

Men's tennis survives cold, wins two matches

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

As the members of the No. 24 Texas A&M men's tennis team bundled up on the bleachers of the Bryan Tennis Center and watched their teammates compete against Abilene Christian University Saturday morning, two things became clear.

The first was that Abilene Christian was no match for the Aggies. A&M (7-2) swept three doubles matches from ACU (4-7) before adding singles victories on courts No. 4, 5 and 6 to clinch the match victory, 4-0.

Victories in singles went to senior Jarin Skube and freshmen Derrick Bauer and Hunter Emmott.

And second, the weather was not tennis friendly and the final

three matches of the team contest were called off due to temperatures in the mid-30s.

The weather sent the Aggies scrambling to find a location for their afternoon match against No. 69 Boise State University.

They would end up playing indoors at The Woodlands Tennis Center near Houston. The coaches decided not to play doubles matches and only play the six singles matches.

Junior Ryan Newport, No. 36 in the country, continued to struggle leading the Aggies, losing 6-2, 7-6, against Boise State's Marcus Bertson on court No. 1. Newport sat out of competition during the first match in Bryan.

The Aggies swept courts 2 through 6, however, claiming the 5-1 victory and improving to 8-2 for the spring season.

Court 2 saw a struggle by No. 63 freshman Lester Cook, who won a doubles match with Emmott earlier against ACU, as he claimed a hard-fought three-set match against Guillaume Bouvier (7-5, 6-7, 7-6).

The other four Aggies cruised to victories, including sophomore Khaled El Dorry, who recorded his seventh straight singles victory on court 6, and senior Keith From, who broke a four-match singles losing streak with a (7-5, 6-1) victory on court 4.

Skube, No. 80 in the nation, was the only Aggie to complete singles matches against both opponents in the doubleheader, scoring two victories.

The Aggies now begin preparation to visit one of their biggest non-conference rivals, the No. 15 Louisiana State University Tigers on Wednesday at 4 p.m.

No. 23 Aggies win two at weather-shortened tourney

Staff and Wire Reports

The No. 23 Texas A&M softball team went 2-0 on the only day of the Verizon Aggie Invitational II on Friday at the Aggie Softball Complex.

The rest of the tournament was called off due to cold and inclement weather.

In the opener, A&M held off Illinois State 2-1, and then came from behind to upset No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette 3-2, as Cheryl Fowler scored the game winner in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Aggies (16-4) broke a scoreless tie against the Redbirds in the top of the fifth inning when senior second baseman Lisa Klam led off with a triple to right field.

Freshman right fielder Adrian Gregory plated Klam with a one-out single through the left side.

A&M went up 2-0, when Fowler, batting in the

seventh hole, hit a one-out home run over the left field fence in the sixth inning.

Senior first baseman Kelly Ferguson broke out of a 5-for-52 slump at the plate, going 2-for-2 with a two-run home run, and sophomore pitcher Jessica Slapater gave up only two hits while striking out eleven to lead A&M to victory over the No. 19 Lady Cajuns of ULL.

The score was 2-2 going into the bottom of the seventh inning when Fowler reached base on a fielder's choice and stole second. Jennifer Davis then ripped a single to left field to advance Fowler to third. ULL left fielder Crystal George bobbled the sharply hit ball, and Fowler beat George's throw to the plate to give the Aggies the win.

Slapater improved to 8-2 as the Aggies snapped ULL's nine-game winning streak.

The Aggies resume play this Wednesday with a doubleheader at Stephen F. Austin.

Ags face Tech in Big 12 first round

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — No. 1 Kansas, the only member of a major conference to go unbeaten in league play this year, draws the top seed and a first-round bye in the Big 12 tournament this week.

Also getting byes in the first round are No. 5 Oklahoma, Texas and No. 12 Oklahoma State, who all finished 2-3-4 behind the Jayhawks in the regular season, which ended Sunday with Kansas beating Missouri 95-92.

Opening the tournament at noon Thursday will be eighth-seeded Nebraska (13-14, 6-10) vs. No. 9 seed Colorado (14-13, 5-11).

At 2:20 p.m., No. 5 seed Texas Tech (21-7, 10-6) meets No. 12 Texas A&M (9-21, 3-13).

At 6 p.m., No. 7 seed Kansas State (12-15, 6-10) meets No. 10 Baylor (14-15, 4-12). At 8:20 it will be No. 6 seed Missouri (20-10, 9-7) against No. 11 Iowa State (12-18, 4-12).

On Friday, the Nebraska-Colorado winner meets Kansas (27-2, 16-0) at noon. At 2:20, Oklahoma State (23-7, 10-6)

meets the Texas Tech-Texas A&M winner.

In the evening games, it's Oklahoma (24-4, 13-3) vs. the Kansas State-Baylor winner, and Texas (19-10, 10-6) vs. Missouri-Iowa State winner.

In the semifinals on Saturday, the winner of Friday's Kansas game plays the winner of the Friday's Oklahoma State game at 1 p.m. At 3:20, the winner of the Oklahoma game meets the winner of the Texas game.

The championship game is 2 p.m. Sunday.

on three hits and striking out 10.

Gooch (2-1) took the loss for the Red Raiders (14-7, 0-3), giving up four runs in 7 1/3 innings pitched, striking out six and walking one.

The sweep over Tech helped keep a couple of streaks alive for the Aggies.

It was the first time since 1993 that A&M had swept the Red Raiders and kept the Raiders winless in a series at Olsen Field since 1973.

"I think it helps us a bunch," Johnson said. "It's only three games but I don't think a lot of people are going to sweep Texas Tech. I think we caught them at the right time. Everything fell our way. I feel fortunate. When you're at home, you have to get some of those wins and if you can get a sweep, it's a major plus."

The Aggies return to action Tuesday as they host the University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks at 7 p.m. at Olsen Field.

Bryan due to inclement weather and Arizona did not seem to mind. It followed its doubles victory by winning on courts No. 1 and 2.

"I think they played better than us indoors," said A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke. "Would it have been different outdoors? I don't know but they played better than we did tonight."

"[Arizona] played very well. I don't think we played bad. I think at times we played really well, they just played better."

The Aggies have a chance to rebound from the loss to Arizona on Tuesday as they have their second doubleheader of the season against Abilene Christian University and Steven F. Austin at the Varsity Tennis Center.

Game time for SFA is noon with Abilene Christian slated for 6 p.m.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

A&M men fall to Cowboys, 66-51

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — The 12th-ranked Oklahoma State Cowboys outscored Texas A&M 16-1 in the final 7:01 of the game to top the Aggies 66-51 Saturday night at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

After leading by 16 in the first half and by 10 in the second, OSU struggled to hand the Aggies their ninth straight loss.



KING

Melvin Sanders tied his career high with 18 points, and Victor Williams scored 17 for Oklahoma State (23-7, 10-6 Big 12).

A&M sophomore forward Jesse King had a career-high 17 for Texas A&M (9-21, 3-13). Bernard King, defended by Sanders most of the night, had 12 points on 5-of-17 shooting.

The Aggies missed their final eight shots — including three straight from in close on one possession when the score was 55-51 — and they turned the ball over four times.

"I thought our kids played hard, but they cannot make the mental mistakes they did down the stretch," coach Melvin Watkins said. "At the end of the game, with the possessions we had, we just didn't make the plays."

The Cowboys got points from six players in an 18-3 run that gave them a 23-7 lead midway through the first half. Texas A&M committed seven turnovers during that stretch, including six in a row, and managed only a 3-pointer by Bernard King.

But Oklahoma State went cold after that, making one field goal in the final 9:20 as the Aggies rallied. While the Cowboys got away from the inside game that helped them build the lead, A&M succeeded in the paint and got to 27-24 at halftime.

Ags place five on All-Academic team

The Texas A&M men's basketball team placed more student-athletes on the 2002 Academic All-Big 12 Team than in the previous five years

the league has existed with five players earning the honor.

First-team members from A&M are sophomore forward Jesse King (general studies), sophomore center Andy Slocum (agricultural business) and sophomore guard Dylan Leal (general studies).

Second team members are senior guard Andy Leatherman (speech communications) and junior forward Brian Brookhart (agricultural economics).

The most any school has placed on an academic all-league team was Iowa State with seven in 1996-97. The Big 12 Conference named a total of 26 student-athletes to the 2002 all-academic team.



SLOCUM

Oklahoma State senior Fredrik Jönzner is appearing on his fourth academic all-league team.

Other repeat honorees include Kansas junior Nick Collison and Kansas State senior Ivan Sulic. Nominated by each institution's director of student-athlete support services and the media relations offices, the men's basketball academic all-league squad consisted of 15 combined first-team members with 11 on the second team.

Men's golfers head to Carolina

The Texas A&M men's golf team will compete in the Coastal Carolina Invitational Monday and Tuesday at the Grand Dunes Resort.

The tournament will consist of 36 holes on Monday and a final 18 holes on Tuesday for a total of 54 holes on the lengthy par-72, 7,618-yard layout, which rates as one of the country's toughest courses.

In addition to A&M, the 17-team field consists of Belmont Abbey, Furman, Idaho, SMU, Vandy, Wofford, Coastal Carolina, Ga. Southern, Miss. Va. Commonwealth, Wash. State, East Carolina, Georgia State, Old Dominion and Va. Tech.

The Aggies will be represented by sophomore Stephen Reed, freshman Tyler Garrett, sophomore Parker Briley, senior Sean Gilliland and junior Dwayne Morley.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classifieds continued from pg. 8

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