

# SPORTS

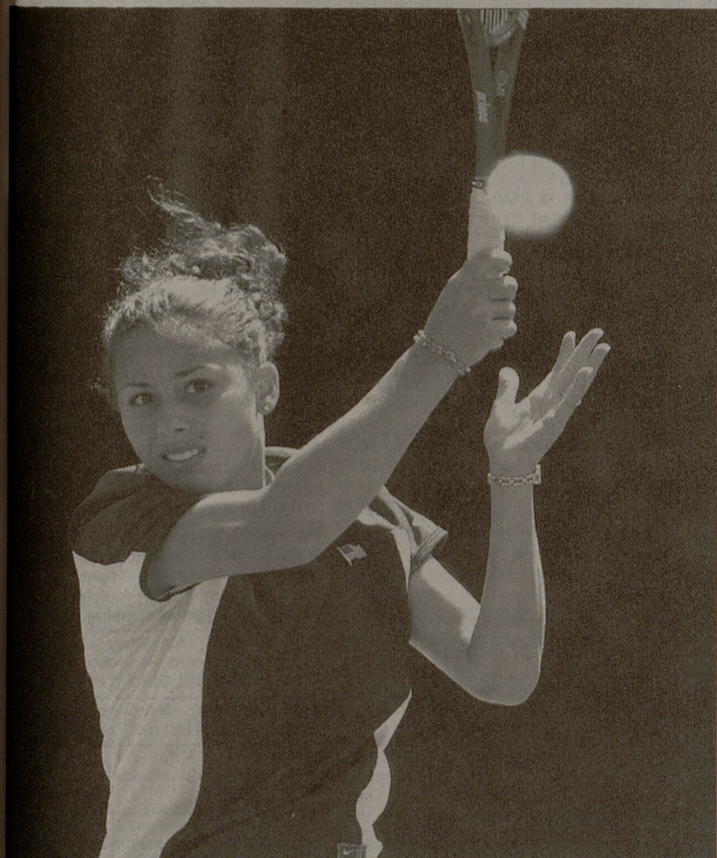
THE BATTALION

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## Aggies host Baylor with Big 12 lead on the line

### Women's tennis team attempting to go 9-0 at home

By Blake Kimzey  
THE BATTALION



Junior Jessica Roland returns a shot against the University of Colorado Sunday.

There must be something about playing at home, because the Texas A&M women's tennis team now owns an 8-0 record at the A&M Tennis Center. After beating the University of Oklahoma and the University of Colorado over the weekend, the No. 29 Aggies (10-6, 5-1 Big 12) will be looking to continue their recent resurgence against Baylor University tonight.

The match will serve as a decisive Big 12 showdown as the Aggies hold a narrow half game lead over the No. 44 Bears (6-9, 4-1 Big 12) in the conference standings.

Baylor and A&M have more in common this season than in years past. Baylor Head Coach Joey Scrivano is the commander in chief of a team that finds itself riddled with youth and closely resembling the A&M team, which depends primarily on underclassmen talent this season. Amazingly enough, both teams have just one senior on their rosters. With that in mind, Scrivano said he wanted to bring his team along slowly, and he is pleased with his players' desire to mature as athletes.

"These girls have come a long way from the start of the year, especially for as young of a squad as I have," Scrivano said. "We've really taken things a bit more slowly because we wanted to fully develop as a team."

The Bears, led by sophomore Daria Potapova, are in the midst of a frustrating stretch, as they have lost five of their last six matches by one point, going down 4-3 in each match.

Baylor should have more confidence tonight facing their Highway 6 rival A&M, after having managed a solid 4-1 record in Big 12 competition.

"We don't get too caught up in who we are playing," Scrivano said. "If it is A&M or Stanford it really doesn't matter, we just want to go out and get better. I'm just proud of my girls. We've lost some close 4-3 matches, but they haven't given up yet."

The Aggies, on the other hand, are in the thick of a friendly seven-match home-stand, and it appears that the doubles teams have started to click. Working to secure the doubles point has been the theme to this (the) spring season, and against Colorado this past weekend things started to come together.

Head Coach Bobby Kleinecke said he

couldn't be more proud about the payoff of his team's hard work.

"I am very proud of No. 1 and No. 2 doubles," Kleinecke said. "It is the best we have played at those positions at the same time. That was very solid play (against Colorado)."

A&M freshman Nicki Mechem is undefeated in conference play this year with a singles record of 6-0. Meanwhile, A&M juniors Jessica Roland and Roberta Spencer are riding a nine-match winning streak in No. 1 doubles play.

However, A&M Assistant Coach Alison Ojeda is quick to caution her team against getting too comfortable and complacent about its strong performance at home this season.

"We've had some really close matches at home and have even been down in some of them and had to battle back," Ojeda said. "We kind of recommitted ourselves to our practice and the girls have buckled down, and that is evident in the way they've been playing the last few weeks. Come tournament time there won't be any excuses, nobody will be able to say we didn't do all that we could to prepare."

Match time is set for 6 p.m. tonight, as the Aggies will be looking to extend their unbeaten mark at home to nine matches.

## Astros beat Marlins, 4-3

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Minor-leaguer Colin Porter singled in the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth Monday in the Houston Astros' 4-3 victory over the Florida Marlins.

The ending spoiled a strong outing by Florida left-hander Mark Redman, who had struggled this spring but held the Astros to two hits and two walks in five scoreless innings. The performance lowered his exhibition ERA to 6.11 in 17 2/3 innings.

"I felt a lot stronger and more confident," Redman said. "We're close to the regular season and you can smell the season. This is probably my last start in spring training. I got pumped up out there."

Shane Reynolds, trying to rebound from June 2002 back surgery for a pinched nerve, gave up three earned runs in six innings, including two solo homers by Robert Stratton and Mike Redmond.

"I got behind in the count and I wanted to throw strikes and not walk anybody," Reynolds said. "But as far as the whole day goes, I thought it was pretty positive." Officially, Reynolds is 0-1 this spring.

Reynolds said his back was feeling "great" after his final appearance of the Florida exhibition season.

## Ags return to Olsen to battle Cardinals

Staff and Wire  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M baseball team will return from a rough roadtrip on Tuesday to take on the Lamar University Cardinals at Olsen Field.

The game comes on the heels of losing two of three games this weekend in Lubbock to the Texas Tech University Red Raiders, which dropped the Aggies' Big 12 record to 3-3.

Lamar (17-6, 4-1 Southland Conference) is coming to College Station after taking two of three games from Southland Conference rival University of Texas-San Antonio over the weekend.

The Aggies (20-8) have lost four of their last seven games and have lost three of their last four on the road including the losses to Tech and a midweek loss to UTSA in San Antonio.

A&M will put junior left-hander Kyle Parcus on the mound against Lamar. Parcus has posted a 1-2 record this season with a 6.75 ERA. He has recorded 18 strikeouts in 21.1 innings of work.

Parcus last saw action on

Saturday in the Aggies' 10-5 victory against Tech when he pitched 1.1 innings, allowing two runs, two walks, and three hits. Parcus entered the game in the sixth inning, and after walking the first batter he faced to load the bases and forcing a short fly-out, he threw a wild pitch allowing Tech to score its third run of the inning.

The Cardinals will counter with their own left-handed ace by putting junior Josh Gray on the mound. Gray leads the team with 34.1 innings of work and a 4-2 record. His ERA stands at 3.15 coming into Tuesday's matchup.

The Aggies have posted a 26-7 record all-time against Lamar, including a 12-10 victory when the teams met last season in Beaumont.

First pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m.

A&M will return to Big 12 action this weekend with a split series against Baylor University. Friday's game will be held at the Baylor Ballpark in Waco at 7 p.m., and games two and three will be at Olsen Field on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m., respectively.

## Padres fall to Rangers, 8-5

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Doug Glanville's two-run single highlighted a six-run seventh inning as the Texas Rangers beat the San Diego Padres 8-5 on Monday.

The outburst erased a 5-2 Padres lead and spoiled left-handed starter Jake Peavy's best outing of the spring.

"Doug always played well against us so this doesn't surprise me at all," said reliever Aaron Fultz. "This whole offense just puts up great numbers."

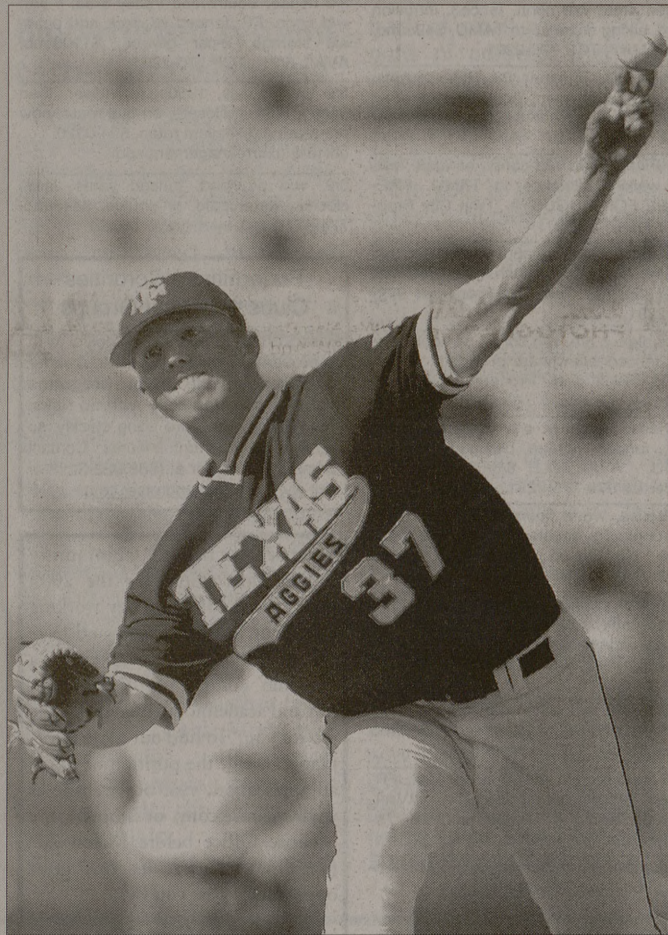
Peavy gave up two runs on four hits and striking out eight in six innings. Peavy came into the game with an 0-3 record and an 8.18 ERA this spring.

"I finally got ahead in the count and threw some quality pitches," he said. "I hadn't done that all spring. I just went out and pitched."

Peavy made a splash his rookie season last year, moving to Texas from Double-A Mobile on June 21. He made his debut the next night at home against the New York Yankees, giving up only one run on three hits, but losing 1-0.

He finished 6-7 in 17 starts with a 4.52 ERA.

"That Peavy kid sure is good," Texas manager Buck Showalter said. "It looked like we were going to be no-hit there for a while."



Junior Kyle Parcus delivers a pitch in action at Olsen Field. Parcus will be starting for the Aggies on Tuesday against Lamar University.

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