

## Wind awaits Ags in Kansas

By David Morrison  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's golf team had its back against the wall last week in Norman, Okla., needing a good showing to have a chance at reaching the regional tournament. The Aggies came through with a fifth-place finish as freshman Nicole Melton carded her fourth top 10 finish this spring.

A&M will need the same results this weekend as it competes at the Big 12 Championships in Manhattan, Kan.

"I think if we do no worse than fourth or fifth we should go to regionals," said A&M head coach Jeanne Sutherland.

The Aggies are ready for a tournament that will be played in the windy plains of Kansas, and are confident in their ability to deal with the conditions.

"We have had a lot of experience playing in that [wind] this spring. Everyday at practice we have had to deal with that," Sutherland said.

The three day 54-hole tournament will be the Aggies last chance to improve their ranking before the NCAA West Regional in May. This spring, the Aggies have rebounded from a tough fall season and have put together two top 10 finishes in the past two tournaments. But in order for the Aggies to make something happen in Kansas the whole team will need to play well.

"We definitely need four low scores to win conference," Sutherland said.

This week in Manhattan, the Aggies will have four of their conference competitors nipping at their heels: Texas Tech, Kansas State, Missouri, and Nebraska will all be waiting for A&M to slip up.

With the team's recent success coach Sutherland is confident that A&M will be on top in the end.

"We have played better on a consistent basis than most of the other teams," Sutherland said. "(A&M) will be prepared."

## Aggies roll over Oklahoma State

By Kevin Espenlaub  
THE BATTALION

The No. 17 Texas A&M men's tennis team took a step closer to a share of the Big 12 regular season championship on Thursday as it topped the Oklahoma State Cowboys (10-7, 2-4) at the Varsity Tennis Center, 5-2.

The Aggies (18-4, 5-1) struggled through doubles competition to open the match before the duo of freshman Derrick Bauer and senior Jarin Skube rallied from a three game deficit to win the third and deciding match for the doubles point and put A&M ahead 1-0 going into the six singles matches.

"I think we might have underestimated our opponent a little in the doubles matches," Bauer said. "Finally Skube and I stepped back for a minute and decided we had to come back and win because we were not going to go into singles down a point to these guys."

"We made some shots and got things done."

After leaving the locker room, the Aggies came out firing in singles action, quickly claiming wins by Bauer and sophomore Khaled El

Dorry to take a 3-0 lead.

"We pretty much got what we expected from them today," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "I was a little disappointed with the doubles because I thought we came out a bit flat and I really cannot understand why, but we found a way to win the point. In singles I was pleased, and I think we made a good early statement, especially at courts five and six to go up 3-0 and put the pressure on them."

Junior Ryan Newport was the first Aggie singles player to go down when he lost the tie-breaker in the second set to give OSU's senior Matt Prentice the 6-3, 7-6 (5) win on court one.

Skube was able to clinch the overall match for the Aggies soon after however with his victory on court four in which he survived his own tiebreaker to win 7-6 (10), 6-2.

Freshman Ante Matijevic put the Aggies up 5-1 with his win on court three, and freshman Lester Cook rallied the second set into a tiebreaker before losing a 5-2 lead to fall in the final match of the evening.

The Aggies will now have Friday



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION  
A&M sophomore Khaled El Dorry hits a backhand during the Aggies' match against the Oklahoma State Cowboys on Thursday at the Varsity Tennis Center.

off before entering a 6 p.m Saturday matchup with the No. 7 Baylor Bears at the Varsity Tennis Center. The Bears are the only undefeated team in the Big 12, and an A&M victory would throw the Aggies into a three-way tie for the regular season conference championship with

Baylor and the University of Texas. "I think everybody on this team is going to come out fired up on Saturday," Bauer said. "These guys want a share of the championship and I know when I came here this year, I wanted a ring, and Saturday, we have our chance at it."

## A&M, BU set for crucial series

By Doug Fuentes  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M baseball team's stretch drive toward the Big 12 regular season championship begins this weekend as it takes on the Baylor Bears in a pivotal three-game series.

The series against the No. 15 Bears is the first of four consecutive weekend series against Big 12 opponents for the Aggies.

With the conference race still up for grabs, A&M's performance over the next couple of weeks will determine whether it sinks or swims. Oklahoma State leads the conference with a

7-4 record while A&M (30-13) and Texas are tied for second place with a 9-6 record.

Baylor (27-13), which is in fourth place, is just a few percentage points behind A&M and Texas with a 10-7 record.

"As we say every week, this is a big series," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "Baylor feels, and rightly so, that they are contenders for the championship and a regional playoff team. They've done well. They've hit bumps in the road like everybody. They've got pretty

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JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION  
Texas A&M's Ty Garner tags Southwest Texas' Jason Washington on Wednesday. A&M plays Baylor this weekend.



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