

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Aggies plan to stop Whittemore, Jayhawks

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M football team will look to post another Big 12 win this Saturday as the Aggies travel to Lawrence, Kan. to take on the Kansas Jayhawks.

A week after posting its first shutout of the season at Baylor, the Wrecking Crew defense will have to contain Jayhawk quarterback Bill Whittemore, who led Kansas in both passing and rushing in its 53-29 defeat to Colorado last week in Lawrence.

"I don't think overall, (A&M) has quite the team defense that Colorado has," said Kansas head coach Mark Mangino. "(A&M defense) is still pretty impressive ... I would say they probably might be a little bit more physical than Colorado, but they don't have as much team speed as Colorado."

Whittemore passed for 217 yards and two touchdowns and added another two TD's on 121 yards rushing.

"Kansas has a dangerous offense," said A&M defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz. "They've got a quarterback that can make things happen. They do a good job of spreading the ball throughout the field."

The Aggie offense will look to jump out

early and take advantage of a Kansas team that has only scored two first quarter touchdowns so far this season.

Sophomore Dustin Long, who has passed for 1,016 yards this season while adding 10 touchdowns, will lead the Aggies and will be looking to take advantage of the Jayhawks who have been outscored 65-16 by opponents in the first quarter this season.

"We're going to start our practices with a little more intensity," Mangino said, in response to improving their first quarter performances. "Instead of beginning with with a learning and teaching period, we're going to get after it."

The Aggies have scored first in all of their games this season.

"I think you are starting to see a little development on offense," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "Dustin is making some plays and he is young in his development. As he is getting better, I think his supporting cast is getting better with him."

Saturday's matchup will be the sixth all-time between the teams and A&M holds a 4-1 advantage. The last matchup was in 1999 when the Aggies defeated the Jayhawks 34-17 by scoring the final 14 points of the game.

Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

A&M senior defensive back Terrence Kiel tackles Baylor wide receiver Vince Copeland from behind in last week's game in Waco. The Wrecking Crew posted its first shutout of the season against the Bears.

Men's tennis team readies for West Texas action

By Gary Livingston
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's tennis team will hope to build on strong showings in its last two tournaments as it prepares for two more tournaments in West Texas this weekend.

Sophomores Lester Cook and Ante Matijevic teamed up for doubles action and had the best ever run by an A&M duo and reached the semifinals of the ITA All-American Championships in Chattanooga, Tenn.

"The tournament is one of the top three in college," said Shuon Madden, assistant head coach and former A&M tennis player. "It was definitely a big accomplishment for Lester and Ante to go as far as they did. Especially for that being the first time they played together. I still think that there is room for improvement, which

makes the future very bright for them together."

Together, Cook and Matijevic are ranked No. 14 nationally. Their run through the tournament ended at the hands of Illinois' No. 4-ranked tandem of Michael Calkins and Amer Delic.

While those two were battling it out in Tennessee, three other Aggies were in action at the Balloon Fiesta Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M. Junior Khaled El Dorry reached the consolation finals defeating A&M freshman John Nallon in the process. Dorry then teamed up with A&M freshman Matt Loucks and the duo advanced to the main draw semifinals in doubles.

"It was very good for the younger guys to get matches under their belts to see what the college atmosphere is like," Madden said. "Overall I think it was a good experience for them. They got to play against different players from different schools. Hopefully, it will show

them what their future is going to be like over the next four years."

Loucks and Nallon will be back in action this weekend when they head to San Antonio to compete in the UTSA Fairway Oaks Invite running Friday through Sunday.

"The tournament in UTSA has been known to be a fairly solid competition," Madden said. "Most of the Texas schools will be there. It will be good for the guys to just compete rather than stay here and practice."

El Dorry and Matijevic will compete at the Midland Invitational in Midland, Texas, which runs Friday through Sunday. Madden said the tournament is very similar to the UTSA tournament.

Through three weekends and three tournaments Madden said the tennis team is looking good.

"Last year was a question mark," Madden said. "The freshmen did a great job and they

really stepped up. Now we have everybody back this year. We've been having great workouts, and we are really working on fundamentals and fitness."

Madden expressed the importance of fall tournaments because it lets the coaching staff see where the players are at and what they need to work on. He said it was good for the men to be in competition before the spring season starts.

Senior Ryan Newport was supposed to make his season debut at the ITA All-American in Tennessee, but pulled out at the last minute citing that he had other things to work on. He will not be in action this week either.

Madden said it was typical for seniors to take some time off and jokingly said he did the same during his playing days at A&M.

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