

## Softball heads to Kansas

BY JASON LINCOLN  
The Battalion

Two teams will look to get their conference season's back on track this weekend by capturing their first conference win.

The Texas A&M softball team (20-3, 0-3 Big 12) will travel to Lawrence, Kan. to face the University of Kansas (18-17, 0-2 Big 12).

Junior pitcher Amy Vining looks to lead the Aggies to their first conference wins.

The Aggies are coming off an 8-0 loss to the University of Texas on Wednesday night.

A&M is 28-16 against the Jayhawks and split last year's series 0-1 and 7-4 in Lawrence. Both teams have been defeated by Texas, Oklahoma and Utah State this season.

Freshman catcher Selena Collins currently leads A&M's offense with a .341 batting average. Sophomore



J.P. BEATO/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M softball pitcher Amy Vining looks to lead the Aggies over the University of Kansas in a two game series.

Amy Hulse leads KU, going 6-for-10 from the plate in the last four games.

The series will be played at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

## Aggies look for a second top five upset

BY AL LAZARUS  
The Battalion

The rainy day a little over two years ago may have been shrouded in fog, but it offered the Texas A&M men's tennis team a glimpse into the future of Aggie tennis.

In rapidly deteriorating conditions at the Omar Smith Tennis Center, A&M scored its first big victory of the Tim Cass era — a 4-1 defeat of 12th-ranked Pepperdine University.

In just his fourth season at the helm of the Aggies, Cass will try for his third win against a top-10 team at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center in a return engagement with Pepperdine. The match, part of a doubleheader with the A&M women's team, will begin at 6 p.m.

No. 4 Pepperdine will look to challenge No. 11 A&M's 7-0 home record with a perfect record of its own — the Waves are 18-0 on the season.

"We want to be undefeated at home," A&M junior Cody Hubbell said. "We have all these loud fans and all this support, and that makes us want to do it for the fans. We take a lot of pride in winning at home."

The Aggies (9-5) already have one upset over a top five team at home this

season, a 5-2 victory over then No. 4 Florida. In tonight's match, A&M will face three top-100 singles players and a third-ranked doubles team.

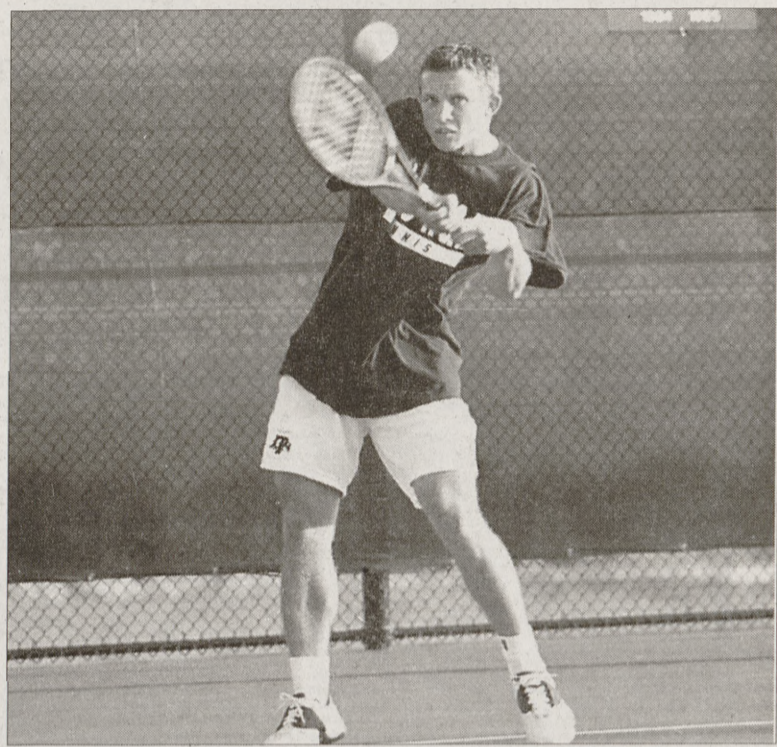
"It's going to be a war tonight — a special match," Cass said. "For us to have Florida, and now another top-five team visit us in the same year is very unusual. I hope people come out and get behind us, because it's a huge match for us."

A&M will counter Pepperdine's formidable lineup with one of its own, Junior Shuon Madden is the nation's second-ranked singles player, and Hubbell is No. 87.

In doubles, Madden and junior Dumitru Caradima are No. 25, a ranking which doesn't reflect the duo's win Saturday against Baylor's fourth-ranked tandem of David Hodge and Mark Williams.

Madden, who has won seven matches in a row, said the Aggies' tough schedule has prepared them for tonight's match.

"We're not going to face anything that we haven't seen," he said. "We've played top-five and top-10 teams all year long. It's just going to be another tough match, and hopefully we'll come out on top."



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore Jarin Skube and the mens Aggie tennis team will host No. 4 Pepperdine at the Varsity Tennis Center.

## Women's Tennis hosts Pepperdine U.

BY BLAINE DIONNE  
The Battalion



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Senior Lisa Dingwall looks to lead the Aggies to an upset of No. 2 Pepperdine.

The 2000 season has been a roller coaster ride for the Texas A&M women's tennis team, and they have a huge plunge before them at the Varsity Tennis Center.

The Pepperdine University Waves, No. 2 in the country according to the latest WingspanBank.com collegiate rankings, is playing the Aggies at 6 p.m.

Not only are the Pepperdine women in town, but the Waves' No. 4 men's team is also playing the Aggie men, in what should be a pivotal match for both A&M squads.

While the men have already enjoyed success against a top-five caliber team this year (against Florida earlier this month), the women struggled against then No. 2 Georgia, losing the match 9-0.

According to senior Kathryn Scott, however, that early season setback should not affect their performance against the Waves.

"It really just depends on how each player matches up with all their players," Scott said. "Anything can happen in college tennis. A top ten team can lose to an unranked team — it happens all the time, and that's the mind set that we have to have."

Women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke agreed with Scott.

"We have nothing to lose and everything to gain," Kleinecke said. "We've been fighting all year and I think we have a shot at them. There are a lot of upsets this year and there is no reason that we shouldn't be one of them."

With a top five opponent waiting and the Aggies seemingly hitting their stride in their last two matches, Kleinecke could be right.

### Sports in Brief

#### Ag hoops signee to play at Final Four

Texas A&M men's basketball signee Nick Anderson of Baton Rouge, La. will be a member of the USA Basketball Junior National Select Team that will play as part of the NCAA Final Four weekend.

The game will be at 12 p.m. (CT) on Sunday and will be televised live nationally by ESPN.

Anderson is a 6-6, 215-pound forward that led Southern Lab High School to its four straight state championship this season.

Anderson averaged 23.5 points, 14.6 rebound, 6.2 assists and 7.4 blocks per game and is rated among the top 50 prep players in the country.

#### Track teams head to Houston meet

The Texas A&M men's and women's track teams will compete in the Houston Quadrangular this Saturday at the Carl Lewis International Track and Field Complex on the University of Houston Campus.

The Aggie men are coming off a win at the LSU Quadrangular where the women placed second.

The A&M posted two NCAA automatic qualifying times and five provisional qualifying times, along with seven victories by seven different athletes.

Four schools will be competing in the U of H meet including Big 12 opponent, University of Baylor.

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