

Aggie track names 2000 recruiting class

BY BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

The Texas A&M track and field team announced the Spring 2000 recruiting class Wednesday, highlighted by the addition of four of Texas' top high school sprinters and a state champion thrower.

Adam Wooten of Duncanville is currently the Class 5A state leader in both the 100- (10.1 seconds) and 200-meter dashes (21.10). Wooten is also a member of Duncanville's 400 relay team, who hold the state's sixth-fastest 5A team this year. He is currently undefeated this season and is expected to contribute immediately to the Aggie men's team when he arrives next year.

"Adam (Wooten) can flat-out run," said associate head coach Ed Marcinkiewicz. "He has great range and he will help keep A&M a national force in both relays."

Jonte Buhl of Pflugerville Connally is currently number one in the country in the outdoor 400. He also ran the fastest indoor time this year and won the National Scholastic Indoor Championship in the 400. Buhl is also signed as a football recruit to play as a defensive back for the Aggies.

"Jonte Buhl is a great quarter-

miler," said Marcinkiewicz. "He will be playing football here, but he will definitely impact our sprint crew next season. I am anxious to see what he can do for us, because he is one of the top sprinters in the nation."

Nick Nichols of Fort Bend Austin is the top returning sprinter in the Houston area this season. He placed fifth in the 100 at the 1999 Class 5A State Championships and third in the 200.

The men are not the only ones who will be able to welcome highly-touted newcomers next season, the Aggie women will have Adrian Albrow of Houston Westbury and Karen Honea of Ingram Tom Moore.

Albrow is an integral part of Westbury's relay teams and is one of the best female sprinters in the state. She has been part of three state championships in relays over her past two seasons. Honea is defending her Class 3A state title in the discus, and has been a three-time regional qualifier for Ingram Tom Moore High School.

"I'm very pleased about all our signees," said head coach Ted Nelson. "We are really excited about the additions to our program, and I'm looking forward to seeing them contribute to Texas A&M track and field."

Women's tennis heads to Lubbock

BY BLAINE DIONNE
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This weekend will be hectic for the Texas A&M women's tennis team (9-8, 5-1). Two Big 12 Conference matches are on tap for the Aggies. The first is on Friday in Lubbock against the Texas Tech Lady Raiders (2-12, 1-7) and the second is on Sunday in Boulder for a match against the Colorado Buffaloes (6-6, 3-4).

The Aggies take a 5-1 conference record into the road trip and, according to women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke, a high level of confidence as well.

"You always get a little bit of confidence after a close win (5-4 against Nebraska on Sunday)," Kleinecke said. "I feel like the girls are ready for this trip."

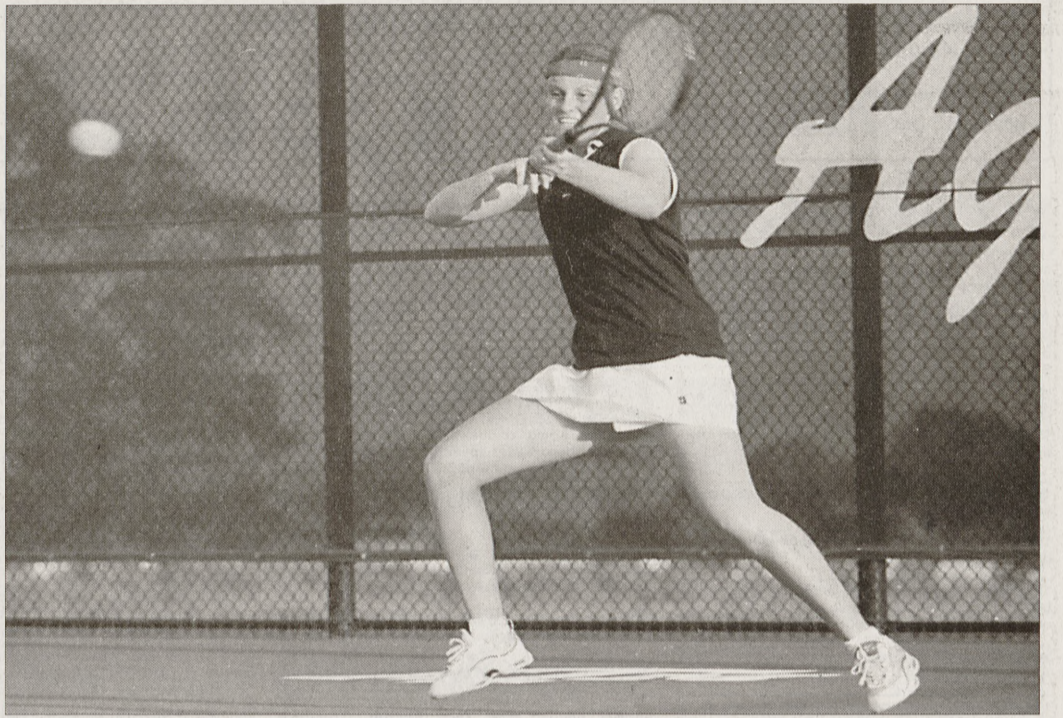
They may be ready for the trip, but what is waiting for them once they get there is still somewhat of a mystery to Kleinecke. Although both Tech and Colorado have losing records, they have the potential to be dark horses of a sort because of their individual player strengths at the No. 1 and No. 2 singles positions.

"We don't know much about either team," Kleinecke said. "Colorado may be little bit stronger than Texas Tech, but both teams have high quality top-two singles players."

The Aggies have seen their share of high quality singles players as of late, most recently last Friday when they were able to pull out victories in two matches against then-second ranked Pepperdine University, and in each loss they pushed the Waves to three sets.

Kleinecke said he thinks the team should be able to pull on that experience for the rest of the season.

"It's always difficult to lose like that, and we struggled a little bit after Pepperdine (against Nebraska)," Kleinecke said. "But if we just take care of business,



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore **Martina Nedorostova** looks to lead the Aggies into a vital weekend on the road against Big 12 opponents, Texas Tech and Colorado.

we're right where we want to be."

Two more conference victories would certainly help the Aggies in the rankings. So far this season, they have not been able to build much of a winning streak, and this upcoming road trip may be their best opportunity.

Kleinecke agreed.

"The effort has been there all season, we just haven't been getting many breaks," Kleinecke said. "Like at the end of the Pepperdine match when it could have gone either way. Eventually, we're going to be able to pull those types of victories out."

A&M men's tennis team breaks into top 10 for first-time ever at No. 8

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M men's tennis team has broken into the top 10 of the national polls for the first time in school history as they move up three spots to No. 8 in the WingspanBank.com Collegiate Tennis Rankings and up three spots to No. 10 in the Daily Tennis Coaches Weekly Top 25 poll, both released Wednesday.

This week's ranking shatters the Aggies' previous best in both polls which was No. 11 in the computer-based WingspanBank.com poll last week and

when they were ranked No. 11 on May 5, 1998 following their big 12 Tournament Championship.

It also surpassed the modern mark achieved by the 1985 Aggie squad that advanced to the first-round at the NCAA Team Championships final site.

The Aggies also set a new mark in the coaches poll by reaching No. 10. They were No. 11 for two weeks in March.

"I'm excited about our progress this season and we recognize that the rankings are an indication of that," A&M men's tennis coach Tim Cass said. "At the same time, we are sort of, at the mid-

way point in the season and hopefully this gives us confidence."

In the WingspanBank.com poll, the Aggies are the second highest ranked team in the Big 12 Conference, behind only No. 7 Baylor University (14-4). The only other Big 12 team in the top 25 is the University of Texas (15-3).

In the Daily Tennis Coaches Top 25, the Aggies are also the second highest ranked Big 12 team behind only No. 8 Baylor.

The Aggies' recent surge is due in large part to their 4-3 victory over No. 2-ranked Pepper-

dine University last Friday night at the Varsity Tennis center.

It was the biggest win over a ranked opponent in school history, and the highest ranked opponent any athletic team at A&M has beaten since the football team topped No. 1-ranked Kansas State University in the 1998 Big 12 Championship in double overtime.

"I think our strength of schedule is very apparent," Cass said. "You never know what people will be ranked when you make the schedule, but I look at it now and see that we have five wins in the top

25 with wins over the number two and three teams."

A&M has posted wins this season over currently ranked No. 2 University of Florida, No. 3 Pepperdine, No. 17 University of Miami, No. 19 North Carolina and No. 22 South Alabama.

They still have regular season matches scheduled at No. 13 Texas, and with No. 37 Tulsa University at home. All five of the Aggies' losses have been on the road to currently ranked No. 5 Duke University (4-3), No. 6 University of Illinois (6-1), No. 7 Baylor (4-3), No. 10 Louisiana State University (5-2) and to No. 15 Texas Christian University (4-3).

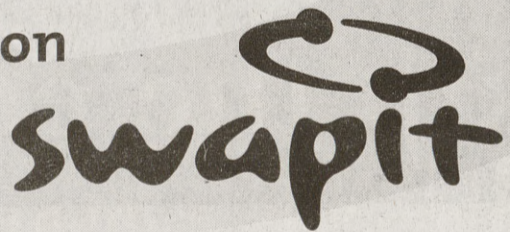
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