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## Aggie tennis hosts Lamar on Saturday

By Kyle Davoust THE BATTALION

While a 6-3 record might not sound all that impressive, it was good enough to keep the Texas A&M men's tennis team in the top 10 of the Intercollegiate Tennis

Association rankings on Tuesday. The association kept the Aggies at No. 9 by realizing that their three losses all came against top-10 opponents on the road and indoors.

In last weekend's USTA/ITA Team Championships, the Aggies finished 2-1. They lost to No. 6 Duke University, but then rebounded to sweep No. 48 Tulsa University and No. 11

University of California. "I think after losing to Duke. we played with a lot of desire,' said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "I think Tulsa will be a top-25 team before the year is over and clearly (California) is a very good team, so all in all, I felt like it was a successful trip."

This long road has made the Aggies weary for home, the place they will be this weekend as they face off against Lamar Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center.

"It feels so good to be at home and get to sleep in your own bed for more than two or three days in a row," said A&M senior captain Khaled El Dorry. "You have your own routine at home and get to do your own thing, instead of being on the road and eating different food at different places and sleeping in different hotels. Being home is great.

Besides enjoying the comforts of home, the Aggies should also enjoy a comfortable

opponent, which should come as a nice break considering

A&M's recent competition. On paper, as well as on the court, Lamar seems to pose no challenge to A&M. The Cardinals began the season with two shutout losses to Southern Methodist University and Texas Tech, before finally winning their first two singles matches in

a 5-2 loss to Abilene Christian. The Aggies don't want to

take Lamar too lightly, however. 'We know that everybody comes into our place, and they've heard about the crowd and the fans and get pretty excited, so we know that they're going to play their best," El Dorry said. "We hope we can get a win, but at the same time, we know that we're going to have to earn it. We are expecting Lamar to come out and play the best they can because they're playing at one of the best facilities in the country, in front of great fans and against a ranked opponent, so it's a great opportunity for them.

After facing Lamar on Saturday, the Aggies will once again leave the comforts of home for another road stretch, which will include matches against No. 13 TCU, Nebraska and Colorado. A&M will then be back at home on Feb. 28 when it faces the University of Texas-San Antonio.

"In this next Colorado is a difficult place to play at, as is Nebraska in conference matches," Cass said. "Also, TCU just moved up to 13th in the country and LSU (who the Aggies play in March) just moved up to 15th or 16th, so I'm not so sure that our schedule is going to soften too much.'

#### **SPORTS IN BRIEF**

#### Softball travels to Phoenix tournament

This weekend, the No. 18 Texas A&M softball team will travel to Phoenix, Az., to compete in the Fiesta Bowl Tournament where they will seek revenge with the No. 3 Arizona Wildcats, the team that ended A&M's postseason play a year ago.

The Aggies (3-0) were ousted in the regional final by Arizona, who eventually finished in fourthplace at the Women's College World Series.

While in Phoenix, the Aggies will take on national contenders such as Arizona, No. 5 Washington, No. 16 Oregon, No. 21 Fresno State and New Mexico. The round-robin tourna- scheduled to begin at 1:15 p.m. ment format will give the Aggies against Oregon.

valuable experience as they will play five games in three days against some of the nation's best squads.

"I am excited to see us compete against the caliber of teams that we will see." said A&M head coach Jo Evans. 'We will certainly be tested by all of our opponents.'

A&M's offense is led by senior outfielder Sherah Atkins who is hitting .667 with one home run, two triples and four runs batted in, through the Aggies' first three games.

Aggie pitching has been almost perfect throughout the team's first three games as it has

allowed just one run this season. The Aggies' first game is



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