

Big 12 Champions ... again

Men's Tennis reclaims Big 12 championship with Baylor shutout

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

KANSAS CITY, MO — For the second time in three years, the Texas A&M men's tennis team is the Big 12's tournament champion.

The seventh-ranked Aggies blanked fourth-ranked Baylor, 4-0, in the finals of the Big 12 Championships Sunday at the Plaza Tennis Center in Kansas City, Mo.

More than 250 fans witnessed the Aggies' 15th-straight win and the second conference tournament in which they did not allow their opponents to score a point.

The Aggies defeated Oklahoma, 4-0, in the quarterfinals and topped No. 15 Texas, 4-0, in the semifinals.

"I think our kids were very ready to play today — not that they haven't been all year," said Tim Cass, A&M men's tennis coach. "I think that if anything motivates you in sports, it's going on the road (during the regular season) to play Texas, Texas Tech, Baylor and Nebraska and only playing three home conference matches. We think that helped motivate us this season."

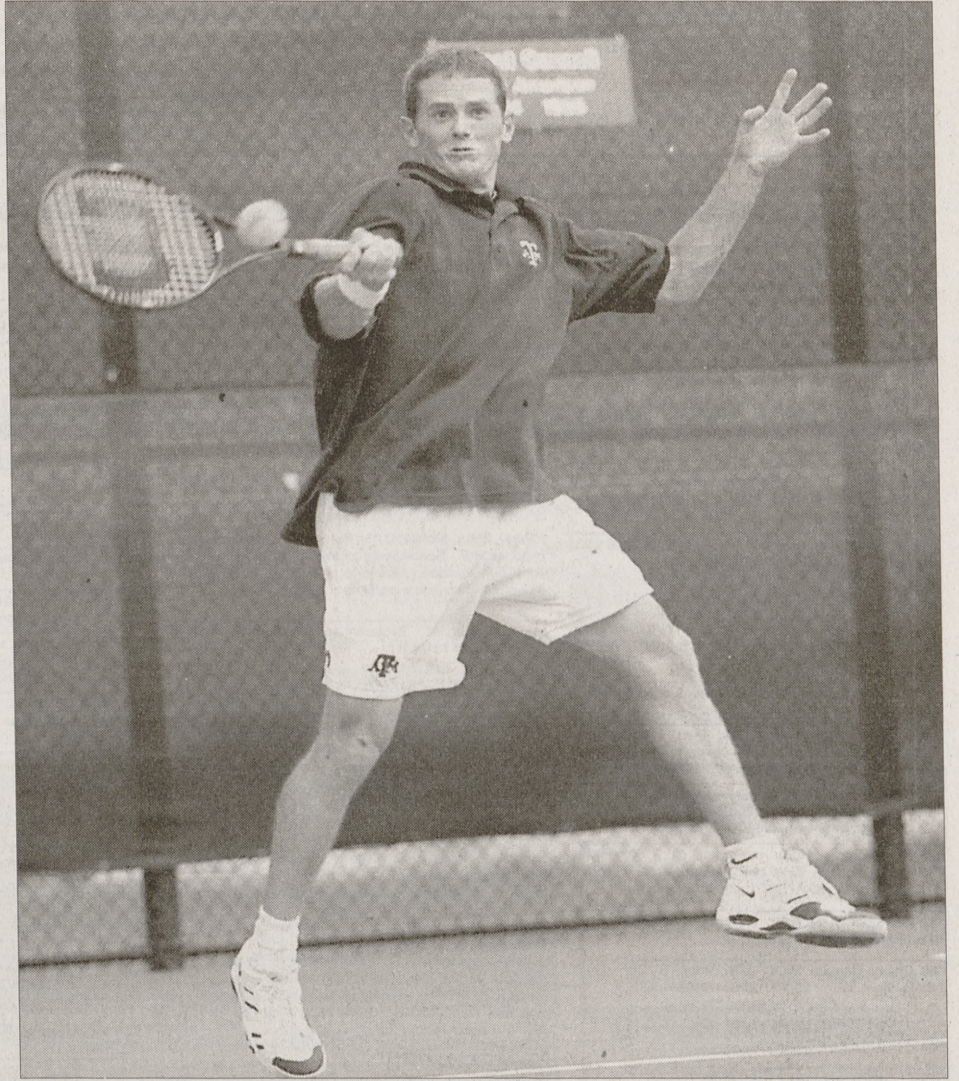
Sunday's win over Baylor marks the Aggies' third victory over a top-five team this season. In March, A&M defeated No. 4 Florida and No. 2 Pepperdine at the Varsity Tennis Center.

Against the Bears, the Aggies recorded the doubles point for the 18th time this season. They have not lost a match this season when winning the doubles point.

At No. 1, A&M's All-America and 10th-ranked duo of juniors Shuon Madden and Dumitru Caradima recorded its seventh top five win of the season with an 8-6 win over Baylor's second-ranked tandem of David Hodge and Mark Williams.

At No. 3, junior Cody Hubbell and freshman Ryan Newport clinched the point for the Aggies with an 8-4 win over Baylor's Zoltan Papp and Joey Michalsky.

"[Winning the doubles point] was a big key for us today," Madden said. "We lost it to Baylor last time, but we wanted the momentum right from the start, so we needed the doubles point. We knew it



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M junior **Cody Hubbell**, pictured here against Kansas at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center, helped lead the Aggies to a second Big 12 Championship over the weekend.

would be tough from the start."

In singles play, the Aggies used the momentum gained from doubles to surge to three quick victories before the Bears could muster a single win.

The fourth-ranked Madden extended his winning streak to 15 with a 6-1, 6-2 victory at No. 1 over 21st-ranked Johann Jooste.

Hubbell than gave the Aggies their third point of the match with a 6-4, 6-2 win over 70th-ranked

Papp on the No. 4 court.

With A&M leading 3-0 and four matches still on the court, the focus turned to Newport on court No. 5. Having already won the first set, Newport was leading 5-3 in the second when he held serve to beat Michalsky, 6-2, 6-3, and clinch the match for the Aggies.

The next step for Texas A&M is NCAA Regional Competition beginning May 13.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore shortstop **Ryan Wardinsky** misses the play at second in Saturday's 7-2 loss to the Longhorns. A&M would rebound to pick up the win on Sunday.

Aggies close series with win

Baseball closes against UT with 4-2 win at Olsen Field

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The outlook was not good for the Texas A&M baseball team as they headed into the final game of a split series versus the No. 6 University of Texas.

After losing Friday's game in Austin and Saturday's game in College Station, about the only things A&M had to its advantage were Olsen Field and junior All-American reliever and third baseman Chris Russ, who was playing his first Big 12 series since breaking his foot in early April.

That combination would pay off for the Aggies Sunday afternoon as they defeated the Longhorns, 4-2 in front of a crowd of 5,080.

A&M now holds a 22-30 record, 10-16 in the Big 12, while Texas is 37-11 and 18-7.

It took Russ a couple of games to get his game back to form. In the first two games of the series, Russ went 1-3 and 1-4 from the plate while playing at third.

Sunday there would be no lull as he not only drew the start on the mound, but took the second spot in the batting order. He performed on both levels.

From the plate, he reached base on three of four appearances, leading off with a single in the

first, flying out in the second, being hit by a pitch in the fourth and hitting a double in the seventh.

On the mound, Russ pitched 7 1/3 innings, allowing seven hits and two runs to secure the win before being relieved by freshman Todd Deininger. Russ then picked up duties at third base from Greg Porter.

Deininger pitched the final 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief to pick up the save.

Offensively, senior catcher Joe O'Jibway and freshman left fielder David Evans provided the scoring power for A&M. Each went 2-4 swinging the bat. Evans would score twice and O'Jibway once.

The catcher drove in Evans in the second on a triple. O'Jibway followed him to home plate thanks to an Eric Reed single. Evans scored again in the eighth after making his way around the bases to third before going home on a wild pitch.

The win ends A&M's Big 12 woes. After winning on the first day of April against the University of Kansas, the Aggies did not have another conference win until the final day of the month against the Longhorns.

Texas A&M will conclude the season in two weeks against the University of Missouri Tigers on May 12-14 at Olsen Field.

Tuesday, May 2, 2000
 Memorial death
 idea, administrators said, campus to think of the death than just a number.
 "This is not a tally sheet," Rose said. "One of these people is the important thing."
 Rose said he has lost on the times he has called his son, who attends college in Milledgeville, just to tell him he loves him.
 "I still can't get over it," Travis Denison, a member of the university's student government, whose friend Chris Mosley was killed in a car accident March 10, said.
 The toll climbed late in the afternoon, he said, students opening their paper every Monday and Tuesday to read about another death every weekend they were in school. "It's so hard to believe."

News in Brief
 Shares rise after
 Microsoft breakup
 NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft rose on Monday as investors bet on a split of the software giant into two companies. The move, which analysts say is unrealistic and may be beneficial for investors, sent Microsoft's stock up 1.5 percent to \$37.50. The company's price-to-earnings ratio rose to 28.5, a gain of \$3 from the stock's close Friday. The Justice Department asked a federal judge to block the company's plan to split up the company as part of a lawsuit for monopolistic practices. Under the plan, also rejected by 17 states that filed the suit, Microsoft would be split into two companies: one for Windows, the operating system whose dominance has drawn the most complaints against the company, and another for Microsoft Office, the popular software application. Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser and network of Web sites would remain with the Windows company.

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