

King of the court



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

A&M freshman guard Bernard King (L) celebrates his A&M freshman record of 34 points with senior forward Jason Boeker after A&M defeated Colorado for the first time in school history, 74-69, at Reed Arena Saturday.

King has record-setting day in Aggies' 74-69 win over Colorado

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

The Aggies never had defeated the University of Colorado as they culminated Saturday's contest with the Buffaloes.

Of course, A&M never had a Bernard King, either.

Riding the magnificent freshman's 34 points, which he culled from a repertoire of off-balance jumpers, timely 3-pointers and in-

creasingly reliable free-throw shooting, the Texas A&M men's basketball team squeaked out a 74-69 victory over the Buffaloes in front of 4,609 Reed Arena fans. The victory was A&M's first in five tries against Colorado.

"I just wanted the ball," King said. "I'd been struggling for I don't know how long, and I wanted to get back on track."

King, who had only eight points at halftime, scored 24 of the Aggies' 34 points, sparking A&M's

comeback from a 10-point deficit with 11:37 remaining in the contest.

A&M coach Melvin Watkins said King's big game may have been the result of a challenge he received from senior forward Jason Boeker in the Aggies' Friday practice.

"Boeker said, 'Bernard, you got to bring it,' meaning you've got to bring your game on gameday," Watkins said. "I saw Bernard nod, and I guess that's what it took because he brought his game today."

King made 10-of-11 free throws — including seven-of-eight in the last 2:15 of play — to hold off the Buffaloes (13-10, 4-7 Big 12). With the Aggies (7-14, 3-7 Big 12) clinging to a one-point lead and 19 seconds remaining, King nailed an off-balance jumper from the lane to ice the victory for A&M.

King's 34 points set a new A&M freshman scoring record, breaking the mark of 33 set by Vernon Smith in 1977. Smith, who was murdered in Dallas in 1992 after

being mistaken for someone else, was part of the 1980 A&M men's team that was honored at halftime of Saturday's game.

After King committed his fourth foul with 8:26 remaining, Watkins was forced to send the precocious rookie to the bench. But two minutes later, King was back on the floor, and he wasted little time before draining a 3-pointer that tied the game at 53 with 5:18 remaining.

The Buffaloes received 19 points from senior guard Jaquay Walls, who was kept mostly in check down the stretch by A&M freshman guard Jamaal Gilchrist. Junior forward Jamaal Mosley scored 16 points for Colorado.

King and Gilchrist, who himself had an impressive showing with 15 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, combined to score 49 of A&M's 74 points. Afterward, Gilchrist had kind words for his fellow freshman.

"Bernard's going to be a great

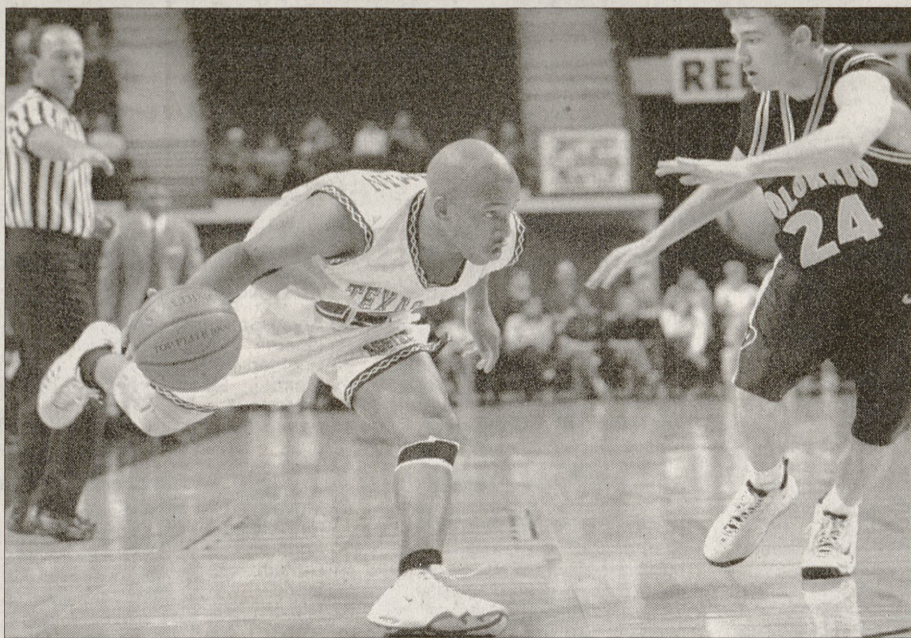
player," he said. "He's just got to keep working hard, and the sky's the limit for him."

After both teams started off slowly, A&M took a nine-point lead with 9:40 remaining in the first half. The Buffaloes mounted a run, though, and trailed by only one, 33-32, at halftime.

The Aggies received a boost from the return of senior forward Jerald Brown, who had missed the last three games with a broken bone in his left hand. Fitted with a soft cast to allow more flexibility, Brown scored six points and imparted his usual motivational tactics on his younger teammates.

"Jerald has definitely been our spiritual leader," Watkins said. "His stats may not look great, but we miss what he brings to the table because some of those things don't show up on the stat sheet."

A&M returns to action Wednesday in Waco against Baylor. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore guard Andy Leatherman tries to dribble around Colorado guard Nick Mohr during the Aggies' victory over the Buffaloes Saturday.

A&M women's tennis team falls to 18th-ranked Northwestern Wildcats

BY BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

Learning experiences are often painful when they happen, but as time passes, they become useful.

At least, that is what A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke hopes after his team dropped its first big match of the season 6-3 against 18th-ranked Northwestern University on Friday at the Varsity Tennis Center.

"Playing teams this good early in the season is tough," Kleinecke said. "I think that in the long run these tough matches will pay off down the stretch, especially once we get to conference."

Their stretch of tough early season opponents does not stop with Northwestern, either. The Aggies, now 2-1, are traveling to No. 23 Louisiana State University and No. 16 Vanderbilt for their next two matches.

Kleinecke said he would have liked to take a win from the Northwestern match, but he put his team's performance in perspective afterwards.

"We competed hard, but I am obviously disappointed that we lost," he said. "We gave everything that we had. The big difference was that Northwestern already has two big wins against ranked opponents this year. They have

already played in two tough matches, and we had not."

Northwestern's Mia Jackson turned in the most dominating performance of the day, disposing of A&M's Leah Killen in two sets 6-1, 6-0.

Afterwards Jackson talked about her victory. "My match went really well," Jackson said. "I was excited about the way I was playing and the way I was just able to go out there and take care of business."

Northwestern head coach Claire Pollard said her team performed as well as she had hoped.

"I think we played pretty well," Pollard said. "It's our first outing outside in a while so I was pleased with that. We know A&M is a great team, but we were ready to play and I think it was a good match."

The Aggies did have a few bright spots in their match, however.

One was senior Lisa Dingwall, who won her singles match against Northwestern's Colleen Cheng and also took her doubles match with teammate Martina Nedorostova from NU's number one team of Cheng and Katherine Nasser.

Kleinecke said he was happy with the maturity his senior displayed.

"Lisa did a good job for us today," he said. "In other matches in her career when she has gone down in sets, it has gotten in her head and bothered her. Today, she showed great composure."

The only other victory the Aggies came away with was in singles play by freshman Olivia Karlikova, who defeated Shannon Duffy of Northwestern, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Although she did not pick up the victory, freshman Cassie Hass played in the most interesting match of the day against Northwestern's Marine Piriou.

In a marathon 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 match, Hass battled back from setbacks in each set to no avail.

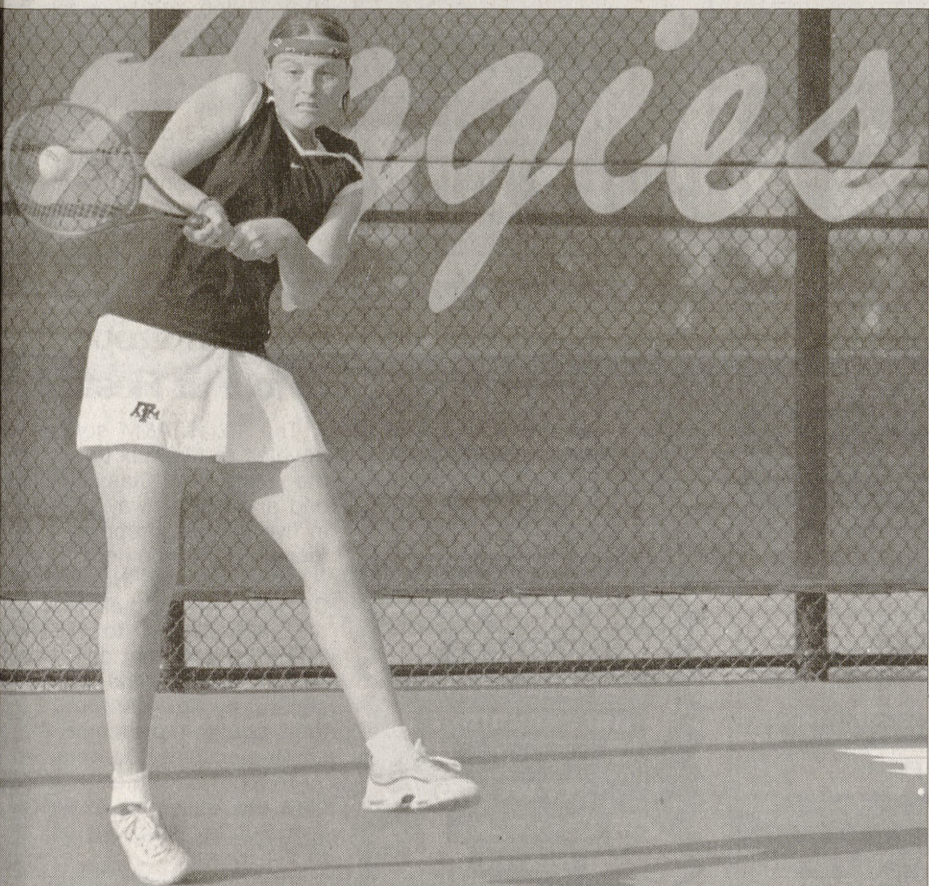
Kleinecke was pleased with Hass' effort, just not the results.

"We fell down early in every set," Kleinecke said. "She competes very hard and that's one of the best things about her, we just dropped too many games at the beginning there."

Hass said she agreed with her coach.

"I was down in all the sets," Hass said. "5-1 in the first set, and I think 5-1 in the second as well when I fought my way back and I thought I was going to do it again in the third, but I wasn't able to."

The Aggies will be back at home on Friday, February 25th against Missouri.



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore Martina Nedorostova returns a serve against Northwestern University Friday at the Varsity Tennis Center.