

Ags sweep series against ISU

A&M Baseball Team moves to 15-3 on year

BY DOUG SHILLING
The Battalion

After a disappointing mid-week loss to the University of Texas-San Antonio Roadrunners, the fourth-ranked Texas A&M Baseball Team returned to Olsen Field looking to get back on the winning track.

Iowa State University provided the perfect opportunity as the Aggies (15-3, 6-0 Big 12) used a combination of effective pitching and timely hitting to sweep the Cyclones in the weekend series.

With the sweep, the Aggies' moved their record in Big 12 play to a perfect 6-0, the best start in conference play since 1989 when the Aggies started 9-0 en route to being Southwest Conference co-champions.

The Aggies displayed their power in Sunday's final game, pounding out four home runs in a 14-1 rout in eight innings.

ISU broke through on the scoreboard first when Mack Paciork scored on a two-out single in the top of the second to make the score 1-0.

The Aggies responded in the bottom half of the inning when, after a Dell Lindsey walk, freshman Neal Stephenson blasted his first home run of the year to give the Aggies the lead, 2-1.

Catcher Shawn Schumacher broke the game wide open in the bottom of the fourth when he launched a grand-slam homerun, scoring Stephenson, junior Steven Truitt and junior Steve Scarborough.

The grand slam capped off a big series for Schumacher, who led the Aggies' hitting attack. The senior transfer went 8-14 in the series, with two home runs, seven RBIs and five runs scored.

Sophomore Daylan Holt added a three-run homer in the seventh inning, his ninth of the year.

The 12-run rule after seven innings, which ends the game when one team goes ahead by 12 runs or more after the seventh inning, went into effect in the eighth inning when Truitt's two-run homer pushed the score to 14-1 and ended the game. Sophomore Chris Russ (4-0) got the win for the Aggies, pitching seven innings and only allowing one run on four hits.

Dave Rossman (1-2) was the loser for the Cyclones, giving up six runs on six hits through 3 2/3 innings of work.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

A&M junior third baseman **Dell Lindsey** attempts to steal second base during the Aggies' game against Iowa State University Saturday night. The Texas A&M Baseball Team swept the three-game weekend series against the Cyclones.

Saturday night's game featured a strong pitching performance by junior Casey Fossum as the Aggies defeated the Cyclones, 6-1.

Trying to bounce back from a poor performance against UTSA, Fossum (4-2) responded by pitching a complete game, allowing just one run on nine hits and striking out nine Cyclone batters.

Holt led the Aggie batters, going 2-3 with a home run. Schumacher and Stephenson also chipped in with three hits apiece.

Brian Curtin (2-2) gave up six runs in 7 2/3 innings of work for the Cyclones.

On Friday night, junior Chance Caple got the Aggies started out on the right foot as he pitched a complete game in the Aggies' 8-3 win.

Caple (4-1) recorded a career high with 12 strikeouts and limited the Cyclones to three runs on seven hits.

Senior first baseman John Scheschuk was the hitting star as he went 4-5 with a home run, his fifth of the year, with four RBIs.

Mike Laesch (0-3) took the loss for the Cyclones.

The Aggies will travel to Houston Tuesday for a matchup with the University of Houston Cougars at 7 p.m.

A&M Baseball vs. Iowa State March 5-7

Friday:

8-3 — A&M

W-Chance Caple (4-1)

L-Mike Laesch (0-3)

Saturday:

6-1 — A&M

W-Casey Fossum (4-2)

L-Brian Curtin (2-2)

Sunday:

14-1 — A&M

W-Chris Russ (4-0)

L-Dave Rossman (1-2)

A&M's Evans wins No. 400

Track squads end indoor competition

BY TOM KENNEDY
The Battalion

Sometimes it is wise to save the best for last, and that is exactly what Texas A&M senior Detrich Clariett did at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Clariett went into the triple jump final ranked 15th on the NCAA qualifying list and soared 43 feet, 5 3/4 inches to take fourth place overall in her last indoor meet as a collegian.

Her mark, a season best and just two inches shy of her own A&M record, gives her a good starting point heading into her final outdoor campaign.

Junior pole vaulter Richard McDonald, the Aggies' other NCAA meet participant, also fared well. Ranked 15th on the qualifying list, McDonald cleared 17-4 1/2 to claim 13th place overall.

In other action, the University of Texas women edged Louisiana State University for the women's title, 61-57, for their second title in two years.

Both schools were tied going into the final event, the 4x400 meter relay. Texas won the event, along with the indoor title, behind anchor Suziann Reid, who also won the 400-meter competition.

On the men's side, the University of Arkansas defended its No. 1 ranking by capturing the men's title with 65 points.

Arkansas' distance-running regime came through with second-, third-, and sixth-place finishes in the 3,000-meter run.

The men's and women's squads will return to action Thursday when the outdoor season officially begins for heptathletes and decathletes at the College Station Multi-Competition March 11-12.

The other athletes will begin their seasons March 13 at the College Station Relays. Both will be at the Anderson Track and Field Complex.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore **Heather Martinez** slides safely into second base during the Texas A&M Softball Team's game versus Butler University Sunday in the Aggie Invitational II. The Aggies tied the University of Minnesota for the tournament's best record with a 5-1 finish.

Aggie Invitational II brings milestone for softball coach

BY BEN WESTBROOK
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Softball Team gave third-year coach Jo Evans her 400th career win this weekend, taking second place in the Aggie Invitational II.

The women finished the tournament with a 5-1 record for the weekend and defeated their first-ranked opponent of the year, handing the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers a 2-0 loss. The Aggies split two games with the Gophers and finished with the same win/loss record, but lost the first-place title because of runs scored against.

Beside giving Evans win No. 400, this weekend's win also allowed th Aggies to avenge a loss suffered to Minnesota the day before.

"What a special win," Evans said. "I'm so proud of this team. I try not to think of individual accomplishments, but to get my 400th win on our home field with this team makes it even more special."

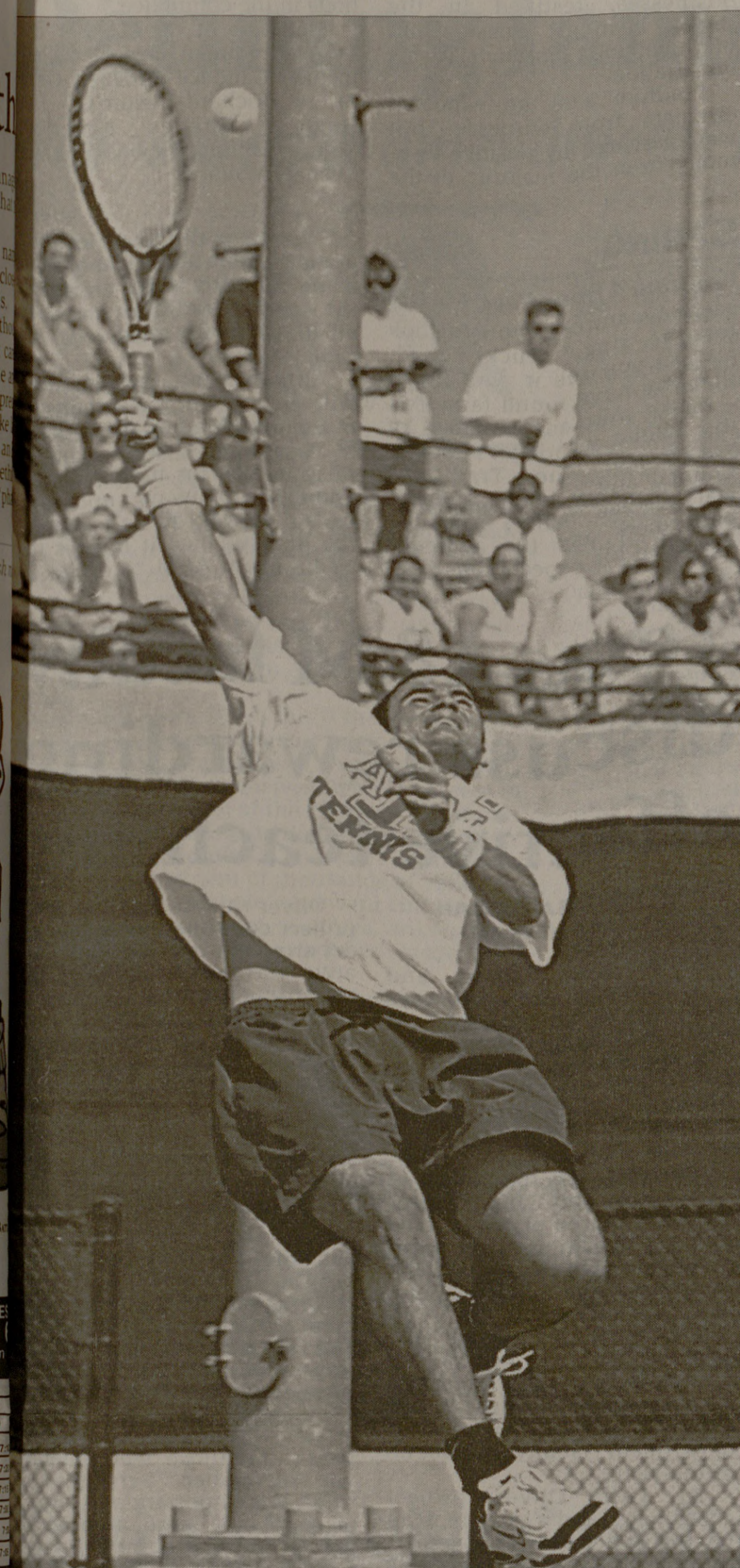
Aggie pitcher Amy Vining threw well against Minnesota in the Aggie loss Friday, but a two-out, two-run home run by Minnesota shortstop Shannon Beeler in the first inning gave Minnesota all the runs they would need, as the Gophers went on to a 2-0 win.

"The thing I was most disappointed about was that Amy threw so well," Evans said. "She was hitting her spots and mixing up her pitches, but she made one mistake."

Redemption would come in the form of a one-hit, near-perfect performance by Vining the following day. The Aggie ace pitched a perfect game until the bottom of the sixth inning, when a sharp-hit grounder passed

under the outstretched glove of second baseman Rachel Lewis. The hit and an error committed in the seventh would be the only Aggie miscues for the game.

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SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

A&M Sophomore **Dumitru Caradima** serves during his doubles match against Louisiana State University Saturday afternoon. **Caradima** and doubles partner Shuon Madden defended their No. 1 national ranking with an 8-6, come-from-behind victory.

Men's Tennis Team slams LSU at home

Ags avenge loss to Tigers with 6-1 victory

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

As the Louisiana State University players exited the courts amid the remains of a tiger piñata mashed moments earlier by the Aggies, it seemed things had come full circle for the Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team.

Only one year after losing a hard-fought match to the Tigers in Baton Rouge, the Aggies defeated LSU, 6-1, Saturday afternoon in front of almost 300 fans at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center.

The No. 14 Aggies (6-0, 3-0) set the tone for the match in doubles, coming back from large deficits at the No. 1 and No. 3 spots to win both matches and snatch the all-important doubles point away from the Tigers.

"That first point is pretty big in the scheme of things," A&M coach Jim Cass said. "I think [LSU] almost having the lead, thinking they had won the point, probably hurt them a little bit."

Senior Brent Horan and freshman Jarin Skube, playing No. 2 doubles for the Aggies, broke their opponents' serve early in the match to win, 8-6, meaning the Aggies needed only one more doubles victory to win the point.

Winning one more doubles match seemed unlikely at the time, as the Aggies were down two breaks in both of their remaining matches.

At No. 3, sophomore Cody Hubbell and freshman Keith Fromm rallied 7-3 before mounting a comeback, winning the next five games and the tiebreak to secure a 9-7 victory.

Hubbell said the crowd played an important role in the victory.

"This crowd today was unbelievable," he said. "When we started getting more fired up, this whole place started going nuts."

With the doubles point already clinched, Aggie sophomores Dumitru Caradima and Shuon Madden were left playing only to defend their No. 1 national ranking.

Trailing 6-2, the duo staged a comeback of their own, winning six consecutive games to take the match, 8-6.

Madden said remaining focused was the key to the comeback.

"We just hung in there," he said. "They missed a couple of shots, and we made them pay for it."

In singles play, Madden played in the No. 2 slot for the Aggies and rolled to victory, 6-3, 6-1. Horan and Hubbell, playing No. 3 and No. 4, won their matches, 6-2, 7-5, and 6-4, 6-4, respectively.

At No. 5 for the Aggies was From, who shut his opponent out in the second set to win, 6-4, 6-0.

Rounding out the Aggies' singles victories was junior Juan Aramburo, who recovered from a slow start to post a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 win in the No. 6 position.

Suffering A&M's lone loss of the day was Caradima, who won the first set of his match but dropped the next two, losing 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The Aggies return to action Thursday at 6 p.m. when they face the University of North Carolina at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center.