

Thursday • April 9, 1998

**AGGIE SPORTS BRIEFS**

from staff and wire reports

**Track team hosts A&M Invitational**

This weekend, the Texas A&M Track and Field Team will host the A&M Invitational, which will take place on Saturday, April 11 at Frank Anderson complex.

Likely to participate in the meet are Texas Christian University, the University of Texas-Arlington, the University of Illinois, Northwestern State University, Rice University, and the University of Texas, fresh off their domination of the Texas Relays.

The Aggie men should fare much better this weekend with the return of All-Americans Larry Wade, Billy Goss, Toya Jones and Micheal Deas as well as Mike Lowrance and Chris Grasha.

The women will look to continue their impressive performances from the past three weeks, with freshman Esther Eisenlauer attempting to win her fourth consecutive title in competition.

Once they add a 4x100-meter and 4x400-meter relay team, they should be able to compete with the best in the nation.

After the A&M Invitational, the Aggies will travel to Walnut, Calif., to compete on April 16-17 in the SAC Multi-Competition, then to Austin for a five-way meet on April 18.

**Aggies ready for Nebraska series**

The Texas A&M Baseball Team travels to Lincoln, Neb., to take on the Nebraska Cornhuskers for a three-game series this weekend. The first game will start Friday at 7 p.m.

Coach Mark Johnson will start senior pitcher Ryan Rupe against the Cornhuskers on Friday.

Rupe is 7-2 and leads the team with a 2.43 ERA.

The Aggies are led by junior outfielder Jason Tynor who leads the team with a .380 batting average.

Junior first baseman John Scheschuk has been on fire recently, raising his average to .353 and slugging nine home runs and 35 RBI.

The Aggies played Sam Houston State on Tuesday night, losing a one-run affair to the Bearkats in a wild 5-4 game.

Texas A&M has a 12-6 record in Big 12 Conference play this season.

The other scheduled starters for the weekend series with the Cornhuskers are Casey Fossum in game two and Matt Ward in game three.

**Volleyball signees rank high in nation**

Texas A&M Volleyball Coach Laurie Corbelli has signed the sixth-best recruiting class in the nation according to Volleyball Magazine.

The ranking is the highest received in the history of Aggie volleyball programs.

In addition to the class ranking, a board of three



Corbelli

**Texas A&M cards second at Classic**

The No. 12-ranked Texas A&M Women's Golf Team battled through rain, wind and hail Tuesday to finish second at the Utah Dixie Classic at the Sunbrook Golf Course, just one stroke behind tournament winner Texas Tech.

The Aggies carded rounds of 303-304=607 while No. 26-ranked Tech was at 299-307=606.

No. 11-ranked Oklahoma State finished third at 611 and No. 15-ranked TCU was fourth at 614.

The teams played 27 holes on Monday and were scheduled to play 27 holes on Tuesday, but because of the poor weather conditions it took five hours for the 20-team field to complete nine holes.

The final 18 holes were canceled. The Aggies trailed the Red Raiders by four strokes after Monday's opening round.

**Basketball team signs top recruits**

A pair of top post players, Celestine Washington and Nicole Benson, signed national letters-of-intent Wednesday with Texas A&M, Coach

Candi Harvey announced.

Washington is a 6-2 post and a senior at Karnack High School, the Texas 1-A High School State Championships this past season.

An All-State Tournament selection, the well-rounded Washington averaged 14.6 points a game and 9.5 rebounds a game. She also averaged three blocks and three steals per game.

Benson averaged 18.5 points a game and managed to grab 9.5 rebounds a game during two seasons at Iowa Central Community College.

Benson and Washington join LaToya Rose, who signed with the Aggies during the early signing period this past November.

Rose is the cousin of current point guard Kim Tarkington.

**Softball team faces archrival UT**

When the Texas A&M Softball Team takes the field Friday evening and again Saturday against the University of Texas, it will feel many things. It will feel nervousness, confidence and excitement. What it will not feel is that it is just another game.

"People say it's just another game," Texas A&M Coach Jo Evans said, "and it's not. When you wake up and it's game day and you're playing Texas, it's not just another game."

What it will be is a matchup between the No. 9 team in the nation, Texas, boasting one of the nations best pitchers, and an A&M team that has scratched and clawed its way into a tie for fifth place in the Big 12 Conference. But Evans said she expects the team not to get over-excited about playing its rival.

"The thing is to be getting excited to play," Evans said, "but not being too emotional about it. Sometimes you can get too wrapped up in a rivalry and psych yourself out."

The main player A&M is concerned with is pitcher Christa Williams who leads Texas with a record of 19-2. In 147 innings she has posted a 0.48 ERA and stuck out 241 batters.

"She throws the ball hard," Evans said. "But she's got a great change-up. We're just going to have to be disci-

plined at the plate. We're going to have to be selective and not get down in the count."

Because Texas A&M and Texas have agreed to play the series as home-and-home rather than a home-and-away doubleheader system, Evans said Williams may pitch both games.

"If we were playing a doubleheader we might not get Christa two games in a row," Evans said. "Now, we're pretty much guaranteed to get her twice. So there's that trade-off but that's ok. We know we have to beat her anyway."

A&M freshman pitcher Amy Vining, who played in the same district as Williams in high school, said she thinks Williams is beatable.

"She throws really hard," Vining said. "But if you lay off the rising high stuff, you can hit her all day long."

Vining apparently knows something no one else in the conference knows, because in 21 games Williams has only surrendered 13 runs on 48 hits. But A&M senior catcher Marianne McGuire said no matter the outcome of Friday's game, they will regroup and be ready to play again on Saturday.

"It's not a matter of who's going to last the longest or keep their intensity or their focus the longest," McGuire said. "It's just who is going to go out there and give it all for that two hours. And since we get them here, maybe we'll get some people out here to watch."

The first game is at 6 p.m. Friday in Austin and the second is at 2 p.m. Saturday in College Station.

**Texas coaching search expands**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The search for a basketball coach at the University of Texas may be expanded, a high-ranking university source said Wednesday.

The search, which has included Utah's Rick Majerus, Oklahoma's Kelvin Sampson and then centered on Washington coach Bob Bender, could be expanded to include Wake Forest's Dave Odom, said the source, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

On Tuesday, members of the Texas screening committee had focused their attention on Bender.

Longhorns athletic director DeLoss Dodds had indicated he wanted to hire someone by Wednesday, if possible, because it marked the first day of the national signing period for high school recruits.

But a group of UT officials on Wednesday pushed for an interview with Odom, who has been at Wake Forest for nine years and took the Demon Deacons to seven straight NCAA tournaments before narrowly failing to make the tournament this year, the source said.

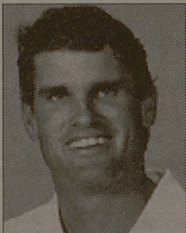
Odom is a proven coach of big men, having been credited with developing former star center Tim Duncan, now with the San Antonio Spurs. The Longhorns' offense figures to form around 7-foot center Chris Mihm over the next few seasons.

UT officials, however, were unclear if Odom would agree to meet with them. Odom has expressed that he's happy at Wake Forest after signing a new contract two years ago. He is a native of North Carolina and also has two sons who coach in the area — at East Carolina and at Furman.

**Nebraska, Colorado await A&M on road trip**

By Al Lazarus  
Staff writer

The No. 17 Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team will take on the No. 41 Colorado Buffaloes on Friday in Boulder, Colo., and will travel to Lincoln, Neb., on Sunday to face the No. 68 Nebraska Cornhuskers.



Cass

The Aggies (11-3, 4-1) are coming off a trip to North Carolina last weekend which saw them face the No. 40 Tarheels and the No. 13 Duke Blue Devils. A&M escaped Chapel Hill with a 4-3 victory over the Tar Heels, but suffered a 4-2 defeat in Durham at the hands of the Blue Devils.

Freshman Shuon Madden, who on Tuesday was named Big 12 Tennis Player of the Week for the second consecutive week, said the Aggies were glad to get out of UNC with a victory.

"Mentally, the win over North Carolina helped

us a lot, because nobody for us was really playing their best tennis, but we still got out of there with a win," Madden said.

The Aggies did battle with the Buffaloes last year in College Station and were defeated, 4-3.

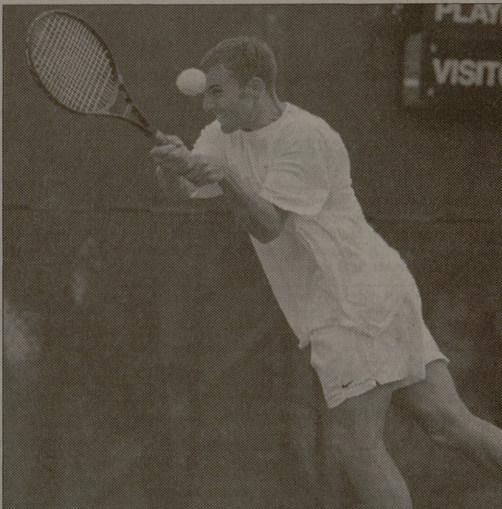
Although A&M will be in Boulder to face the Buffaloes this year, Coach Tim Cass said he does not think the high altitude will be much of a factor.

"(Altitude) shouldn't be a factor physically for us. If anything, it might make the style of play more aggressive, because the ball moves a little bit faster in the thin air," Cass said.

The Aggies will leave the mountains of Colorado for the plains of Nebraska on Sunday to face the Cornhuskers. The Aggies defeated Nebraska 4-3 last season in a match held in College Station.

Cass said although Nebraska is not ranked as high as Colorado, he still expects the Cornhuskers to provide quite a test for the Aggies.

"They (Nebraska) are on the bubble of getting in the NCAA tournament," he said. "We are not going to take them lightly."



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Brent Horan hopes to lead Texas A&M to a "Rocky Mountain High" of their own on their next road trip.

**Softball team faces archrival UT**

By Philip W. Peter  
Staff writer

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**Aggies try to build on momentum at MacGregor Downs**

By Michael Taglienti  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Men's Golf Team will travel to the MacGregor Downs Country Club in Cary, N.C., to play in the MacGregor Downs Intercollegiate Tournament this weekend. The Aggies are coming off an eighth-place finish in the U.S. Collegiate Championships.

A&M was led in the tournament by senior Miguel del Angel who shot a four-over-par 220 to finish 15th overall.

Texas A&M Men's Golf Coach Greg Ellis said despite the fact this is the last tournament before the Big 12 Championship, the team's goals entering the tournament remain the same.

"We go to every tournament with hopes of winning the tournament. Winning a tournament is the best way to prepare for the next tournament," Ellis said.

Ellis said he thinks the team is in good shape heading into the MacGregor.

"I feel good about the team going out there," Ellis said. "Lately we have struggled with our short game, but that is coming around. That has a lot to do with the fact that we played two less tournaments this year when we normally do."

"I would have liked to get more players some tournament experience, but we have not played in enough tournaments."

Ellis said everyone on the team is starting to play well at the same time.

"Lee (Reed) is starting to come on," Ellis said. "He shot well in the first and last round (at the U.S. Collegiate). He played really good golf those two rounds. It was the middle round where he had some trouble. Ryan Tull has been having putting problems, but he's putted a lot better this past weekend. Then you have Miguel and Ryan (Palmer) who have played well all year."

Palmer and del Angel have been the Aggies most consistent golfers this season. They have a stroke per round average of 72.60 and 74.21 respectively.

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