Caradima, Madden to pair off in tour

Aggie tennis duo to compete against nation's best at Rolex Tennis Champ

BEN WESTBROOK
The Battalion

Two Aggie tennis players will face off against the best in the nation when the Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoors Tennis Championship kicks off Thursday in Dallas.

CASS

The tournament at the Brookhaven Country Club features the best 32 singles players and the best 16 doubles teams from around the nation.

This year two sophomores, Shuon Madden and Dumitru Caradima, will represent A&M.

Madden, an all-Big 12 selection in both singles and doubles last year, will compete in both events in the tournament. Madden, who will face 60th-ranked Rob Cheyne of Fresno State University, enters the tournament ranked 30th nationally with a 11-2 singles record.

Caradima, ranked No. 8, was a Big 12 runne gles last season.

Caradima and Madden will team up for th competition in which they will face No. 2 Ke and Francisco Trinidad of Michigan State Uni

The two earned a spot in the tournament b the Rolex Southwest Regional tournament in

A&M enters with a top 15 ranking and w move higher, A&M men's tennis coach Tim C

"Our goal is to be considered one of the in the country and win the Big 12 champions and year out," he said

Cass said the players' invitations to the to is a step in the right direction towards this

"We think of this as a measuring stick said. "One of our goals is to win a nationa onship, and to have two sophmores invite tournament is a big deal."

RECRUITS

Continued from Page 14

"We said we wouldn't take another guy if we [signed] him."

One year after signing only one defensive player (redshirted linebacker Brian Gamble), A&M scored what Burton said is one of the best classes in the country.

"I think the linebacker class probably is as impressive as it gets," he said. "They also got a couple bigtimers in the secondary."

A&M managed to pluck five players from out of state: Weber, defensive back Sean Weston (Gardena, Calif.), defensive back Everett Smith (Compton, Calif.), linebacker Brian LeDoux (West Monroe, La.) and defensive lineman Brian West (West Monroe, La.).

"Texas will always be the heart of our recruiting basis," Slocum said, "but we will supplement our classes with key out-of-state guys."

"Monroe is as close to us as a whole lot of places in Texas," he said "I also have some contacts [in California]. I coached out there, and we know our way around, and we think we can pick some guys and have a reason to come here. I think it's another step up in our evolution into being a national program."

AGGIES

Continued from Page 11

The Aggies ventured out of state to sign West, one of the top-rated linemen in Louisiana.

The linebackers in this year's class are big, strong and fast, things the Aggies look for.

The secondary also got a boost as the Aggies signed two of the top defensive backs in both Texas and California.

With the recruits signed on defense, the "Wrecking Crew" seems set for years to come.

But despite the Aggies' success, the University of Texas Longhorns seemed to have an even better recruiting year, having the consensus No. 1 ranked class in the nation.

But rankings can be deceiving.

Texas' No. 1 ranking comes from signing the *USA Today* offensive and defensive players of the year Chris Simms and Cory Redding and signing some of the top players in Colorado.

The big name for the Longhorns was Simms. The 6'5" quarterback from New Jersey originally committed to national champion Tennessee but had a change of heart and switched his commitment to Texas.

Fans know how tricky selecting a quarterback can be th

For every Peyton Man Tim Couch, there are the James, Shea Morenz and poster boy for High School cruiting hype, Ron Powlu

Coming out of high sc 1993, the Berwick, Pa. was the most sought-afte in the nation. He spent years at Notre Dame try up to hype he never cou Powlus was always remi what might have been.

Will that be the fate of There's no way to know. does he help the Longhor come a better team? Texa posedly set at quarterback sophomore Major Applew

Mack Brown seemed more interested in havin ly-ranked class this seas addressing the needs of

When you look at it, Texas recruited more players, the Aggies recr ple who will step in and ly make them a better

So, in a few years, wh ple look back on the clas 2003, there will be no do Aggies came out on top.

Doug Shilling is a sop journalism major

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REQUIREMENTS FOR INTENT TO RUN:

- **One member from each team must contact Shannon Crockett '93 at 845-7514 before NOON on February 15.**
- **At least 2 of the 3 candidates from each team MUST ATTEND a mandatory information meeting on Monday, February 15, 1999 at 5:30 p.m. at the Clayton Williams, Jr. Alumni Center.**

CLASS AGENT RESPONSIBILITY:

Will act as liasons between the Class of '99, The Association of Former Students, and Texas A&M University.

CLASS AGENTS WILL BE ELECTED MARCH 31 & APRIL 1 IN THE 1999 SPRING STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

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