

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggie softball blanks Houston

Texas A&M sophomore pitcher Jessica Slataper threw her seventh complete-game shutout of the season as the No. 22 Aggie softball team defeated Houston, 6-0. Slataper had a perfect game through four innings before surrendering a walk to start the fifth inning. Senior Kelly Ferguson provided the Aggies with all the offense they would need, blasting a solo home run in the second inning, her fourth home run of the season. Ferguson's career-high 11 game hitting streak is the longest current streak on the team.

Arnott arrives in Dallas after trade

DALLAS (AP) — Although Jason Arnott was stunned to be traded from the New Jersey Devils to the Dallas Stars, the move south has had one nice side effect. He has gotten to relive the greatest moment of his career over and over.

Two years ago, in the second overtime of the sixth game of the Stanley Cup finals, Arnott scored New Jersey's championship-winning goal in Dallas. It was the first thing he thought of once the shock of the deal wore off and he started focusing on where he was going.

"It was the first thing they brought up in the locker room today," Arnott said.

No. 20 Ags cruise past Hawkeyes, 6-1

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's tennis team is off to its best start in school history after defeating the Iowa Hawkeyes, 6-1, Wednesday night at the Varsity Tennis Center.

The Aggies improved to 13-2 on the season, breaking the previous record set last season when the Aggies stormed to a 12-2 start.

A&M began the match in usual fashion by sweeping the doubles matches for the crucial doubles point. The doubles point has given the Aggies momentum heading into singles play in each of their wins this season.

The Aggies are now 13-0 when winning the doubles point.

A&M was led by No. 16 sophomore Jessica Roland and junior Ashley Hedberg, who won their match quickly and easily, 8-0, over Iowa's Toni Neykova and Dani Alexander on court No. 1.

A&M's No. 56 duo of seniors Leah Killen Hottois and

Martina Nedorostova defeated Iowa's Steffi Hoch and Pascale Veraverbeke, 8-6, in Hottois' first match after being married earlier in the week.

Sophomore Roberta Spencer and senior Majorie Terburgh won their match on court No. 3 to give the Aggies the sweep in doubles play.

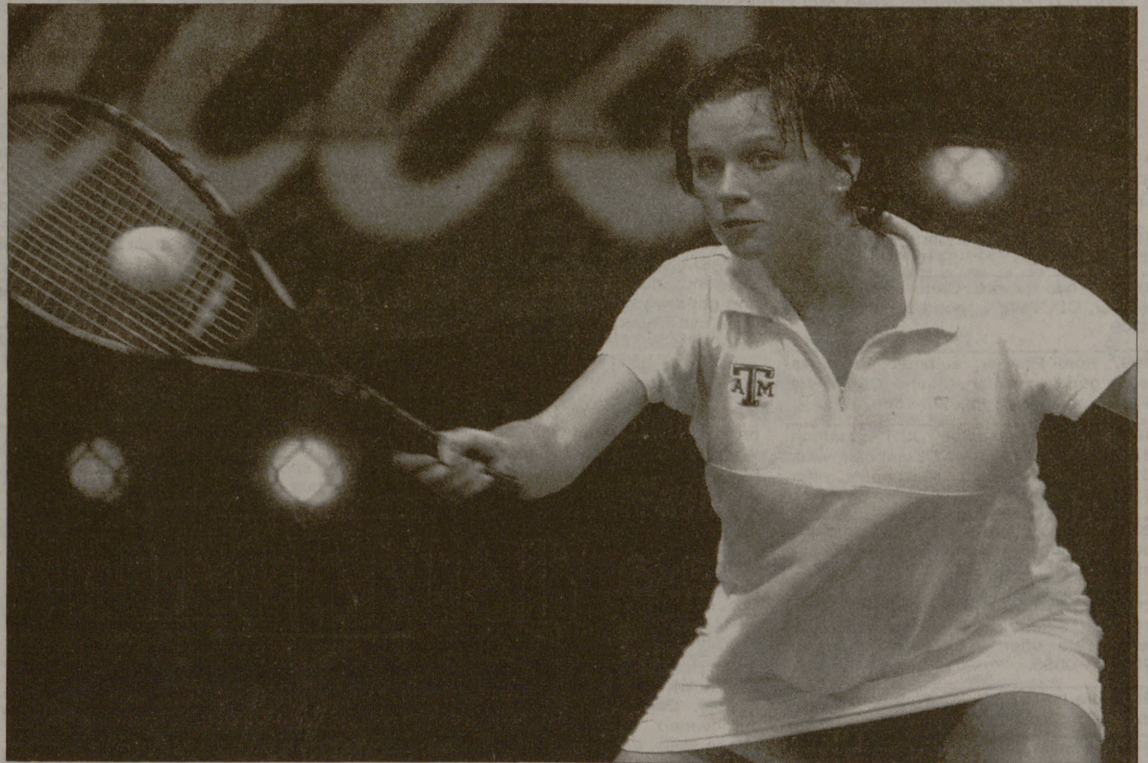
"We played well in doubles," said A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke. "We did exactly what we needed to do, especially on courts one and three."

Singles play ended almost as quickly, as five of the six matches were decided in straight sets.

The Aggies were led by the play of sophomore Jessica Roland on court No. 1 and senior Olivia Karlikova on court No. 2.

Roland, who re-entered the national rankings this week at No. 109, defeated Iowa's Toni Neykova, 6-1, 6-4, on court No. 1 in a match that was dominated by the Aggie sophomore.

Karlikova was equally



A&M senior Olivia Karlikova hits a return during the Aggies' 6-1 win over Iowa at the Varsity Tennis Center on Wednesday. The win gave A&M — now 13-2 on the season — its best start in school history.

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Yankees still the team to beat as season nears

(AP) — That little bloop single by Luis Gonzalez proved to teams and fans everywhere that indeed it was possible: the New York Yankees could be beaten.

Now, who is next?

It could be those always on-deck Atlanta Braves, boosted by Gary Sheffield. Maybe the revamped New York Mets, rejuvenated with Robbie Alomar, Mo Vaughn and Jeremy Burnitz. Perhaps the Boston Red Sox, spurred by a healthy Pedro Martinez and Nomar Garciaparra.

Get the picture?

All of a sudden, there's hope all over, cracked open by Gonzo's cracked-bat single off Mariano Rivera in the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 7 that won the World Series for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Heck, even the poor, orphan Montreal Expos are optimistic they might play well for their new owners — the other 29 major league clubs.

"That would be a great story," said commissioner Bud Selig.

Provided, of course, the Yankees do not sweep in at the July 31 trading deadline and steal Vladimir Guerrero from the Expos. Then again, the team that came within a double-play grounder of winning its fourth straight title already did its damage in the winter.

Because while the rest of baseball was still getting used to Cal Ripken, Mark McGwire and Tony Gwynn being retired, free-agent prize Jason Giambi was putting on pinstripes and homering in his first at-bat of spring training.

"It's an exciting feeling to be the lead dog, and not chasing it," said the former AL MVP.

David Wells, Rondell White and Steve Karsay also headed to the Bronx, becoming teammates with Derek Jeter, Roger Clemens and Bernie Williams.

"The Yankees are the Yankees," said Dan Duquette, a couple of months before being fired as Boston's general manager.

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