

Women's tennis downs SMU

BY BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

In what had looked all day like it would be a rainout, the Texas A&M women's tennis team usurped Mother Nature and washed Southern Methodist University off the courts themselves Wednesday night, 6-1.

The Aggies won five singles matches and SMU ended up forfeiting the doubles matches because of injuries.

Despite playing without freshman Olivia Karlikova due to a sudden case of bronchitis, the Aggies were able to do away with the injury-stricken Mustangs with a fair amount of ease.

A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke said that he was proud of his team's performance.

"I thought that this was an excellent team win," Kleinecke said. "I was a little nervous before the match started because we've got Olivia out with the sickness. We talked about coming out and stepping it up to make up for Olivia not being here, and I think they did that."

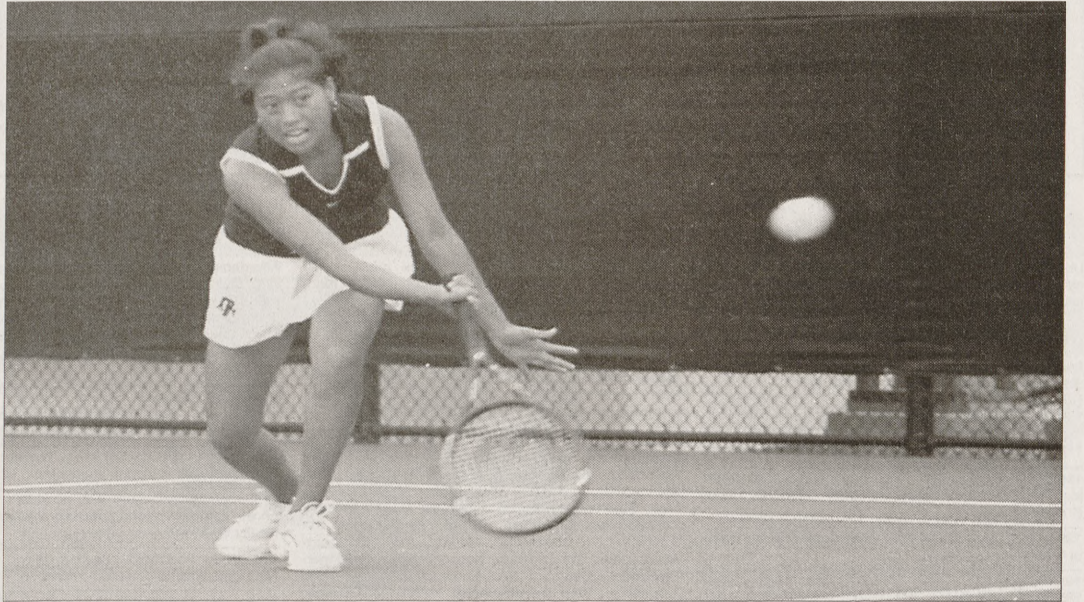
The Aggies opened up their scoring quickly when Eva Marcial disposed of SMU's Sara Love Swaney 6-0, 6-1.

Lisa Dingwall pushed the score to 2-0 with her 6-4, 2-0 default victory as the Mustangs' Katie Pruett injured her back, forcing her to forfeit.

SMU posted their only win of the night next at No. 5 singles as Kathryn Scott was beaten by SMU's Lindsey Bruce 6-1, 6-1.

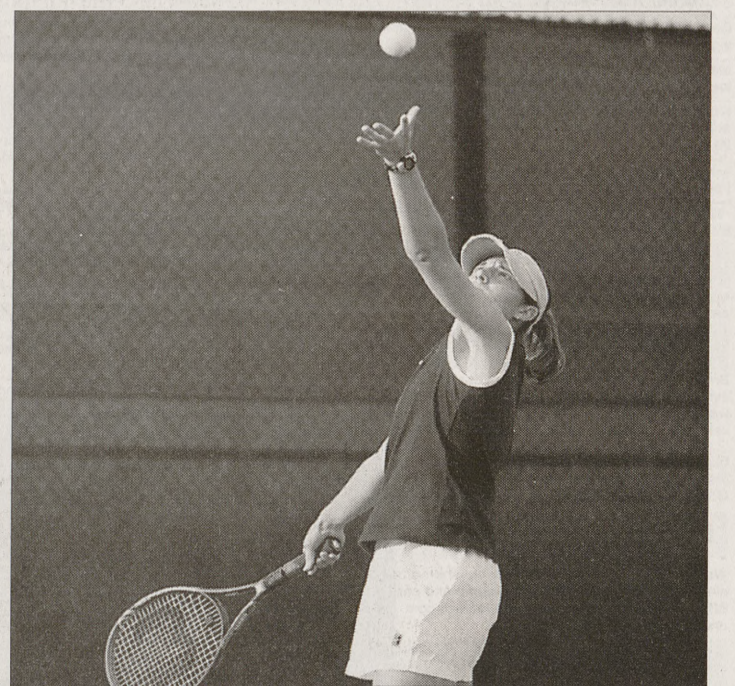
A&M never looked back after that, however, as Cassie Haas, Leah Killen and Martina Nedorostova all came out with victories at No. 3, 2 and 1 singles, respectively.

The only one who had any trouble was Nedorostova as she was pushed to a three-set tiebreaker that she eventually was able to wrap up, 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (12-10).



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

(Above): A&M junior **Eva Marcial** hits a forehand during her match against SMU's Sara Love Swaney Wednesday. (Below): A&M freshman **Cassie Haas** prepares to serve.



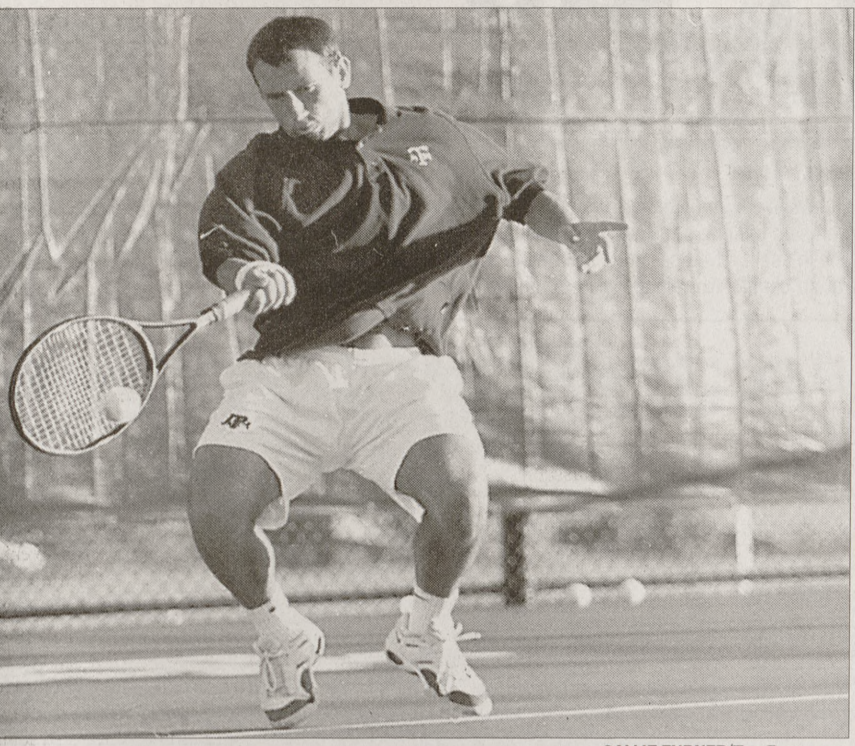
On a night full of bright spots for the Aggies, perhaps the brightest was Killen's win at No. 2, where she filled in quite nicely for the injured Karlikova, winning 7-6, 6-2.

"I'm happy I won the tie breaker," Killen said. "Because I think it would have been a lot more difficult if she had the momentum in the second set."

After the match, a visibly-disappointed SMU women's tennis coach Claire Bailey said that the Pruett injury was just another in a line of Mustang injuries lately.

"Our No. 4 girl [Pruett] injured her back," Bailey said. "And we lost a player last week when she tore her ACL, so we're down to five players. Our backs are really against the wall."

The Aggies, who had been having an up and down season, all of a sudden could not be further from the proverbial "wall" as their last three matches, all against 'Big 12' foes, are at home.



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

A&M junior **Dimitru Caradima** hits a forehand during the Aggies' match against Rice University Apr. 4 at the Varsity Tennis Center.

TAMU-CC, Tulsa travel to face ninth-ranked Ags

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

The ninth-ranked Texas A&M men's tennis team has defeated five of the top 20 teams in the latest WingspanBank.com computer rankings.

Before the Aggies go for a sixth top-20 victory Saturday in Austin against No. 13 Texas, they will host Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Tulsa today at the Varsity Tennis Center. A&M (13-5, 4-1) will face the Islanders at noon followed by the 4th-ranked Golden Hurricane at 6 p.m.

While a victory in Austin Saturday would add an exclamation point to an already impressive regular season, A&M men's tennis coach Tim Cass said the Aggies will not look past Thursday's matches.

"Our approach all season has been to try to utilize every match as a chance for improvement," Cass said. "I don't expect our guys to be looking past anyone on Thursday because we

have some things to improve on."

That the Aggies have room for improvement may be a scary notion to their opponents. A&M already has knocked off No. 3 Florida, 5-2, and previously-undefeated No. 4 Pepperdine, 4-3.

In this week's individual rankings, A&M junior Shuon Madden remains No. 2 in the nation. Madden, who is riding a 10-match winning streak, cut the margin between himself and top-ranked Daniel Andersson of Virginia Commonwealth to 3.01 points — down from the previous spread of 6.31.

A&M junior Cody Hubbell joins Madden in the rankings at No. 92. Hubbell has now appeared in three straight ranking periods and has won 13 of his last 15 matches.

In the doubles rankings, Madden and junior Dimitru Caradima jumped 11 spots to No. 14. Ranked No. 1 all of last spring, the duo has defeated two of the nation's top five doubles teams in the past three weeks.

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