

the Battalion

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tennis rained out against the Bruins

Rainy weather forced the cancellation of the men's tennis match between 14th-ranked Texas A&M Aggies and the No. 1-ranked UCLA Bruins yesterday at the Los Angeles Tennis Center.

Coming off of a 5-2 loss to the 17 Pepperdine Waves in Malibu, Calif., Sunday, the Aggies, who are 12-3 overall, were looking forward to the opportunity to play the No. 1-ranked Bruins, but weather and academics forced this meeting not to be rescheduled.

"This would have been a good match for our young guys to play in," A&M head coach Tim Cass said. "But the rain that hit here today is not going to stop long enough for us to get the match in today or early tomorrow. Plus some of the guys have some academic commitments they need to tend to on Wednesday and Thursday."

A&M will resume Big 12 Conference play on Friday by hosting the Colorado Buffaloes at 6 p.m. at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center. The Aggies are tied for first place in the league with a 4-0 record.

Valletta chosen to attend conference

Sophomore offensive lineman Chris Valletta has been selected to participate in the third annual NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference to be held May 31 through June 1, 1999.

A total of 300 student-athletes have been invited to attend the 1999 NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference. Student-athletes were nominated from NCAA member institutions that participate in the HAMPS/Life Skills Program.

Also, members of the national Student-Athlete Advisory Committee were invited to attend because their role as the student-athlete voice within the association.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Junior third baseman **Dell Lindsey** slides into second base in the Aggies' 15-4 win against Sam Houston State University last night.

Aggies declaw Bearkats

BY AARON COHAN
The Battalion

Although it was not raining Tuesday night, the ball must have been wet at Olsen Field as Texas A&M and Sam Houston State committed a total of seven errors. The ball just could not seem to be caught, nor stay in the park as the Aggies belted four home runs en route to a 15-4 win.

Senior pitcher Kyle Holle got off to a rocky start against the Bearkats as he gave up a two-run double to first baseman Jason Harrison in the top of the first inning.

Holle, however, was able to recover and retire the last two batters of the inning. The Aggies were able to get back into the game as two throwing errors allowed A&M runners Steve Scarborough and Daylan Holt to advance and later score.

The between-inning rest did not

seem to help Holle as he gave up a long ball to junior Joey Eickoff along with another run to give the Bearkats a two-run lead once again.

After cutting the lead to one on a double by Scarborough, the Aggies handed the ball over to freshman pitcher Khalid Ballouli who helped his team get back into the game.

"KB (Ballouli) came in and pitched a heck of a game for us," freshman designated hitter Greg Porter said. "He really put them in a hole and buried them."

The Aggie bats finally got to SHSU starting pitcher Nathan Boyd as they jumped on him for three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

A Porter home run and three stolen bases in the inning helped A&M build a 6-4 lead.

The Bearkats called upon relief pitcher Jeff Van Landingham to try and stop the Aggies, but the Ags got

to him also. In the bottom of the sixth inning, the Aggies pummeled Van Landingham for six runs.

A grand slam by Steven Truitt and Porter's second home run of the game put the Aggies ahead for good as they extended their lead 13-4. A&M added two more insurance runs and put the game away defeating SHSU for the second time this year.

"We came out flat, but it was a good game to come back and play the way we know we can," Truitt said.

Lost in the offensive onslaught was the performance by Ballouli. The Austin native pitched five innings giving up only two hits and striking out three for his fourth win of the season.

The sixth-ranked Aggies have three days off before they travel to Kansas State University for a Big 12 three game series with the Wildcats.

Softball prepares for Lumberjacks

BY BEN WESTBROOK
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Softball Team will take a break from Big 12 action this Wednesday and try to get their bats back on track with a doubleheader against the Stephen F. Austin State University Lumberjacks at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Last Friday the Aggies were held hitless for the first time in three seasons by University of Texas pitcher Christa Williams. The 1-0 loss saw the Aggies' Big 12 Conference record drop to 3-2, while the Longhorns' moved to 4-1. A&M fell to fifth in the Conference.

"I think the girls were disappointed with that game," head coach Jo Evans said. "Anytime we lose to Texas we're disappointed."

The 31-9 Aggies picked a good opponent to rebuild their confidence with after last Friday's no-hitter. The Lumberjacks, who are just 16-24 on the year, have only managed to out-hit opponents .275 to .272 and have been outscored 170-143 on the year.

"I think they're struggling a little bit right now," Evans said.

The women have already met SFA once this season in the UTA/Pepsi-Cola Intercollegiate Classic in Grand Prairie, where the Aggies defeated the Lumberjacks 4-2.

The Lumberjack staff has a combined 3.69 ERA and are led on the mound by Laurie Fetters, who is 8-8 on the year with a 3.33 ERA.

Also likely to see action on the mound in the doubleheader is 4-8 starter Cathy Paiz. Paiz has managed just 29 strikeouts with a 3.79 ERA.

Offensive production for the Lumberjacks comes from Shandy Ward, who is leading the team with a .397 batting average and 23 runs scored.

The Aggies can look for a solid performance from three-time Big 12 Player of the Week Amy Vining. The sophomore managed a 3-1 record last week with three complete game shutouts. Vining has a 17-7 record for the season with an 0.68 ERA. Her 157 strikeouts are more than the entire Lumberjacks' pitching staff combined.

"She was very excited about that," Evans said about Vining's Big 12 honors. "She's put some good weeks together and the Conference has recognized that."



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

A University of Texas player slides into second base in Saturday's game against the Aggies at the Aggie Softball Complex.

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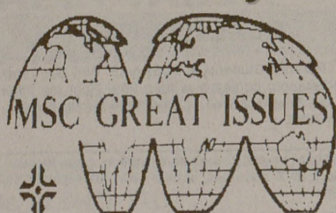
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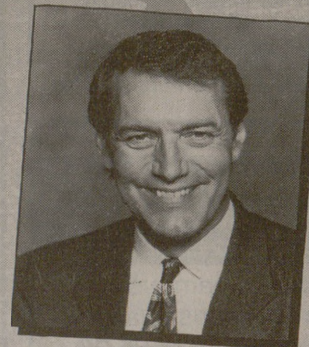
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