

SPORTS IN BRIEF

13th-ranked Ags to play in Alamo Bowl

The 13th-ranked Texas A&M football team (8-3) has been selected to play in the 1999 Sylvan Alamo Bowl Dec. 28 against the 13th-ranked Penn State Nittany Lions (9-3). Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. (ET) and the game will be telecast nationally by ESPN. The game will mark A&M's second appearance in the Alamo Bowl, the team having won a 22-20 victory over Oregon in the 1995 edition.

Coach Ray Dorr selected for award

Texas A&M quarterbacks coach Ray Dorr has been selected as one of two recipients of the 1999 Broyles Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award is presented to assistant coaches who have made significant contributions during their collegiate coaching careers. The other recipient is San Diego defensive coordinator Wade Gilbert.

The Broyles Award nominations were submitted by head coaches and selected by a prestigious panel including former Baylor University coach Grant Teaf, former University of Georgia coach Vince Dooley, former University of Michigan coach Darrell Royal and former University of Washington coach Don James.

Dorr, 58, is a 33-year veteran of coaching profession. He came to A&M in 1997 to coach quarterbacks and has helped the Aggies win Big 12 South Division titles in 1997 and 1998 and the overall Big 12 Championship in 1998. This season, the Aggies are 8-3 and will face Penn State in the 1999 Sylvan Alamo Bowl on Dec. 28 in San Antonio.

Dorr started his coaching career at Akron University as a grad-

uate assistant and made stops at Kent State University, University of Washington, USC and University of Kentucky before arriving in Aggieland as an assistant coach at A&M. The only time he has not served as an assistant coach was 1984-87 when he served as the head coach at Southern Illinois University.

Among his many quarterback pupils are Warren Moon, Chris Chandler, Hugh Millen, Rodney Peete, Tom Flick, Steve Pelluer and Rob Johnson.

Dorr was diagnosed earlier this year with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He has not missed a single meeting or practice because of the disease.

Men's tennis back in top 20 rankings

The Texas A&M Men's Tennis Team is ranked No. 17 nationally in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

After finishing last season ranked No. 23, the Aggies are back in the ITA top 20 for the first time since March 9, when they were ranked No. 14.

Individually, junior Shuon Madden, a two-time All-American, moved up one position to No. 11 nationally.

It marks Madden's highest ever singles ranking and the highest by an Aggie in the 1990s. Madden is the highest ranked singles player in the Big 12 Conference.

In doubles, the tandem of Dumitru Caradima and Madden fell from their No. 1 position to No. 36. They had held the No. 1 ranking since February of 1999.

The No. 17-ranked Aggies begin their dual match season on Feb. 11, 2000 at Nebraska.

Texas A&M and the Varsity Tennis Center, the UTSA Facility of the Year, will serve as host of the 2002 NCAA Men's Tennis Championships.

Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team prepares for big games over break

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

While most Aggies will attempt to relax and recharge for the spring semester, the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team will play two of its biggest games of the season over the winter break.

A&M will welcome the University of Texas and the University of Kansas — both top-15 teams — to Reed Arena Jan. 12 and Jan. 17, respectively. The Aggies' matchup with the Jayhawks will be an ESPN "Big Monday" telecast and will tip off at 8 p.m. the night before spring semester classes begin.

"That's a game we really need to fill the house for," A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins said. "I've had some words with the conference about getting A&M more television appearances, and this is a chance to show that we will support Aggie basketball."

On the Wednesday before the Kansas game, the Aggies will host the Longhorns, who have posted several impressive wins over nonconference opponents, including then-No. 3 Michigan State University. Texas is led by junior center Chris Mihm, considered by many to be the best big man in college basketball.

"That's always a big game for us," Watkins said. "Right now they are one of the better teams in the country with the returning players they have — obviously the focus being on Mihm."

Coming off a 64-60 overtime loss to Tulane University Wednesday in New Orleans, the Aggies (2-3) will take on Rice University Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Compaq Center in Houston.

A&M will then continue its nonconference road trip with games at Lamar University and Dayton University before participating in the Cable Car Classic, Dec. 29-30 in Santa Clara, Calif.

Before opening Big 12 play Jan. 8 in Norman, Okla. against the University of Oklahoma, the Aggies will return home Jan. 5 to close out their nonconference schedule against Centenary College.

After losing to the University of North Texas Nov. 29 and then defeating a talented Virginia Commonwealth University team less than a week later, Watkins said it is hard to predict



KIMBER HUFF/THE BATTALION

A&M senior forward Aaron Jack tries to block a shot in the Aggies' game against the California All-Stars Nov. 16 at Reed Arena.

how much progress the Aggies will make by the time the Longhorns and Jayhawks come to College Station.

"It is really hard to say where we will be at

that time," he said. "Each time out it's a learning process for this team. I hope that we have some experience under our belts that will give us some momentum going into those games."

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