

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Monday, June 3, 2002

USC claims NCAA tennis title over Georgia

A&M's Newport earns berth in Sweet 16 in singles, doubles

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The NCAA Men's Tennis Championships wrapped up last week at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center with a few surprises.

The University of Southern California Trojans, the tournament's No. 11 seed, knocked off the top-seeded and defending national champion, University of Georgia Bulldogs, in the finals to claim the team championship, sending retiring coach Dick Leach out with his fourth national championship.

Georgia, who eliminated the Aggies in the round of 16 earlier in the tournament, had hosted the tournament for 22 of the past 25 years before the event came to A&M this season for the first time in its 118-year history.

The 10-day event brought 11,132 fans to the Varsity Tennis Center.

"This is unbelievable," Leach said. "If we would have been playing them (in Georgia), it might have been tougher, but playing on the road, we've done pretty well this year. There's no doubt that I'm moving to College Station to retire. It was a great atmosphere and a great tournament from the

very beginning."

The Bulldogs did not leave College Station empty handed, however, as top-seeded Matias Boeker brought home the singles national championship with his 7-5, 6-0 victory over Kentucky's Jesse Witten. It was Boeker's second consecutive NCAA singles title.

Texas A&M junior Ryan Newport advanced into the round of 16 in the singles competition, earning his spot as an All-American before being eliminated by Georgia's Brandon Wagner.

Newport was the Aggies' only representative in the singles competition and managed an upset over the tournament's No. 2 seed, Tennessee's Peter Handoyo, en route to his Sweet 16 appearance.

He also joined freshman teammate Lester Cook in the doubles tournament in which the duo advanced through the first round before being eliminated in the Round of 16.

"I'm pleased about this season overall," Newport said. "At the beginning of the season, we didn't know what to expect, but we had a lot of new guys come in and they did a great job. I'm pleased with how I played and I felt overall we had a



USC's Teige Sullivan and Ruben Torres celebrate their win over Georgia's doubles team of Adam Seri and Brandon Wagner, 8-4, in the NCAA Men's Tennis Championship. The win clinched the doubles point for the Trojans, who went on to win, 4-1.

GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

great season."

Auburn's tandem of Andrew Colombo and Mark Kovacs won the doubles tournament with an upset over

No. 2 seeded David Martin and Scott Lipsky from Stanford.

Following the tournament, the season's final rankings were released, and

the Aggies finished as the No. 16 team in the nation with Newport finishing as the No. 36 singles player. Newport and Cook finished at No. 17.

Spain beats Slovenia, 3-1

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Spain finally figured out how to start a World Cup with a victory. England still does not know how to beat Sweden anywhere.

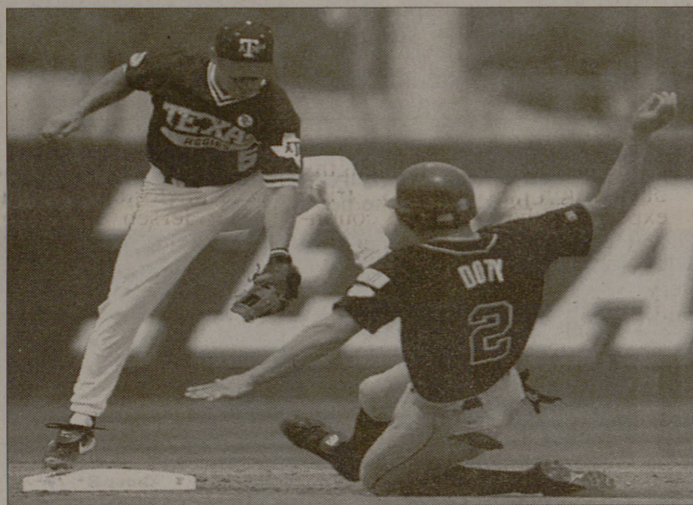
The Spaniards broke a 52-year winless spell in World Cup openers, dating



back to a 1950 victory over the United States. Goals from Raul, Juan Carlos Valeron and Fernando Hierro lifted the Spaniards over Slovenia 3-1 Sunday night (Sunday morning EDT) at Gwangju, South Korea.

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Ags miss postseason for third straight year



Second baseman Ty Garner and the Texas A&M baseball team missed postseason play after struggling in late April and May.

FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION

A&M softball earns berth in regional final

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

For the third straight year, the Texas A&M baseball team found itself on the outside looking in at the NCAA tournament. The Aggies, who finished the season with a record of 35-24, suffered a steep decline in the last month of the season to fall from a tie for first place in the Big 12 all the way to eighth.

In the Big 12 Tournament at The Ballpark in Arlington, A&M managed to beat No. 4 Texas in the tournament opener for both teams, but went down quietly to Oklahoma the next day, 9-1, and then lost to the Longhorns, 9-4, to be eliminated from the tournament. Texas went on to claim the conference crown.

A&M had the misfortune of having to face the Longhorns five times in the final eight days of the season, and the Aggies' lone win was not

enough to convince the NCAA selection committee that they were worthy of earning a spot in the NCAA tournament.

UT also swept the Aggies in the final series of the regular season, including two wins at Olsen Field.

"(Texas) dominated us," said A&M head coach Mark Johnson. "They have been the better ball club. They do a good job of offensive production, they can move the runners well and they are good at extending the lead once they get it."

Despite A&M not making the final 64-team field, five Big 12 schools earned berths in the tournament. UT, Nebraska, Baylor, Texas Tech and Oklahoma all earned bids. Big 12 Tournament runner up Nebraska and UT each

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