

Softball team to compete in UTA/Pepsi-Cola Classic

BY BEN WESTBROOK
The Battalion

The Texas A&M softball team will be in Grand Prairie this weekend to compete in the UTA/Pepsi-Cola Classic. The women will be competing in pool D which contains Tulsa, Texas-Arlington, and Arkansas. Action begins Friday against the Tulsa Golden Hurricane (0-0). Handling the duties on the mound for the Aggies will be Amy Jining (1-0), who is coming off a strong opening day shut out which saw her strike out eight while surrendering only five hits. The second game will be versus the Texas-Arlington Mavericks. Coach Jo Evans said Jordana Barack is slated to get the start. Barack will be looking to try and repeat her performance Tuesday in the second game of the double header. The 5 foot 7 sophomore dominated the Mavericks last time they met by striking out nine and surrendering just three hits. Coach Evans has yet to designate a starter for Saturday's game against Arkansas. "I'll get a chance to see [Arkansas] play Friday and will decide on a starter then,"

Evans said. On the whole, Coach Evans said she was pleased with the way her pitchers performed Tuesday. "I thought both pitchers were very good," Evans said. "If they pitch like that we'll do well. They just have to keep their consistency." Evans said she was glad to get rid of the first game jitters and feels that the women have a chance to do well in the tournament. "I think we have a very good chance to win our pool if we keep making plays defensively and stay aggressive on the offensive side," she said. Regarding the play of Freshman Lisa Klam this past Tuesday Coach Evans said, "Klam played well and hit the ball hard. I was pleased to see her go opposite field with her triple and her home run." The Aggies are 6-1 all time versus Tulsa and 65-14 against UTA. The tournament marks the Aggies first meeting with Arkansas on the softball field. Also representing the Big 12 in the tournament will be No. 11 Oklahoma, No. 15 Oklahoma State University, and unranked Texas Tech.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION
Cody Hubbell, sophomore tennis player, will travel with the team this weekend to face OU and OSU.

Men's tennis heads to Okla.

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The No. 14 Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team will travel to Oklahoma this weekend to take on the University of Oklahoma on Saturday in Norman and Oklahoma State University Sunday in Stillwater. The Sooners and Cowboys will be A&M's first Big 12 opponents of the spring. In their lone fall match, the Aggies defeated the University of Nebraska, 6-1. The Aggies (2-0, 1-0) are coming off a 5-2 victory over Rice University on Tuesday in Houston. After capturing the doubles point, the Aggies went on to win four of six singles matches from the 49th-ranked Owls. Dumitru Caradima, Brent Horan, Keith From and Juan Arumburo were all victorious for the Aggies. Sophomores Shuon Madden and Cody Hubbell suffered the lone Aggie losses. Last weekend, the A&M doubles team of Caradima and Madden captured the Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoors championship in Dallas. The duo, ranked No. 8 entering the tournament, defeated three of the nation's top five teams on the way to the title.

Women's tennis to host LSU

BY JEFF SCHMIDT
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team hosts Louisiana State University Saturday at 10 p.m. at the Varsity Tennis Center. A&M coach Bobby Kleinecke said not only does the match have regional implications, but is generally a good indicator of success. "Year in and year out, it's a big match for us," he said. The team that wins gets a bid start into the NCAA Regional because we're [LSU and A&M] both usually at the top, it's a very important match but it's not something that we put all the marbles in.

We're going to learn a lot whether we win or not." LSU comes to town after back-to-back 6-0 wins over the University of Southwestern Louisiana and Southern University. The Tigers are led by Ana Paula Mores who Kleinecke said is the only player with the potential to play a strong net game. "LSU is a very scrappy team," Kleinecke said. "They make us hit a million balls. It's one of those matches you have to work extremely hard to win. We're very similar and that's why it's such a long match usually." "We're going to have to play well down low [in the lower ranked matches] and push them at the top of the lineup. I feel like we're really going to need to compete in all areas of the lineup. If we get some wins at the top, it should make the match easier for us." A&M is coming off a 9-0 win over Southwest Texas State University last Saturday. Despite the dominating win, Kleinecke said it is hard to use the victory as a benchmark for the rest of the season. "It's hard to learn a whole lot about yourself," he said. "We've got to work out a few kinks, get some serves down and get the mindset of starting another year."

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