



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

A&M freshman **Derrick Bauer** hits a forehand during a doubles match. The Aggies hit the road to face TCU at 2:30 p.m.

Ags take break from Big 12 play vs. TCU

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's tennis team will begin its final run before resuming its Big 12 schedule with a Wednesday matchup in Fort Worth against the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs at 2:30 p.m.

The match comes on the heels of A&M's doubleheader sweep against the University of Texas-San Antonio and No. 35 University of Tulsa on Friday that improved its overall season record to 13-2.

"Tulsa has really had a great season," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "They had beaten both Rice and TCU teams earlier this season, and I think a lot of our players really played their best matches of the season (on Friday) which is a positive for our team."

The No. 31 Horned Frogs will host No. 10 A&M

after scoring an upset of the No. 26 Washington Huskies before falling in the finals to No. 11 Pepperdine University in the Pepperdine Shootout last weekend.

"We were really pleased with the win against Washington," said TCU head coach Joey Rive. "Much like A&M, we're playing with a lot of new faces on the roster this season and we dropped some matches earlier this season that I think we could have won, so I'm pleased we seem to be heading in the right direction."

The Horned Frogs roster is stacked with five freshmen, including Fabrizio Sestini, who Rive sees as an important factor coming into Wednesday's match up.

"Everyone there at A&M knows to watch out for (junior)

See **Break** on page 2B

Aggies sweep doubleheader

Slataper, Rippee lead A&M to victory over N'western St.

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

Back-to-back complete game shutouts by sophomore Jessica Slataper and junior Lindsey Rippee led the Texas A&M softball team to a doubleheader sweep of the Northwestern State Demons on Tuesday at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Slataper held the Demons (24-19) to one hit and recorded 11 strikeouts in the Aggies' 4-0 victory in the first game of the evening. The game marked the eighth complete game of the season for Slataper and the fifth time this season that she has recorded a double-digit strikeout total.

Not to be outdone, Rippee pitched a no-hitter into the fourth inning of the second matchup before Demons third baseman Lindsay Leftwich hit a shot up the middle for a single, for the first of only two hits managed in the game by Northwestern State.

"Both the girls stayed ahead in the count when they were out on the mound tonight," said A&M head coach Jo Evans. "The kind of performance they had helps this team to build some confidence as we get ready for the rest of the Big 12 (schedule) starting this weekend."

The Aggie offense left no time for Rippee to be disappointed, as they put the game's first run on the board in the bottom of the fourth before exploding in the fifth for four runs to clinch the victory for the Aggies, 5-0.

Senior Kelly Ferguson, who extended her current hitting streak to 15 games with four combined hits in Tuesday's action, capped off the rally with a two-run single that scored freshman Adrian Gregory and junior Selena Collins.

"My approach to the plate is to tell myself that I am better than that pitcher is," Ferguson said. "I think that I can hit any



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

A&M junior third baseman **Jennifer Davis** fields a fly ball during the Aggies 4-0 victory over Northwestern State in the first game of a doubleheader on Tuesday at the Aggie Softball Complex.

pitch she sends at me, and that is usually the key to good hitting. I think once you get that first hit it just starts rolling from there."

The games were the final non-conference contests of the season for the Aggies, and they came on the heels of two disappointing losses to the No. 9 Oklahoma Sooners last weekend.

"To lose those two games to Oklahoma was very frustrating for us," Evans said. "We think we are good enough to beat [OU], especially when we out hit them like we did, so I was pleased that tonight we came out and got some good hits and

some big RBIs. We needed to start feeling good about ourselves at the plate, and with the good pitching we had as well, it really gave us some confidence for the rest of the season."

The No. 22 Aggies (26-8) will resume their Big 12 schedule this weekend with a visit to Ames, Iowa for a matchup against the Iowa State Cyclones.

"We have proven that we can play with some of the best teams in the country," Slataper said. "If we just play relaxed and confidently, like we did tonight, we can have a strong Big 12 finish."

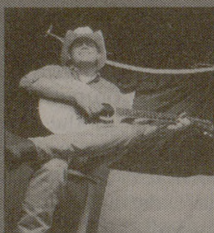
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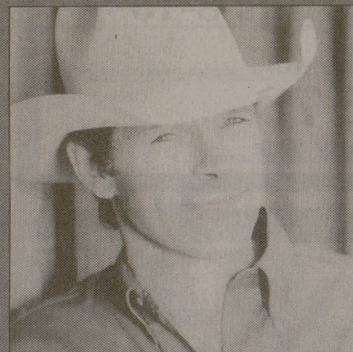
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STARLIGHT BALLROOM ★ SNOOK, TEXAS



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GARY P. NUNN
PLAYING AT 4:15



CHRIS LEDOUX
PLAYING AT 6:00



TOMMY ALVERSON
PLAYING AT 11:00



CROSS CANADIAN
RAGWEED
PLAYING AT 12:30

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