St. Louis. The game fell short of capacity attendance, although it produced \$500,000 in additional revenue for conference schools.

The winner of this year's game, to be televised by ABC Sports, will again represent the league in the Bowl Alliance.

"We had a really good experience in St. Louis in

1996," said Donnie Duncan, Big 12 senior associate commissioner.

"They have a tremendous facility there. It's A-plus and all of the pieces fit. The rationale was solid and it all worked out in terms of the negotiations, the potential revenue strengths and ticket locations."

The Dome, home to the NFL's St. Louis Rams, has more than 65,000 fixed seats plus more than 6,000 club level seats, with 109 luxury suites.

In February, athletics directors reviewed operational results of the first two Big 12 football championships in considering plans for future contests.

Directors reviewed financial packages, scheduling and choices of venues for this year's football championship.

In 1996, Dr Pepper/Cadbury North America signed a four-year agreement to become title sponsor of the Big 12 football championship.

## Astros lose extra-inning affair with Giants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pinch-hitter Rey Sanchez singled in the winning run in the 10th inning as the San Francisco Giants won their home opener, 5-4 Tuesday over the Houston Astros.

With one out in the 10th, J.T. Snow and Rich Aurilia drew walks off Billy Wagner (0-1). Sanchez then lined a single to center and Snow slid around the tag of catcher Tony Eusebio to score the winning run.

Robb Nen (1-0) pitched two perfect innings, striking out two.

Houston, which had just five hits, tied the score with two runs in the seventh.

An RBI double by Craig Biggio and a run-scoring single by Derek

Bell off reliever Julian Tavarez made it 4-4 and tainted a strong start by Orel Hershiser in his first home game for San Francisco.

Once a favorite target of Giants fans when he pitched for the hated Los Angeles Dodgers, Hershiser got a long standing ovation when he left the game in the sixth with a 4-2 lead.

Jeff Kent drove in two runs for San Francisco with an RBI single in the first and an RBI double in the fifth.

Barry Bonds added a run-scoring single in the fifth for his first RBI of the season. Bonds, who is hitting .219, went 1-for-4 with a walk and was robbed of an extra-base hit in the seventh on a lunging backhanded catch by left fielder Moises Alou.

# This Summer, Heat Up Your Grade Point Average.

Benefit your brain, GPA and resumé with summer classes at your neighborhood Dallas Community College.

(Summer I classes begin June 1, Summer II classes begin July 9 – and the credits are a snap to transfer.)

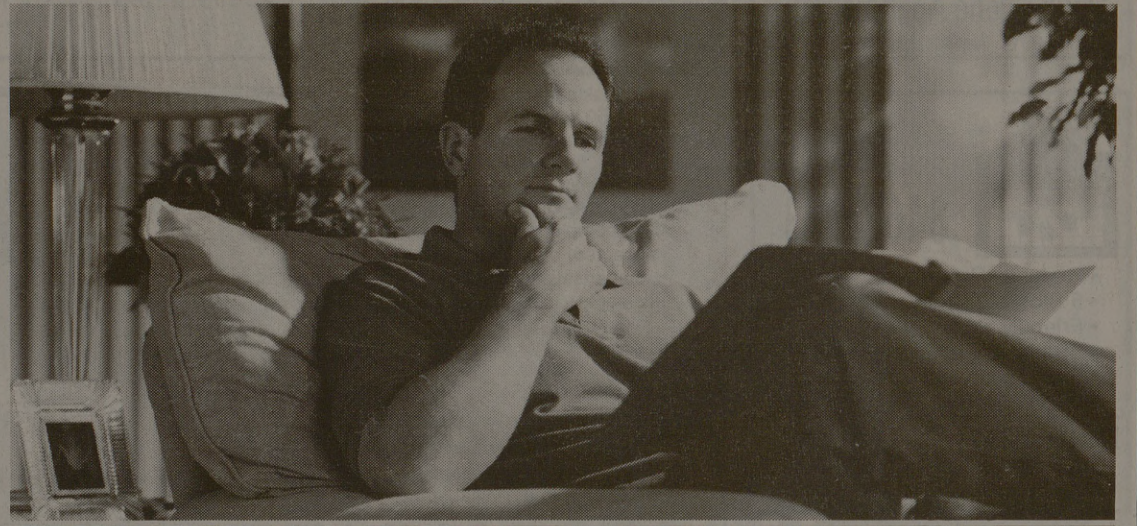


DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
Brookhaven Cedar Valley Eastfield El Centro Mountain View North Lake Richland

Call 1-817-COLLEGE for more information. Web site: www.dcccd.edu

**EARN UP TO 4 CREDITS  
IN 3 WEEKS  
IN 5 WEEK TERM  
SESSIONS!**

FOR the EDUCATION and RESEARCH COMMUNITY



**HELPING YOU BUILD A SECURE FINANCIAL  
FUTURE IS AN IMPORTANT JOB.  
FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE THE PERFECT RESUME.**

With 80 years of leadership experience in our field, TIAA-CREF is eminently qualified to help you build a comfortable, worry-free retirement.

Our references are equally impeccable – today, two million of the best minds in America trust us with their financial future.

Allow us to review our qualifications.

**Superior strength**

With \$200 billion in assets, TIAA-CREF is the world's largest retirement organization – and among the most solid. TIAA is one of only a handful of companies to have earned top ratings for financial strength, and CREF is one of Wall Street's largest investors.<sup>1</sup>

**Solid, long-term performance**

We seek out long-term opportunities that other companies, in pursuit of quick gains, often miss. Though past performance can't guarantee future results, this patient philosophy has proven extremely rewarding.

**Surprisingly low expenses**

TIAA-CREF's operating costs are among the lowest in the insurance and mutual fund industries. Therefore, more of your money goes where it should – towards ensuring your future.<sup>2</sup>

**Easy diversification**

We offer a wide variety of expertly managed investment options to help build your assets. With stock, bond, money market, and real estate accounts – as well as a guaranteed annuity to choose from – TIAA-CREF makes diversification easy.

**Unrivaled service**

We believe that our service distinguishes us from every other retirement company. In a recent nationwide survey of retirement plans, TIAA-CREF was voted number one in customer satisfaction.<sup>3</sup>

If you work in education, research, or related fields, why not put TIAA-CREF's experience to work for you? To find out more, visit our Web site at [www.tiaa-cref.org](http://www.tiaa-cref.org) or call us at 1 800 842-2776.



**Ensuring the future  
for those who shape it.<sup>SM</sup>**

1.A+ (Superior), A.M. Best Co.; AAA, Duff & Phelps; Aaa, Moody's Investor Services; AAA, Standard and Poor's for stability, sound investments, claims-paying ability, and overall financial strength. These ratings of TIAA as an insurance company do not apply to CREF or the TIAA Real Estate Account. <sup>2</sup>Standard & Poor's Insurance Rating Analysis, 1997; Lippert Analytical Services, Inc., *Lippert Director's Analytical Data*, 1997; Quarterly. <sup>3</sup>DALBAR's 1997 Defined Contribution Excellence Ratings. For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842-2776, extension 5509, for CREF and TIAA Real Estate Account prospectuses. Read them carefully before you invest or send money. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services distributes CREF certificates and interests in the TIAA Real Estate Account.