

A&M hosts UT in battle for Big 12

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

In what will be the biggest match of the season for both teams, the Texas A&M women's tennis team will square off with the University of Texas in College Station on Wednesday with the Big 12 Championship on the line.

The match will be the first of two matches this week that stand between the No. 27 Aggies and their first Big 12 Conference championship.

With a win over No. 10 Texas, the Aggies will be in position to face Kansas on Friday for the Big 12 Championship.

The Aggies (20-3, 8-1) are coming into the match on a huge

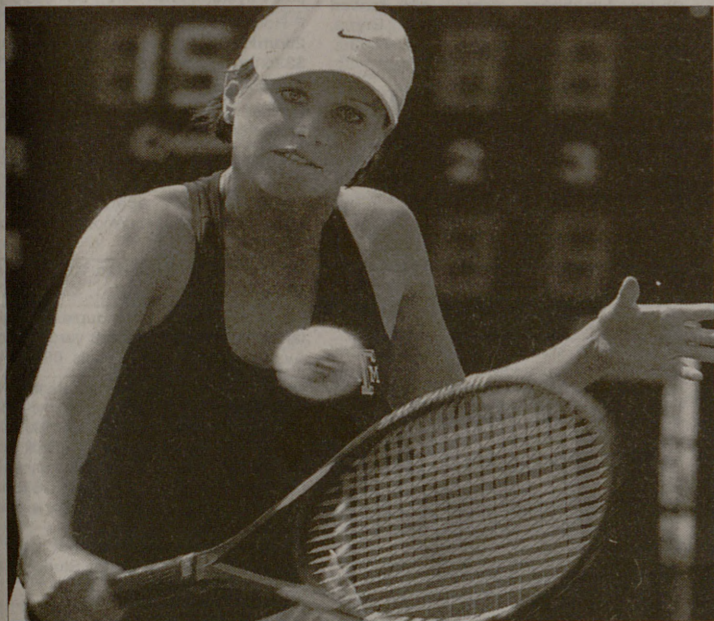
boost of momentum after seniors Olivia Karlikova and Majorie Terburgh dropped their first sets and rallied to win their matches Saturday against Kansas State, giving A&M the 5-2 victory.

"Everyone is pumped," Terburgh said. "Last year we played Texas in Austin, but this year we are at home. I think we are going to beat them."

The Aggies have won their last six matches and 12 of their last 13, while Texas has won eight of its last nine matches.

Historically, A&M has not fared well against the Longhorns (16-5, 9-0). Texas holds an impressive 29-2 record against

See **Battle** on page 4B



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Olivia Karlikova and the Texas A&M women's tennis team hosts the University of Texas in a match that could decide the Big 12 champion.

Ag bats come alive in 9-2 win Barkats fall to A&M barrage

By Doug Fuentes
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M baseball team got off to a good start to its pivotal week as it downed the Sam Houston State Barkats for the third time this season, 9-2, on Tuesday at Olsen Field.

The No. 16 Aggies, who host Southwest Texas State today at 7 p.m. and square off with Baylor in a key Big 12 Conference series this weekend, started to build momentum by getting their bats going against the Barkats.

A&M pounded out 13 hits, going 8-for-15 with nine RBIs with runners in scoring position.

"I was pleased with tonight," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "I thought we were more relaxed and had more fun at the ballpark. Tuesday games are tough and we're now 8-for-9 on Tuesday games. I have no problem with that."

"Runs have been hard for us to get so it's nice when we can have a big game and score some runs."

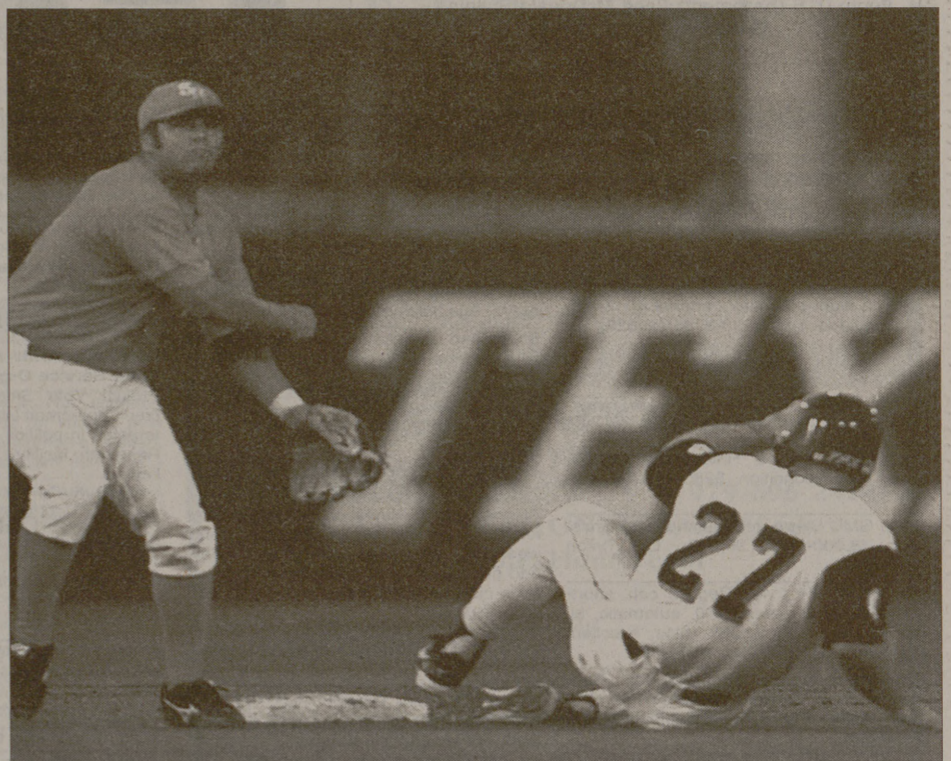
The Aggies (29-13) jumped to a quick start, scoring three runs in the first inning on consecutive RBI singles by Neal Stephenson, David Evans and Justin Pouk.

Sam Houston State (16-24) answered in the second inning as Lawrence Riva sent an offering from A&M starter Kyle Parcus over the left field wall to cut the lead to 3-2.

With the score still 3-2 going into the fourth inning, Parcus ran into more trouble.

Marshall Williams and Carroll Kelly led the inning with back-to-back singles to put runners on first and third with no outs.

Parcus worked his way out of the jam by striking out Lou Ferrell and Riva and getting Cory Whitlock to fly out to end the inning.



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Neal Stephenson slides into second base during the third inning of the Aggies' 9-2 win over Sam Houston State on Tuesday night. The win raised A&M's record to 29-13.

"I told myself that I had to win that inning," Parcus said. "I couldn't let them score. We were up 3-2 and I told myself that I was going to win that inning no matter what."

Those would be the last base runners the Barkats would have as Parcus and reliever Brian Finch combined to throw five perfect innings to end the game.

Parcus (3-3) evened his record with the victory, pitching six innings, giving up two runs on five hits and striking out five.

Finch recorded the save, pitching three perfect innings and striking out one.

"Kyle, from time to time, is very good," Johnson said. "He's young and he has to learn to compete on every pitch. When he learns to do that, I think he's

going to stay out of those jams."

With the pitchers shutting the Barkats down, the A&M offense continued its onslaught with two runs in both the fourth and fifth innings on RBI singles by Eric Reed and Matt Alexander and a two-run double by Ryan Wardinsky.

Wardinsky was also the catalyst for the Aggies' two-run eighth inning as he led off the inning with a double.

Wardinsky, who has seen more playing time at third base lately, led the Aggies, going 3-for-4 with two doubles and two RBIs.

Steven Ponder (1-1, 8.59 ERA) will take the mound for the Aggies against Southwest Texas.

Loving in Violence
A discussion of the love-war duality in Othello as reflected in the Herald's Speech.

Michael L. Washlesky
March 7, 2002
Shakespeare II
Prof. Malone

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