

Home turf not enough for tennis teams

Men drop 5-2 decision to UT

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

The University of Texas Men's Tennis Team sports three top-60 singles players and a doubles team ranked No. 16.

But it was the unheralded portion of the Longhorns' squad that keyed UT to a 5-2 victory over Texas A&M Saturday afternoon in front of 579 fans at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center.

No. 5 Texas' three unranked singles players and two unranked doubles teams were victorious against the 15th-ranked Aggies.

"Texas is just a great team all the way through," A&M coach Tim Cass said. "They're an experienced team with three seniors, and it certainly showed."

The loss drops the Aggies to 14-4 overall and 6-2 in Big 12 play. The Longhorns improve to 18-4 and 6-0 in Big 12 action.

The Aggies received singles victories from Shuon Madden and Dumitru Caradima, with both wins coming over ranked opponents. The sophomores, ranked No. 1 in doubles, also were victorious in their match over UT's Gwenael Gueit and Paul Mar, ranked No. 16.

Madden quickly defeated UT's Paul Martin, 6-3, 5 (7-4). Caradima then quietly defeated his not-quiet opponent, Longhorn freshman Brandon Hawk.

Hawk, ranked No. 42, repeatedly drew attention to himself on the way to losing to Caradima, 7-6 (7-6), 4-6, at one point turning to the crowd and declaring, "I'm going to win this match."

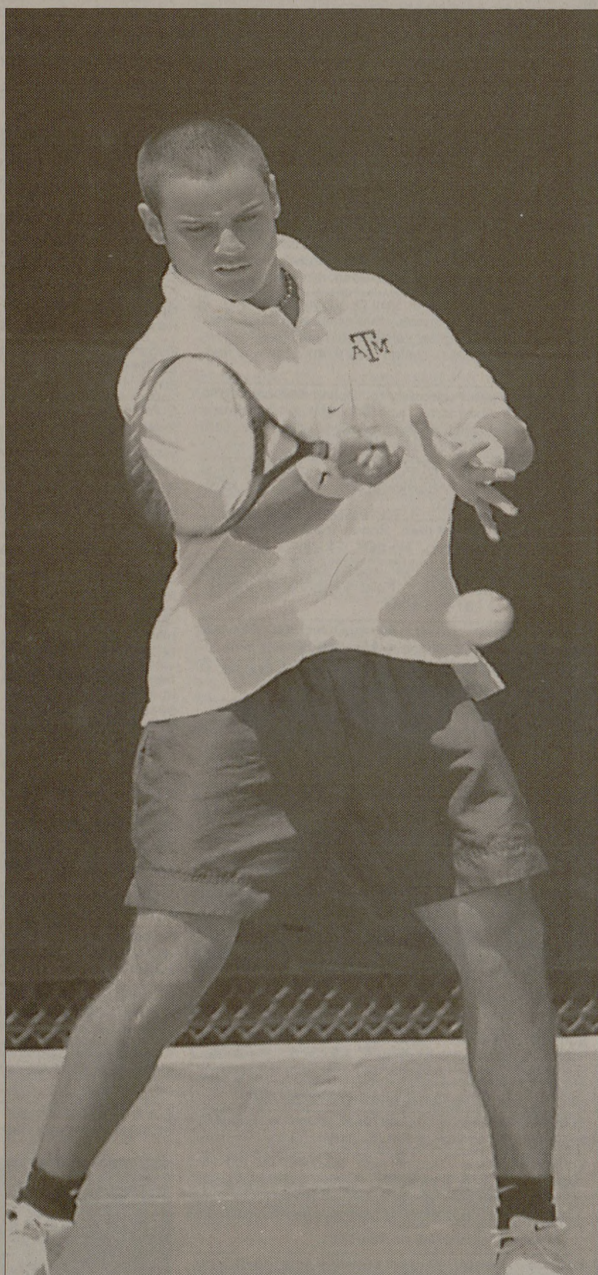
Caradima said he did not let his overwrought opponent bother him.

"I was not worried about him," he said. "I just tried to play my best; it's not my style to be loud." The only ranked Longhorn player to win was No. 20 Jack Brasington, who played in the No. 3 match against A&M's Cody Hubbell and won 6-4, 6-

After dropping behind early in the No. 1 and No. 2 singles matches, the Longhorns looked to the bottom of their order for help.

UT went on to post victories in the last four singles spots, giving the Longhorns five points to the Aggies' two.

The Aggies return to action Saturday at noon at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center against No. 8 Baylor, who will take on Texas two days prior to play-



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Sophomore **Dumitru Caradima** goes to the forehand swing during singles action against the University of Texas' Brandon Hawk Saturday.

ing the Aggies. If the Bears defeat the Longhorns and then fall to the Aggies, the three teams will be tied for first place in the Big 12.

Early struggles hurt women versus Rice

BY SANTOSH VENKATARAMAN
The Battalion

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but the Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team picked a bad day to mimic its male counterpart Saturday, dropping a 6-3 decision to Rice University at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center.

The loss dropped No. 34 A&M to 12-7 overall, while No. 37 Rice improved to 14-5.

The women captured their three victories at No. 1 and 2 singles and No. 1 doubles, just as the men did. The two Aggie teams played their matches simultaneously at the tennis center.

The Aggie women started slowly against the Owls and quickly fell behind. The early struggles in singles play were what hurt the Aggies most, A&M coach Bobby Kleinecke said.

"I thought that we had a shot to win going into the singles," he said. "Then we lost the first set in five of the six matches, and that is tough to come back from. We tried to fight back, but we kept giving up cheap points."

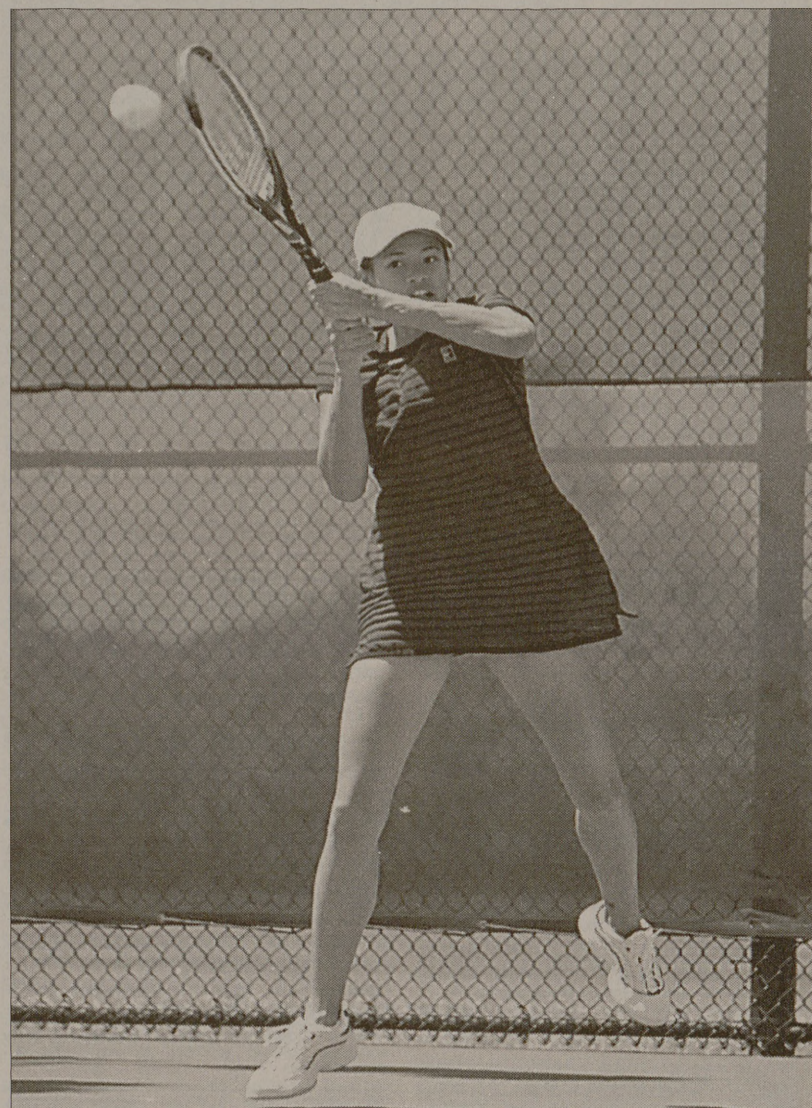
Especially galling for the Aggies were the scores of those first-set defeats. A&M dropped two first-set tiebreakers and lost the other three by scores of 6-4, 6-4 and 7-5.

The lone Aggie to overcome her first-set deficit was freshman Martina Nedorostova, who rallied to defeat Rice's top player, Elle Lewis, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, to improve her record to 21-9 overall.

The Aggies also received a strong performance from junior Lisa Dingwall, who crushed the Owls' Charlotte Feasby, 6-1, 6-0. Dingwall and Nedorostova then combined in doubles for a 8-0 whitewash at No. 1 doubles over the Owls' Erin Waters and Justyna Gudzowska.

"I was impressed with Lisa's play today," Kleinecke said. "She came out ready to play. I was very proud of the top of the lineup."

The middle of the Aggie lineup did not fare as well. At No. 3 singles, Aggie senior Monica San Miguel was defeated by Gudzowska,



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

A&M junior **Lisa Dingwall** returns the volley during singles action against Rice University's Charlotte Feasby. **Dingwall** defeated Feasby, 6-1, 6-0 in the match.

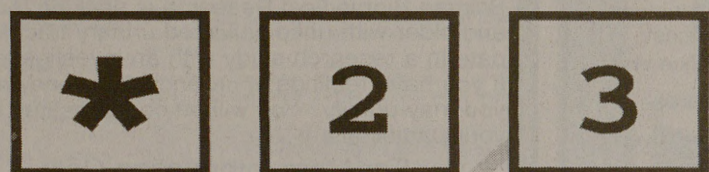
ka, 7-6, 4-6, 6-2.

"That was very exciting," Gudzowska said. "Especially with this being my last match [in dual meets]."

Junior Kathryn Scott lost another three-setter to Judith Hagedorn of

Rice, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4. The Aggies' No. 4 singles player, freshman Leah Killen, dropped her match in two tight sets, 7-6, 7-6.

"We struggled at three, four, five and six," Kleinecke said. "We need to play better at the bottom."



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