

From steps into a leader's role

By KEVIN ESPENLAUB
THE BATTALION

While most Texas A&M students would take a three-hour break between classes to run home, eat lunch or watch television, A&M men's tennis senior Keith From takes a break to get some practice time in at the Texas A&M Tennis Center hitting balls with a few teammates. Since he was three years old, From has been raised with a tennis racket in his hand by his father, Shaw From, a former collegiate-level tennis player at Vanderbilt University.

The years of preparation have paid off as From enters this season as one of the leaders of the Aggie team that finished last season as the seventh-ranked program in men's collegiate tennis.

The loss of four-time All-American Shuon Madden, two-time All-American Dumitru Caradima, Cody Hubbell and Tres Davis will leave a hole in the team that From, along

with a few other teammates, will be expected to fill.

"There's some big spaces we need to fill, but I think everybody is ready for it, and so far in practice this season, it appears that everyone really wants to fill the spots," From said. "I think we're going to be all right."

Men's tennis head coach Tim Cass seemed to put more focus on From's individual role on the team.

"I look for Keith this year

— being a senior — to really shine," Cass said. "He had a great year last year, and in some ways, the baton has been passed to some of these guys, especially Keith, and I think he's excited to have some of the weight on his shoulders to carry this team."

Keith came to A&M after spending

his youth in Tallahassee and Miami, Fla., playing in United States Tennis Association tournaments from the time he was 11 years old.

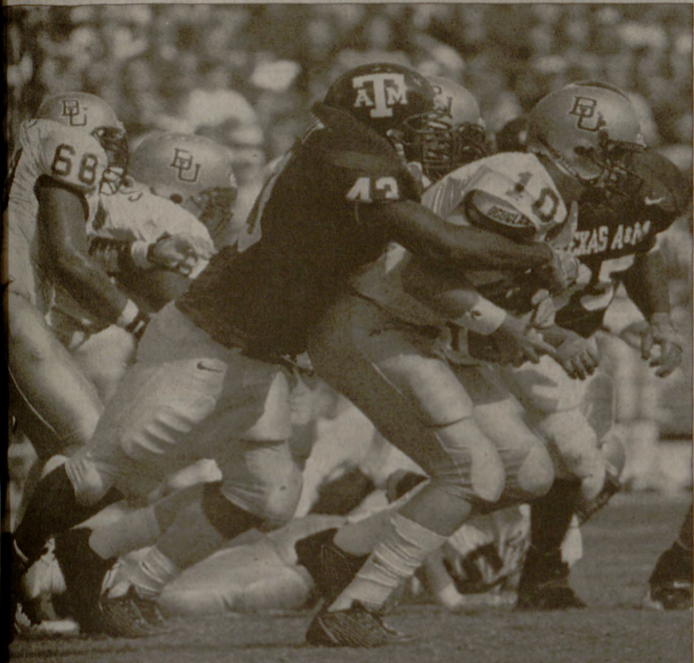
From won the Florida State Championship twice before coming to college, and he met with Madden while playing the tournaments in Florida.

He was recruited by Cass and, after hearing of Madden's signing, became interested enough to visit the campus and signed with the A&M team.

From started play in the ITA All-American

Championships that began on Wednesday at the Lincoln Tennis Center in Stone Mountain, Ga. He played in singles competition and, based on his ITA ranking, was given a bye for the pre-qualifying round of action. He began play in the qualifying round. From was looking forward to the action.

"First, I want the team to do well this season, but individually, I've never really had a good fall season, so I'd like to do well in the ITA All-American to set myself up to be an All-American in the spring," From said.



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Linebacker Jarrod Penright records one of three sacks the junior tallied during A&M's 26-10 win over the Baylor Bears Saturday.

Penright leads Crew's attack

defense dominate its opponents.

The outside linebacker spot was a big question mark for the Aggies coming into the season, but Penright has filled the position well and is on pace to break the school record of 20 sacks.

Penright and the defensive squad have also increased the quarterback knockdowns this season. Despite posting just 13 the first two games of the season, the Aggie defense has averaged 16.3 knockdowns per game in the last three games, including posting a 22 mark against Notre Dame.

Davis continues all-around play

Junior cornerback Sammy Davis continues to play solidly on the outside and leads the Big 12 in interceptions with four on the season.

Davis also is tied for the NCAA interception lead, as well as being the team leader in pass break-ups. He is also among the team leaders in tackles, with 31.

Davis was an All-Big 12 selection last season and was a preseason All-American prior to the 2001 season.

Big 12 boasts six teams in AP poll



And the survey says...

After another solid weekend of games, the Big 12 conference continues its strong run in the national polls.

The latest Associated Press poll has six Big 12 teams ranked in the top 25, while the ESPN-USA Today rankings give five places to Big 12 squads.

Oklahoma and Nebraska stayed at No. 3 and No. 4, respectively. The University of Texas dropped out of the top 10 for the first time this season, falling to No. 11 in both

rankings after losing to OU, 14-3, in Dallas.

Colorado made its debut in the AP poll, jumping all the way to No. 20. The Buffaloes' ranking comes on the heels of CU's upset of Kansas State on Saturday.

Since losing its season opener to Fresno State, Colorado has outscored its last four opponents by a margin of 135-51.

K-State, probably the best 2-2 team in the nation, fell to No. 24.

Texas A&M dropped one slot to No. 25 after breaking into the rankings for the first time last week.

Sooners still booming

The Oklahoma Sooners notched their 18th consecutive win Saturday when they knocked off UT; they currently own the longest winning streak in the nation.

Impressively, eight of those 18 wins have come over teams ranked in the top 10.

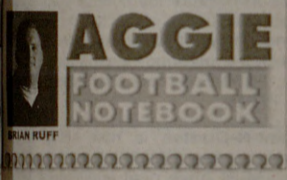
Texas Tech holds the distinction of being the last team to beat the Sooners in the regular season. Tech scored a 38-28 win over OU in Lubbock in Nov. 1999, the next-to-last conference game of 1999 for both teams.

Running back Quentin Griffin has scored a touchdown in six straight games and has caught a pass in 23 consecutive games.

After playing K-State and UT in back-to-back weeks, OU travels to Lawrence, Kan., to take on the University of Kansas this week.

Bonus football

Big 12 fans were treated to five extra periods of football this weekend as two games went into overtime. Last season, the only conference team to see overtime action was Nebraska, who went to overtime before winning 27-24 against Notre Dame.



The No. 25 Texas A&M Aggies will take on the No. 20 Colorado Buffaloes Saturday at Folsom Field in Boulder, Colo. The Aggies (5-0) are coming off a 16-10 victory over the Baylor Bears, while the Buffaloes (4-1) are riding high after knocking off Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan.

Colorado leads the all-time series with the Aggies, 3-1, including a 26-19 win over A&M at Kyle Field last season.

Penright putting the "Wreck" in Wrecking Crew

Junior outside linebacker Jarrod Penright continues to be a threat to opponents' offensive scheme, tallying at least one sack every game this season.

Penright leads the Big 12 conference with 8.5 sacks, for a loss of 64 yards. He recorded three against Baylor and two against Notre Dame, helping the Aggie

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