

Ags hope to remain hot against Tulsa

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's tennis team will try to improve its best start in school history with a win over Tulsa at the Varsity Tennis Center on Friday.

Tulsa enters the match with a 2-4 record on the road, where they have struggled this year. Overall, the Golden Hurricanes are coming off a loss to LSU on Wednesday night and will be looking to rebound against the Aggies.

"They have an injured player out of their lineup that has left them short-handed," said A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke. "They are still a dangerous team and have many experienced players in their lineup. We have to be ready to play. Rankings don't mean anything. You have to win the matches."

The match will be the last home match for the No. 20 Aggies (13-2, 3-0) until April 13. After Friday's match, A&M begins a six-match, three-week stint on the road against five Big 12 opponents and the University of Houston.

"We want to go out with a good effort," Kleinecke said. "It's always fun to play at home, especially with the support our fans have given us."

The Aggies have lost only two singles points and one doubles point in their last four matches, which has given them a surge of momentum since losing to Arizona on March 1.

The play from the Aggie doubles teams has been impressive. Led by the No. 16 tandem of sophomore Jessica Roland and junior Ashley Hedberg, the Aggies have dominated their opponents to take the early 1-0 lead in each of their 13 wins this season.

"Doubles is very important, and it has been all year long for us," Kleinecke said. "We need to continue with solid play in all three matches."

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Aggies set for showdown with OU



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

A&M junior third baseman Jennifer Davis and the Aggies will host the the Oklahoma Sooners this weekend at the Aggie Softball Complex.

By Micala Proesch
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M softball team will have to fight hard this weekend to defend its home field against an invasion by the Oklahoma Sooners.

The Aggies opened Big 12 play last week with a 4-0 loss to Baylor, but they are looking to prove themselves to a competitive conference with this weekend's games against Oklahoma.

The Sooners (26-8) were last year's Big 12 Conference Tournament Champions and the 2000 National Champions.

This year's team returns 12 of last year's starters, including two-time All-American pitcher Jennifer Stewart.

"Oklahoma is always really tough," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "We know that we will have to play really hard to be able to beat them."

Ninth-ranked Oklahoma currently boasts a .299 team batting average, and the Sooners are averaging almost six runs a game; the Aggie pitching staff of Jessica Slataper, Lindsey Rippee and

Lindsey Wilhelmson will have their work cut out for them.

The No. 22 Aggies (24-6) are coming off a 6-0 victory over the University of Houston on Wednesday, where sophomore Jessica Slataper threw her seventh shut-out of the season.

She maintained a no-hitter going into the sixth inning before Cougar Kim Nesloney singled into left field. Slataper's record improved to 12-4 with the win.

Senior first baseman Kelly Ferguson appears to be out of her hitting slump, as she hit a triple and a home run against Houston to extend her current hit streak to a career-high 11 games.

The Aggies look to extend their two-game winning streak as the Sooners ride into Aggieland. Oklahoma leads the all-time series 23-19, and has won all but three games in the last 20 times they faced A&M.

The two teams will face off Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Men's tennis set for doubleheader

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

After impressive wins over Big 12 opponent University of Oklahoma and the University of Miami last week, the Texas A&M men's tennis team found its way back to the national top 10 on Monday, as it prepares for a doubleheader against the University of Texas-San Antonio and the University of Tulsa.

Junior Ryan Newport, nationally No. 36 in singles and last week's Big 12 tennis player

of the week, will come into the 1 p.m. matchup against UTSA (4-2) looking to take advantage of a 10 day break since playing Miami.

"I think we are prepared for the matches on Friday," Newport said. "A few days break is always good for me, personally, because I am more relaxed and ready to play better. I think the whole team felt good to get a few days off last week and was ready to start practice again this week."

The No. 10 Aggies (11-2, 1-0) face a tough opponent in the

6 p.m. matchup when No. 35 Tulsa (13-5) comes to town riding upsets of two top-30 teams last week. Their final upset was a 4-0 victory over the Rice University Owls that defeated the Aggies in College Station earlier this season. They also up-ended the No. 34 University of North Carolina.

"UTSA will probably bring their best team we've seen since I've been here," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "And then Tulsa's coming off a great

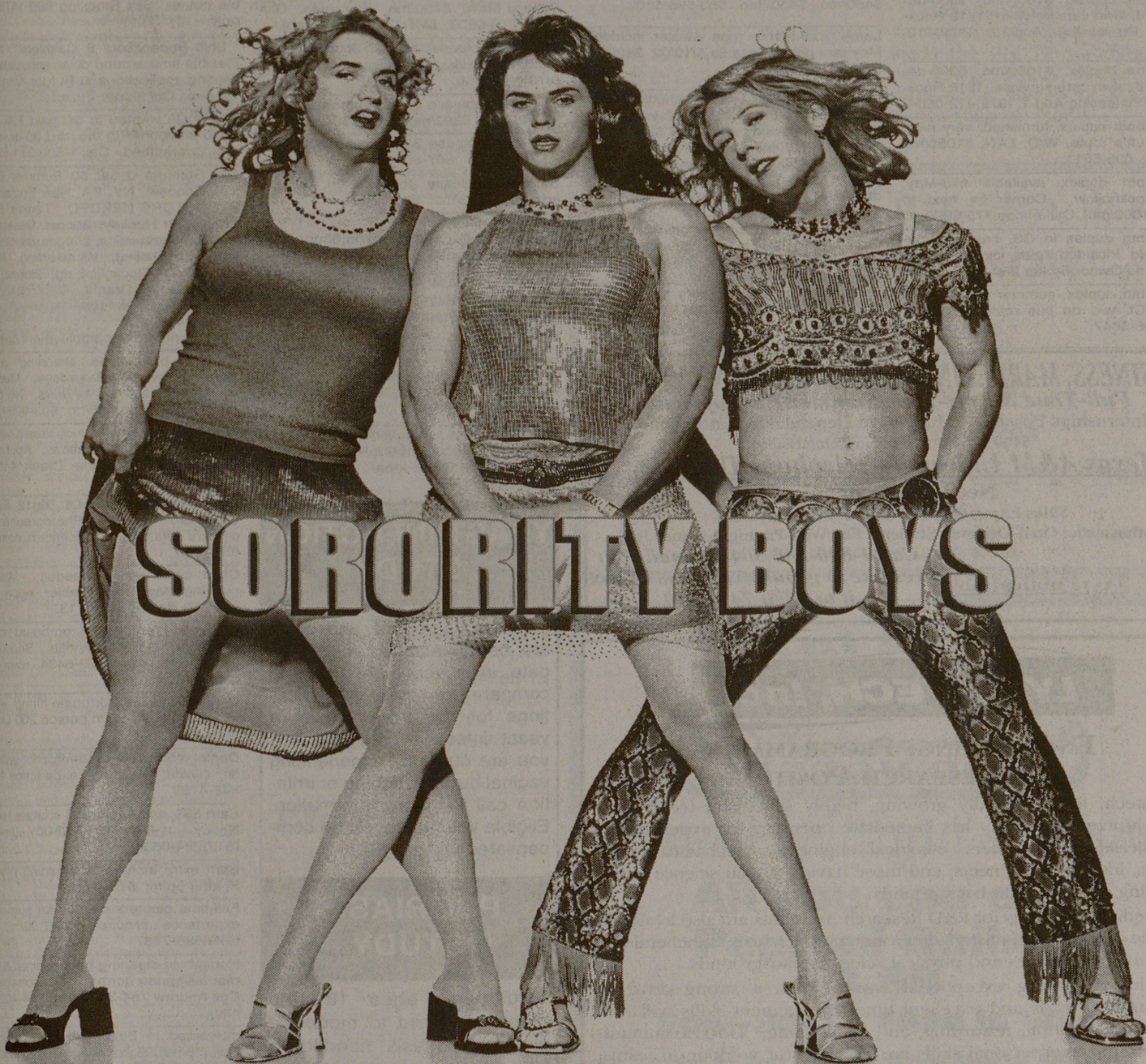
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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

A&M senior Jarin Skube and the No. 10 Aggies host Tulsa and UTSA at the Varsity Tennis Center at 6 p.m.

LOOK CLOSER.
(NOT THAT CLOSE)

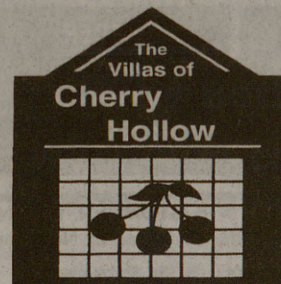


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