### Rangers' Palmeiro deals with frustration of rehabing knee injury

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (AP) — As his Texas teammates finish tucking in their jerseys and begin heading out of the clubhouse for batting practice, Rafael Palmeiro takes his time lathering cream cheese and jelly on a bagel. These days, he's in no hurry.

Palmeiro spends most of his time in the lonely training room recovering from two operations being back by opening day, but it is just not the same as being on the field, especially not for the Palmeiro und major leaguer who has played more games this decade than everyone but Cal Ripken and not when it's his first year back in Texas

'Being in here is the tough part,' Palmeiro said in a nearly empty clubhouse. "But my teammates have been very encouraging. They've tried to on his right knee. He is working hard in hopes of make me feel a part of it, even though I haven't

Palmeiro underwent arthroscopic surgery Feb. 10 to clean out some rough cartilage under his right kneecap probably caused by wear and tear from his off-season regimen of running stairs. Less than four weeks later, Palmeiro was jogging and tore the cartilage in his knee, forcing another operation. Doctors said the injuries aren't related and Palmeiro calls them "a fluke, a coincidence."

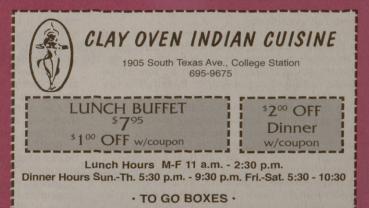
#### Hitting the links



Senior Ryan Palmer, tees off at the Cleveland Golf/Mon Williams Collegiate Tournament Tuesday at the Austin to

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Men's Tennis TeaForu faces ACU, Ohio Sandi

Aggies look to get back on track liscus defeats in 2 of their last 3 matc

BY AL LAZARUS

The Battalion

The No. 21 Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team will take on Abilene

Christian University and Ohio State University in a doubleheader today at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center. The Aggies (8-2,3-0) will face ACU at noon followed by OSU

at 6 p.m. After starting the season 7-0,

the Aggies have lost two of three matches heading into today's dou-

The losses came against No. 2 University of Illinois in last weekend's Blue-Gray Classic in Montgomery, Ala., and No. 4 Duke Uni-

versity March 16 in College Station. "We're just looking forward to getting our rhythm back and getting a few wins," junior Juan Aramburo said.

A&M blanked ACU, 7-0, last season in a match moved to an indoor facility in The Woodlands due to rain. In 1996, the Aggies defeated the Buckeyes, 6-1.

A&M coach Tim Cass Proble Aggies are expecting a tough from OSU.

"Ohio State is a solid B school," Cass said. "They'll in here ready to play."

Cass said although their dates field bad blood between the two re-election revenge could still play a farts student forum he today's match.

"Hopefully we can try tovernment little revenge for our footh: SC Flagro losing to them in the Sugar

Cass said playing a dou er allows the Aggies to

their depth. "We have very good dep this will give us an opp play more of our guys "Our guys work so ha

it's our No. 1 or No. 12. In Tuesday's Rolex Rankings, the Aggies fe despite going undefer rankings period, defeating Louisiana State Universit

58 University of North Car For the third straight roving the period, the Aggies' No. 1 nition increteam of sophomores er semeste Caradima and Shuon Madieeting last the top-ranked doublester President

## Bliss signs as Baylo new basketball coal out a ped

WACO (AP) — Dave Bliss, the rmer Southern Methodist bastball coach who became the lations and have been any Wellbor in the Big 12. This season seal will be finished 6-24 overall and former Southern Methodist basketball coach who became the winningest coach in New Mexico history, was named Tuesday to rebuild the faltering program at Bay-

Bliss, 55, led the Lobos to a 246-108 record over the past 11 seasons, winning at least 20 games in 10 seasons. New Mexico went to the NCAA tournament seven times during his tenure and advanced at least into the second round the last four years.

Still, he found plenty of criticism in Albuquerque. That, combined with a lucrative Baylor contract reportedly worth \$600,000 a year, double his New Mexico deal probably were the reasons for Bliss' decision, New Mexico athletic director Rudy Davalos said.

"He's got to move on, and we've got to move on," Davalos

This year, New Mexico had a 25-9 record and again went to the NCAA tournament, losing in the second round to Connecticut.

At Baylor, Bliss will be taking over a program at its low ebb. The Bears are finishing a five-year NCAA probation for recruiting viothe Big 12 under coach Miller.

Bliss encountered in criticism in recent years failure of New Mexico to er into the NCAA tourna criticism this year expa clude the Lobos' earl schedule, which include lesser Division I teams.

At the NCAA West Re Denver two weeks ago, cated he had tired of the during a news conference

the Lobos loss to Conne "The hardest thing w coach against in Albuq the community," Bliss said

BY CA After last season, Bliss an \$18,000 raise to a s \$140,000. His total finance age, including basketball Cadets I shoe and radio and televistor politic tracts, is estimated at molark C. M. \$300,000.

Bliss was coach at Shen select 1980-88, when he compiled 101 record and won the So Conference title in 1988. that, he was 77-62 while of the 199 at Oklahoma from 1975.8 Lane an

admin mmande