

Ags remain hot, down TCU

By TRUE BROWN

The Battalion
The No. 36 Texas A&M women's tennis team capped off a night of drama by posting comeback wins in three of the final four matches to claim a 4-3 victory over No. 34 Texas Christian University Tuesday at the Varsity Tennis Center.

"We dodged a major bullet tonight," said A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke. "I don't think our backs could have been closer to the wall and still come out with the win."

Trailing 3-1 after the first four singles matches, junior Leah Killen put the Aggies (4-0) back into the action by defeating TCU's Saber Pierce 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

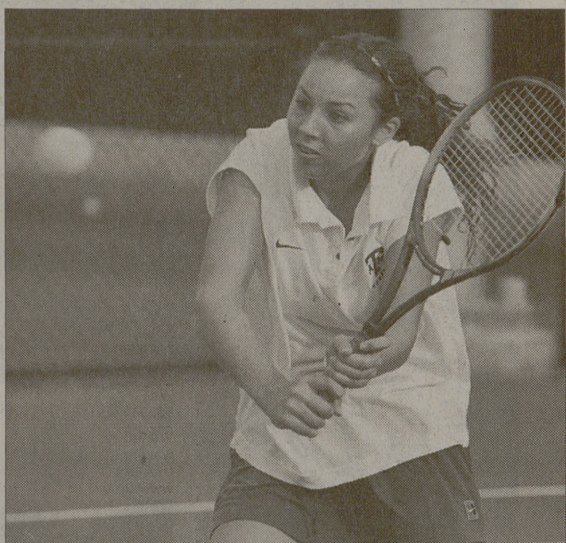
After losing the first set, Killen rebounded and controlled the remainder of the match, never behind again. In the third and decisive set, Killen broke Pierce's serve to go up 5-3. She closed out the match by breaking Pierce's serve for the second straight time.

"I was nervous to start out and lost the first three games in about 10 minutes," Killen said. "Then I was able to calm it down, get back into it and pull it out." Killen's win turned all eyes to No. 2, where sophomore Olivia Karlikova and TCU's Rosa Perez were in the middle of a two-hour, 40-minute battle.

Karlikova was forced to come from behind after losing the first set 6-7 (8-6) in a tiebreaker. After dropping behind 3-2 in the second set, Karlikova went to deuce twice and pulled even after breaking Perez's serve.

Karlikova never looked back, closing out the second and third sets 6-3 and 6-2. "I've got to give her the credit," Kleinecke said. "She turned the whole match around."

Karlikova finished off the final two sets by breaking Perez's serve six times in a row. "I felt pretty good (despite being behind)," Karlikova said. "I had to adjust my game style after the first set. Once I started coming up to the net, everything turned out good."



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

A&M freshman **Jessica Roland** hits a forehand on Tuesday against TCU at the Varsity Tennis Center.

That win tied the match 3-3, leaving the outcome to be decided in doubles play.

The duo of juniors Martina Nedorostova and Majorie Terburgh made short work of their opponents, notching an 8-3 win.

The comeback was completed after the team of Killen and senior Eva Marcial fought back from a 5-3 deficit to win five straight points and the match, 8-5. The win claimed the lone doubles point for A&M, lifting the Aggies to a 4-3 victory.

"We felt like we could win," Kleinecke said. "We gutted it out in a tough situation. Every team has to come through with some gut-wrenching matches to have a great season. I'm hoping this was ours and we can bounce forward and go on to some big things."

Softball team set to host Bobcats

By KEVIN ESPENLAUB

The Battalion
The Texas A&M softball team is riding a six-game winning streak as it hosts the Southwest Texas State University Bobcats today at 6 p.m. at the Aggie Softball Complex.

The Aggies (7-1) are coming off an undefeated performance at the UTA/Isuzu InterCollegiate Classic Tournament this past weekend.

A&M was set to meet the second-ranked Oklahoma Sooners on Sunday in a semifinal match at the UTA tournament, but rain canceled the final day

of competition, leaving the Aggies with a share of a four-way title split with OU, Baylor and the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

"I was very pleased with how we played in the tournament," said A&M softball coach Jo Evans. "We hit great all through the lineup, especially in the six through nine positions, and our pitching was outstanding."

The Bobcats (9-2) come into College Station after an impressive tournament showing.

The Bobcats took part in the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Tour-

nament where they posted a 4-1 record to win the championship.

"I think our kids, and in particular our pitchers, went out and did a great job in a real tough tournament despite the elements of rain and wind they had to deal with all weekend," said Southwest Texas softball coach Ricci Woodard. "I think we need to stay focused on the fundamentals going into the A&M game."

"If our pitchers can continue to throw well, and our infielders can keep making the routine plays, we should be able to compete with anyone."

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