

Tennis team stays unbeaten

A&M women defeat SMU, 6-3

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's tennis team hosts the University of Nebraska Saturday to begin conference play.



KLEINECKE

A&M moved to 3-0 in dual-meet competition to start off the spring season with a win over Southern Methodist University Wednesday. The Aggies took the early advantage with a 4-2 win after singles play. Sloan is a doubles specialist and after singles play the way for doubles teams close out the match and defeat Mustangs, 6-3. The Aggies ran into trouble against the top of SMU's lineup as Alicia Ubeda-Diaz and Megan Rust defeated A&M's Monica Sanz and Lisa Dingwall. But freshman Martina Nedorostova pulled down a big win over Dee Herring in straight sets by a score of 7-6, 6-3. Nedorostova's win provided a boost for A&M, which had not been able to beat SMU in previous seasons. "I'll take a 6-3 win over SMU today," A&M coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "I'm still not completely satisfied with the way we're

playing but we played well enough to win and had some people step up.

"We're climbing up there a little bit. The team is really making improvement and we just need to keep building momentum as we're going."

Also bringing a win for the Aggies was Leah Killen, who defeated Lindsey Bruce in straight sets by a score of 6-4, 6-0. Kathryn Scott and Eva Marcial also won in singles with straight sets, as Marcial defeated Sarah Love Swaney by a score of 6-1, 6-1, and Scott won by a score of 7-6, 6-3 against Chrissie Werding.

The win over SMU provided the Aggies a win over a more poised team than the Louisiana State team they defeated Saturday. While the Mustangs did not have the overall depth down the line, they provided a type of seasoned competition the Aggies had not seen before.

Marcial said it was a good experience playing a team similar in style to the better teams in the NCAA.

"I think this is good practice before conference, especially after a big win over LSU," Marcial said. "It shows a lot about our character as a team and that we can still put things together. This is just a really good test for us as a team, playing a different kind of players that test our patience, and our ability as ten-



TERRY ROBBERSON/THE BATTALION

Freshman **Martina Nedorostova** defeated SMU's Dee Dee Herring in singles play to help the Aggies to a 6-3 victory.

nis players to see what we can do individually to win the match."

The women's team will resume play on Saturday looking to build on their momentum and hoping to continue their early-season improvement.

Texas Rangers owner expects big results

DALLAS (AP) — Tom Hicks did not become a billionaire without wanting to become a billionaire. Now, he begins his first full season as owner of the Texas Rangers looking for a return on his \$250 million purchase and on players' salaries likely to exceed \$80 million a season.

are higher than Hicks'.

Those expectations are becoming known to Rangers watchers as "the line in the sand."

"They know I support them and give them the resources to do their job," Hicks said recently. "I expect reasonable performance in return. People will be held accountable, as they should be, and they are in the real world everyday."

And the first to be held accountable are likely to be general manager Doug Melvin and man-

ager Johnny Oates, who are beginning their fifth seasons with the Rangers.

Hicks is looking for the defending American League West champions to improve on last year's first-round playoff performance, when they were swept in three games by the New York Yankees' juggernaut.

As always with the Rangers, the doubts start with pitching. Last season, Rick Helling won 20 games, and fellow right-hander Aaron Sele won 19.

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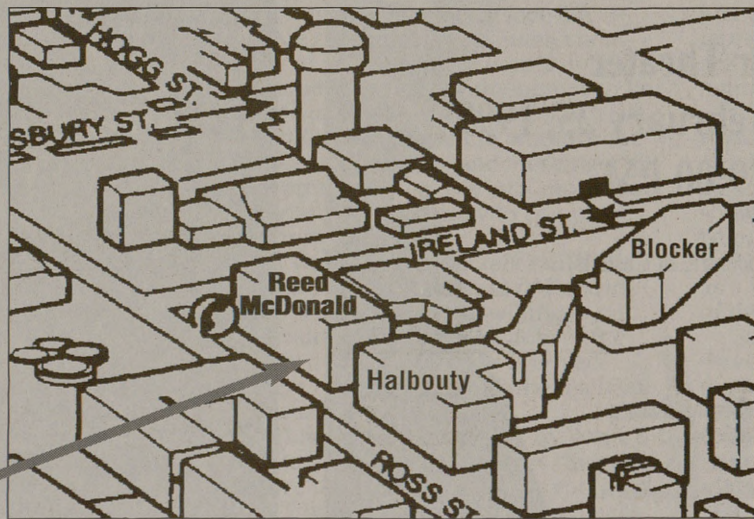
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