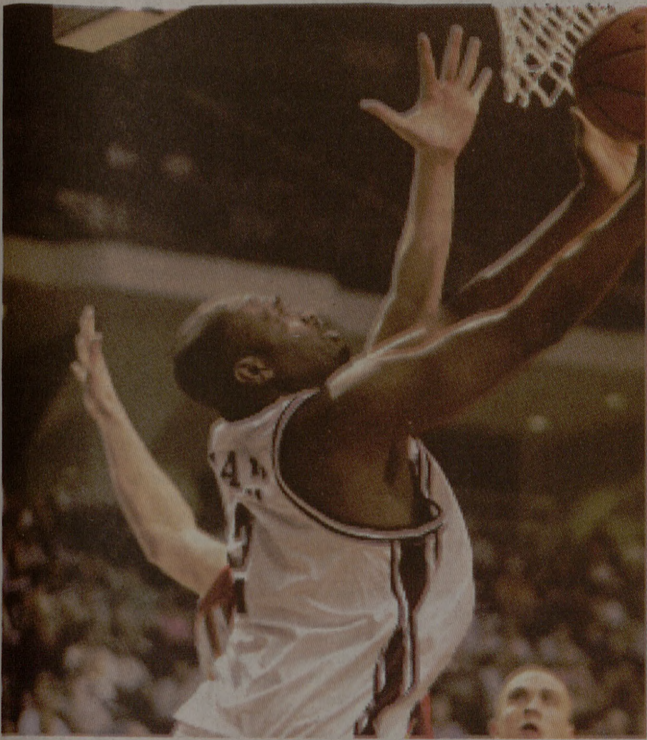


SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

A&M forward Keith Bean works for a rebound against Iowa State. The Aggies won the game on Wednesday.

Aggies dominate Iowa State

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

It was an ugly first half, but the Aggies rode the momentum of a 17-3 run with 11:05 remaining in the game on their way to a 66-54 win over Iowa State Wednesday night at Reed Arena.

A&M Head Coach Melvin Watkins said defense was the key to the run.

"We stepped it up defensively," he said. "We started taking away the driving lanes and that allowed us to rebound the ball better and we got into our transition game. That's what we wanted to do."

Despite solid shooting performances by both teams, Iowa State led by one point in an ugly first half of play.

Iowa State Head Coach Larry Eustachy said he knew at halftime that his team was not playing as well as they should.

"I knew (the lead) was short lived," he said. "I told them at halftime if we play the same way in the second half, we won't win the game. I was right."

During the 17-3 run, senior forward Keith

Bean stole the ball near midcourt and passed it off as he ran downcourt. Freshman forward Antoine Wright dished it back to Bean under the basket for a dunk, sending the crowd into hysteria with 8:42 remaining in the game.

"Those are the kind of plays that can get the team going and get the crowd excited," Watkins said.

Bean finished the night with 13 points and 10 rebounds, giving him his third double-double of the season and sixth of his career.

Bean joked afterward that his play has improved since he injured his ankle.

"I just felt like I needed to pick my game up," he said. "I (have) played a lot better since I got hurt. I'm still hurt so I guess that's why I'm still playing good."

Senior guard Bernard King led the Aggies with 17 points.

Senior center Andy Slocum returned to the Aggie lineup following a seven-game suspension for steroid possession.

Earlier this week, College Station prosecutors reduced the charges to misdemeanors and the University did not pursue the case.

Watkins and the team expressed their excitement to have Slocum back in the lineup.

"I was glad he was playing tonight," King said. "Everybody makes mistakes. He knew he made a mistake but he never meant to hurt this team. He's a good guy."

Watkins said he talked to the team before reinstating Slocum to the lineup and everyone was supportive of Slocum.

"I deferred to the team to see how they felt about it," he said. "They had been on me to get him back sooner. It made Andy feel special that the team embraced him even though he made mistakes."

In a written statement prior to the game, Slocum apologized to fans, the University and his team for the negative publicity his situation caused.

The loss for the Cyclones was their 15th straight loss on the road and drops their record to 12-10 overall, 2-9 in Big 12 play.

Junior guard Tim Barnes said that he has no answers for Iowa State's lack of effort.

"We just weren't physical enough today," he said. "We played harder in practice last night then we did today in the game. It was a lack of effort throughout the whole game. Our coaches had more intensity than we did sometimes during the game."

Men's tennis team visits USTA/ITA's

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

The No. 19 Aggie men's tennis team will head indoors to play the No. 5 Ole Miss Rebels tonight as they begin the United States Tennis Association/Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Team Indoor Tennis Championships in Louisville, Ky.

The Aggie men (5-3) are traveling to Louisville thanks to an impressive showing in preseason rankings released Jan. 13 by the ITA. The polls ranked the Aggies No. 13 in the nation, earning them a trip to the Indoor Team Nationals for the second time in the past three years. Each year the tournament, suggested by many to be a preview for the NCAA nationals held at the end of

the season, invites the nations' top 13 teams based on the ITA's preseason poll. In addition to the 13, the host school is allotted one spot, along with two at-large spots that complete the 16-team field.

After opening the season with three straight wins, the Aggie men began a slow slide down the national polls that coincided with a tough road schedule, and a small bit of internal turmoil. The road schedule included two games against national top 25 teams. Combined with another top 25 match at home, three of the first eight matches for the team have come against the nation's elite.

"Our schedule is very challenging," said Head Coach Tim Cass, "and the tournament makes it even more so. Our guys have got to learn some lessons, and the best way to

learn them is through competition. It's going to force us to see where we are."

A quick glance at the tournament bracket proves Cass' assessment of the field, as nine of the nation's top 10 teams are represented, including two other Big 12 schools, Baylor and Texas. This is the first time the Big 12 has had three schools in the tournament.

A major concern this weekend will be the indoor environment. So far this season the Aggies have yet to play an indoor match as a team. The speed of play has a tendency to be much faster than outdoor tennis, which is what the team plays and practices for the vast majority of the season.

See USTA on page 3B

USTA / ITA National Men's Team INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Began in 1973
- A California team has won every title since 1983
- Stanford is looking to become the fifth team to repeat as champions

Seeds (in order):

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| No. 1 UCLA | No. 9 Texas |
| No. 2 Illinois | No. 10 Kentucky |
| No. 3 Baylor | No. 11 Southern California |
| No. 4 California | No. 12 Texas A&M |
| No. 5 Mississippi | No. 13 Arkansas |
| No. 6 Florida | No. 14 Georgia |
| No. 7 Stanford | No. 15 Harvard |
| No. 8 Duke | No. 16 San Diego State |

SOURCE: COLLEGE TENNIS ONLINE RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

2003 Ecological Integration Symposium

"Natural History and Modern Conservation"

Texas A&M University
Presidential Conference Center
Saturday, February 22, 2003

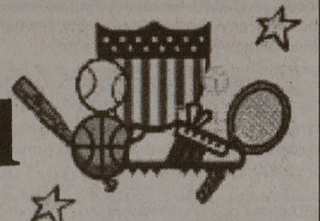
Speakers:

Harry Greene, Hans Paerl,
Tom Sherry, Maureen Stanton, Tom Swetnam

Free registration!!

visit: wfscnet.tamu.edu

2nd Annual Spirit Weekend Feb 21st -23rd



Friday

Kick off @ Rudder Plaza 11-1pm

GAMES Giveaways Free Food
\$1 Raffle for a Ben Knox Print

Ol' Army Yell Practice after the UCLA game

Saturday

5k run/3k walk 2-4pm

Benefitting the Boys & Girls Club of the Brazos Valley

Sunday

Cookies & Cocoa Reception
5-6:30 pm @Olsen Pavilion

Join us for tons of fun!



Everyone is welcome!

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