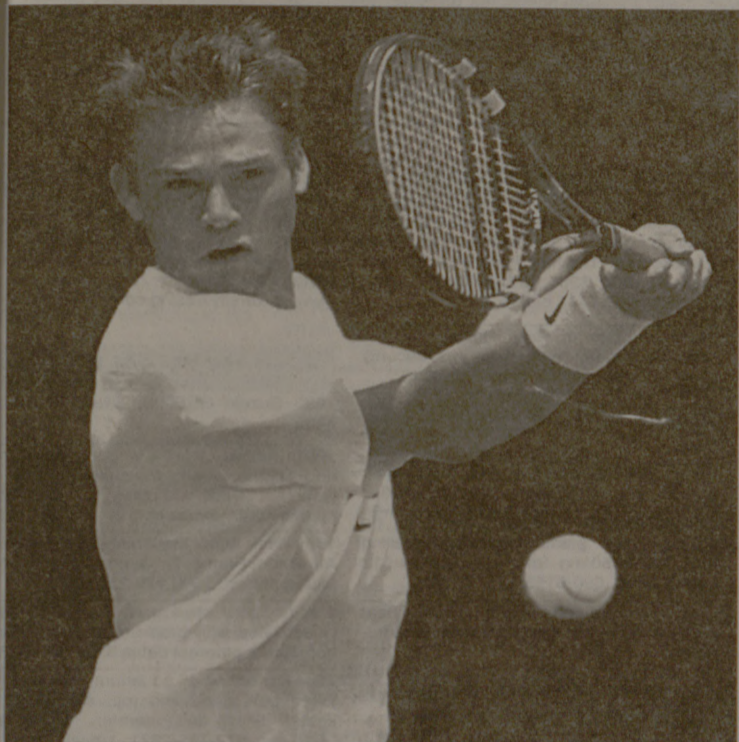


SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Aggies ranked in first tennis poll



FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION

A&M senior Ryan Newport, ranked No. 24 in the nation, finished as an All-American last season after his performance in the NCAA Championships.

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

Senior Ryan Newport leads a pack of five Texas A&M men's and women's tennis team members in the season's first Omni Hotels Collegiate Tennis rankings, which were released early Tuesday.

Newport, ranked No. 24 nationally, became an All-American last season after reaching the singles round of 16 in the NCAA Men's Tennis Championships that were held on the A&M campus in May.

"I think Ryan's ranking is a credit to his All-American performance last season," said A&M men's tennis head coach Tim Cass. "In my opinion, Ryan is one of the top 10 players in the nation, and in his senior year he'll have the opportunity to step up and really lead this team."

Sophomores Lester Cook and Ante Matijevic also made the rankings at No. 78 and No. 83, respectively. Both joined the team in January and played in both singles and doubles for the Aggies last fall.

Neither appeared in the final singles rankings last season.

"I don't know if we've ever had three guys ranked in the top 100 singles players in the nation at this point in the season," Cass said. "It speaks well for this team and it also tells me that Ryan will have some solid support this year."

Cook and Matijevic are also ranked the No. 14 doubles team in the nation. The two have not teamed together since coming to A&M, and Cass is not sure that the team will play together all season.

"Those two will not necessarily be playing together all season," Cass said. "Their ranking really wasn't based on results in doubles as much as their combined singles rankings. There is a good chance that Lester and Ryan will remain as a team as the season progresses."

Cook and Newport made it to the round of 16 as a duo last season and finished the season ranked the No. 17 team in the nation.

The women's team is represented by junior Jessica Roland and

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Volleyball team moves up in rankings to No. 16

Staff and Wire
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team moved up one slot to No. 16 in the USA Today/AVCA poll after finishing last week with a 2-1 record.

The Aggies swept Southwest Texas State University on Tuesday and then played three matches at the Wisconsin InnTowner Invitational in Madison, Wis.

A&M's sweep of the University of Montreal in an exhibition at the tournament does not count in the team's final record.

The Aggies beat Illinois State before suffering the first loss of their season against host Wisconsin on Saturday in a four game contest for the tournament championship.

In the poll, defending

national champion Stanford remained in the No. 1 spot.

USC, Hawaii, Nebraska and Long Beach State make up the rest of the top five.

The Big 12 has three teams in the top 25. Nebraska leads the conference at No. 4, followed by A&M (No. 16) and Kansas State (No. 24). Colorado and Texas received votes but did not make the top 25. They were ranked No. 32 and No. 35, respectively.

The Aggies have now been ranked in every regular-season poll since Sept. 26, 1995, when A&M broke in at No. 24.

A&M's next action will be at G. Rollie White Coliseum September 13-14 when the Aggies host the McDonald's Texas A&M Invitational II.

A&M plans 9/11 remembrance ceremony for Va. Tech game

Staff and Wire
THE BATTALION

The activities and ceremonies surrounding the Sept. 21 Texas A&M football game against the Virginia Tech Hokies will give those attending an opportunity to remember, and to honor, all of those affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy.

The traditional march in by the Corps of Cadets at Kyle Field which will occur one hour prior to the game as A&M President Dr. Robert M. Gates, along with

Erle Nye, Chairman of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, and other dignitaries review the cadets.

When the teams have left the field of play, the "Pacific Life Holiday Bowl Big Flag" will cover Kyle Field utilizing more than 250 Aggies from different student groups on campus.

Jim Philon, an Aggie and a Holiday Bowl board member, is underwriting the expenses of the Big Flag and the crew.

The flag, which is stored at Qualcomm Stadium in San

Diego, California, home of Major League Baseball's Padres, weighs approximately 850 pounds.

The flag was purchased in June of 1997 after being manufactured by the Dixie Flag Company in San Antonio, Texas. It has appeared at the 1998 Super Bowl and the 1998 World Series, as well as many other sporting events.

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band will play numerous patriotic songs and the Texas A&M Singing Cadets will lead the

crowd in singing "God Bless the USA."

Those in attendance will be able to watch the Jumbotron and remember the events leading up to the "Red, White & Blue Out" at the Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma State game one year ago.

The third deck was adorned in red T-shirts, the second deck in white and the first deck in blue.

The idea of the project came about, and was carried out by Texas A&M students. The group of students donated more than \$178,000 to the NYC Police and

Fireman's relief fund.

The crowd will recognize and honor two New York City firemen, Mr. Gersbeck and Mr. Sanders, from Manhattan Ladder Company No. 12 who were at ground zero on Sept. 11.

They will be attending the game as guests of Dr. & Mrs. Oral Capps. Dr. Capps is a Professor of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University and a former undergraduate student at Virginia Tech.

Dr. & Mrs. Capps were at ground zero last year on Sept. 11.

Near the conclusion of the pre-game ceremonies, a fly-over by a United States Air Force B-52 bomber from Barksdale Air Force Base will take place.

The Aggies and the Hokies of Virginia Tech will kickoff at 2:30 p.m. central standard time and the game will be televised regionally by ABC Sports.

The game will be the first of four games the Aggies will play against teams currently ranked in the top ten this season, with three of them coming at home.

Aggie Ring Delivery



CONGRATULATIONS!

Join the Celebration at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center

SEPTEMBER 12TH RING DELIVERY

Tickets distributed throughout the day, beginning at 7:15 a.m.

You must have a numbered ticket to get your Ring.

FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 2 P.M.

RING DISTRIBUTION STARTS AT 3 P.M. AND ENDS AT 6 P.M.

We encourage you to take the Bonfire or Replant bus routes that stop in front of the building.

Texas Aggie Artist, Benjamin Knox '90, personalizing the "Historic Aggie Ring"

You must bring your pink receipt and driver's license to pick up your Ring. If you do not have your pink receipt, please bring your student ID and driver's license.

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September 11



*We stood united then.
We stand united now.*

AGGIE Fall Blood Drive

Monday, September 9 - Friday, September 13

Monday - Thursday 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Friday 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Location: MSC - SBISA - Commons

Everyone who registers to give will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

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