

Ags open season with wins

Women's tennis team posts victories over SFA, UTSA

By KEVIN ESPENLAUB
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's tennis team started the season on a positive note Saturday by shutting out Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) and the University of Texas-San Antonio (UTSA) at the Varsity Tennis Center.

The Aggies (2-0) defeated SFA (0-1) in the early match, 7-0. A&M swept all three doubles matches to win the doubles point and take a 1-0 lead in the match.

A&M freshman Ashley Backus capped the sweep of the Ladyjacks with her super-tiebreaker singles victory over SFA freshman Jessica Beauchene 2-6, 6-1, (11-9).

Backus also decisively won her singles matchup against UTSA freshman Emily Foster, 6-0, 6-0.

"I think it's always tough playing your first dual matches ever," said A&M coach Callie Creighton, who filled in for head coach Bobby Kleinecke, who attended the Rolex National on Saturday. "Ashley seemed a little nervous during that first match, but she came out for the second and seemed much more relaxed and comfortable."

The Aggies continued to roll in

the afternoon match against UTSA, sweeping the Roadrunners, 7-0.

Courts one and two hosted some heated action during the UTSA match, as A&M sophomore Olivia Karlikova faced stiff competition in her first set against Svenja Fuhrig.

"It's always good to win two matches as far as your confidence goes."

— Eva Marcial
A&M tennis team member

and then breezed in the second set down Fuhrig, 6-4, 6-0.

On court two, A&M junior Martina Nedorostova held off UTSA's Eveline Folkerts in three sets, 6-0, 5-7, (10-6).

"It's a little intimidating to come and play in such a nice facility," said UTSA coach Brenda Niemeyer. "Every one of [A&M's] players is nice and solid, including the doubles teams. But it did show our girls what the higher level of play is and what it takes to get there."

Another notable contributor for the Aggies was junior Majorie Terburgh. Terburgh played in and won four matches, two doubles and two singles, including her 6-1, 6-0 victory over UTSA's Eva Soderkvist.

"Majorie came out so fired up and ready to go that I think it made a world of difference to our team," said senior team captain Eva Marcial. "During practice, she gets on herself so bad, but she came out today and had fun, which is great to see."

Also on Saturday, the ninth-ranked Aggie doubles team of Jessica Roland and Ashley Hedberg advanced to the consolation semifinals in Dallas.

Roland and Hedberg defeated Kavitha Krishnamurthy and Shikha Ubroi of Princeton, 6-4, 6-4, in the quarterfinals.

The duo fell in the semifinals to No. 13 Lauren Barnikow and Lauren Kalvaria of Stanford, 7-6 (3), 7-5.

The Aggies' next match will be Saturday against 23rd-ranked Louisiana State University (LSU). It will be a double dual match, the men's team will also face LSU at the Varsity Tennis Center.



A&M junior Majorie Terburgh hits a return against SFA's Meredith Watson on Saturday morning at the Varsity Tennis Center.

"It's always good to win two matches as far as your confidence goes," Marcial said. "But playing against LSU is meeting a com-

pletely different caliber team than we've faced today. We're going to have to regroup and start preparing right away."

SWIM

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200 freestyle, Howard won the butterfly.

Senior David Morrow won the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle and swam the last leg of a winning 400 freestyle relay row outswam SMU's Mitch Cobsson in the last 50 yards of the A&M win in the relay.

"Everybody stepped up and did a great swims," Morrow said. "It was a phenomenal meet for our teams."

Mansour also was on the winning 400 freestyle relay, finished in the 200 freestyle and swam a career-best time in the 500 freestyle event in which he does not normally participate.

Nash said Mansour's performance helped inspire the rest of the team, even though the senior did not win any individual events.

Seniors Michael Collins and Michael Greene were on the winning 400 medley relay. Colligan was on the 400 freestyle relay.

The TAPPS swimmers were in town for the TAPPS swimming and diving competition at the Student Recreation Natatorium Saturday, where the large crowd that watched the A&M honored its seniors at the end of its last dual meet season.



A&M first baseman Kelly Ferguson slides into third base on Saturday against the University of Texas-San Antonio at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Softball begins season with doubleheader split

By JEREMY BROWN
The Battalion

The difference between the Texas A&M softball team's first two games of the season was the experience of the pitcher, as A&M split a doubleheader with the University of Texas-San Antonio Roadrunners at the Aggie Softball Complex Saturday.

Behind the experience of senior pitcher Amy Vining, the Aggies cruised to an 8-0 win against UTSA in game one.

In the first game, Vining gave up only three hits, all in the third inning. She finished the game by sitting down 10 straight UTSA batters and tallied nine strikeouts.

A&M got on the board in the third inning when senior left fielder Holly Hayden drove in junior second baseman Lisa Klam with a double to left field.

The Aggies' offense got rolling with six runs in the fourth inning.

The onslaught was started by junior first

baseballer Kelly Ferguson who transferred from UTSA last season.

After senior rightfielder Tiffany Esters grounded out to start the inning, Ferguson hit the Aggies' first home run of the season. The rest of the inning was downhill for UTSA, as A&M got two more hits and had two batters walk and two batters advance to first after being hit.

Ferguson finished the game with two hits, a double and a home run, and was walked once.

"I was very excited," Ferguson said. "I was very ready to play them. I knew I wanted to come out and play a very good game against them."

Game two started out a lot tougher for the Aggies. Freshman pitcher Jessica Slataper gave up singles to UTSA's first two batters before getting the first strikeout of her career.

Michelle McElyea followed up the strikeout by hitting a three-run home run to put the Roadrunners up 3-0.

Slataper walked the next batter, but recovered to

strike out the side.

Slataper settled down and did not allow another hit in the next three innings.

Ferguson got A&M going in the sixth by driving in freshman Sherah Atkins on a double to right. After being put in to pinch run for Ferguson, Hayden advanced to third on a walk. She scored on a single by senior second baseman Rachel Lewis.

Lewis then advanced to second on a single by sophomore shortstop Crystal Martin.

The inning ended when Lewis tried to throw a third on a throw into the dirt that was caught by the catcher.

She originally was safe but was called out when her momentum carried her past the home plate.

"Obviously, I would like to see the ball hit the catcher before you make that decision," Slataper said. "She thought she had it but that was a mistake when you have a runner in scoring position and we have a rally going."

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