

Ags to face Owls in Houston

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Despite a dominant record at Olsen Field, the Texas A&M Baseball Team has struggled mightily on the road. While the Aggies record stands at 19-1 at Olsen Field, away from home they are a paltry 6-6.

The Aggies took a step forward in addressing their road struggles last weekend at the University of Missouri, winning the series two games to one. Up next for the Aggies on the road, they will have to face one of their toughest opponents of the season, fourth-ranked Rice University.

Earlier in the season, the Owls were the top-ranked team in the nation, the first time an athletic team from Rice has achieved that honor.

A&M coach Mark Johnson said that while this game is a big one for the Aggies, he's preparing the team for this weekend's upcoming games.

"We're not as armed as I would like to be for Rice," Johnson said, "but we're trying to save all our juice for Nebraska."

Because of the impending series against conference leading University of Nebraska Cornhuskers, A&M will rely on freshman righthander Khalid Ballouli. Ballouli is 3-0 on the season with an ERA of 4.60.

Leading Rice's rotation is junior Jeff Nichols, who stands 9-1 on the year with a 4.64 ERA.

"We're all aware that this will be one of our biggest games," Ballouli said. "But we're just going to go out and play our game and hopefully it will all work out. I just have to relax, make sure I don't get caught up in the hype and pitch my game. From there we



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

A&M junior third baseman **Dell Lindsey** takes a swing during the Aggies' game against the University of Michigan March 20. The Texas A&M Baseball Team will travel to Houston Tuesday to take on No. 4 Rice University.

Have the bats to score and the gloves to field."

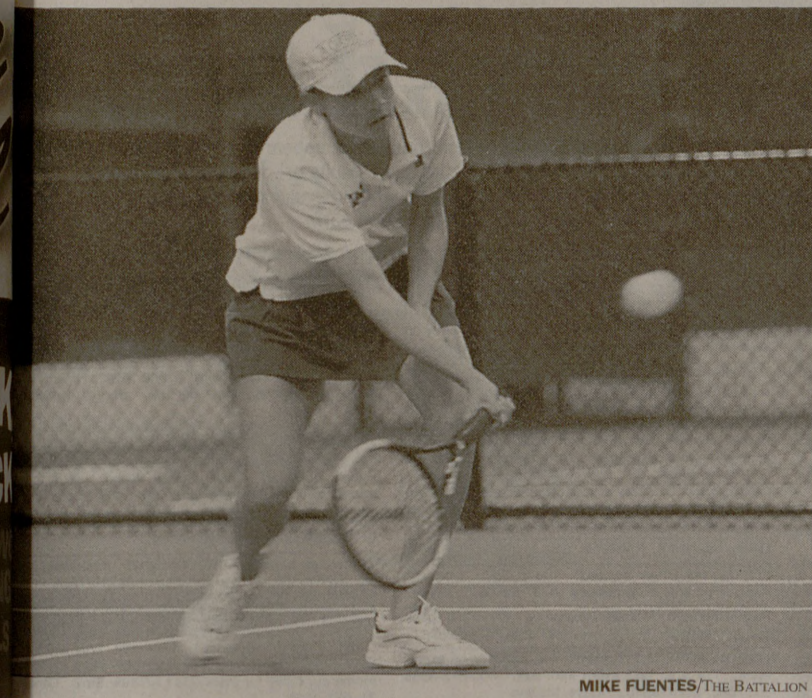
A&M has won the last two matchups in the 75-year history of the series. Last year's matchup up at Olsen Field provided one of the best comebacks in Aggie history. The Owls jumped out to a 9-0 lead through five innings. The Aggies came back with three runs in the sixth and seven more in the seventh inning to defeat the Owls, 10-9.

The Aggies return home this Friday for the first of a three-game series with the Cornhuskers at 7 p.m. at Olsen Field.

Texas A&M Baseball vs Rice (28-7)



Probable Starters:
Texas A&M:
Khalid Ballouli (3-0)
Rice:
Jeff Nichols (9-1)



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

A&M junior **Lisa Dingwall** returns the volley during singles play Monday. The A&M Women's Tennis Team defeated Texas Tech University, 8-1, Monday at the Varsity Tennis Center.

Tennis team tops Tech

No. 34 Aggie women overcome weather to win, 8-1

BY TRAVIS HARSCH
The Battalion

Killen to win their doubles match, 8-0.

The next time Mother Nature thinks about raining on the Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team's parade, she had better check with the Ags first. In a match that started 30 minutes early and at several points looked as if it would have to move to an indoor facility in Houston, the 34th-ranked Aggies defeated Texas Tech University, 8-1.

"I don't think the girls wanted to drive to Houston tonight," A&M coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "This is not a bad Tech team, and we just came out and got it done."

The Aggies (11-4, 6-1 Big 12) got it done quickly, finishing all of their singles matches in a little over an hour, with Monica San Miguel dispatching Tech's Ghislane Hernandez, 6-0, 6-0, in under 30 minutes.

San Miguel did not lose a game on the day, teaming with freshman Leah

The Aggies went 5-1 in their singles matches, including a 6-4, 6-4 win by 61st-ranked Martina Nedorostova, a 6-1, 6-3 triumph by Kathryn Scott over a former high school teammate and a 6-2, 6-0 victory by Eva Marcial.

A&M was looking to rebound from a loss to the University of Oklahoma over the weekend, its only Big 12 loss of the season.

"This is exactly what we needed after the Oklahoma loss," Kleinecke said. "That was a devastating loss for us, and everybody felt pretty bad about it. But they came out tonight and just took care of business."

As dominating as the Aggies were in singles, they outdid their performance in the doubles matches. In addition to San Miguel and Killen's win, the Aggies took the other two matches quickly, winning 8-2 and 8-1.

A&M will next play Wednesday, when the Aggies will host Harvard University at 6 p.m.

UConn upsets Blue Devils for NCAA crown, 77-74

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Connecticut spoiled the Duke Invitational.

The Huskies beat top-ranked Duke, the team no one thought could be beaten in this NCAA tournament, for their first national championship in their first Final Four appearance.

The 77-74 victory Monday night ended Duke's 32-game winning streak, kept the Blue Devils from an NCAA record for wins in a sea-

son, and prevented them from ending the '90s with a third national championship.

Richard Hamilton led third-ranked Connecticut (34-2) with 27 points, but it was some tremendous team defense and a big shot and free throws by Khalid El-Amin that won it all.

Trajan Langdon led Duke (37-2) with 25 points, but Duke's last two possessions ended with him making turnovers. And so the Blue

Devils fell short of what everyone had expected — another title.

Connecticut was able to keep the game at a pace it liked. The quick pace made for what seemed like constant lead changes, the last coming with 3:50 to play when Hamilton's free throws gave the Huskies a 70-68 lead.

Suddenly, Duke was playing a role it had very little experience at this season — the chaser.

William Avery's free throws

with 54 seconds left got the Blue Devils within 75-74. El-Amin, whose driving basket had given Connecticut the 75-72 lead, missed on a drive with 24 seconds left and Duke had life.

The crowd of 41,340 at Tropicana Field, the court where Duke's season ended a year ago, was roaring as the Blue Devils went for the final shot without calling a timeout. Duke would not get off a shot as Langdon fumbled the ball away.

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