

# Aggie tennis finally back home

By Kyle Davoust  
THE BATTALION

For the first time this season, the Texas A&M men's tennis team is not ranked in the top 10, falling two spots to No. 11 after a week that included a disappointing loss to then-No. 13 Texas Christian University.

"I think the rankings certainly are a guide, and clearly during the season there is going to be some fluctuation one way or another and I'd be lying to say that we're not a bit disappointed," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "If we win the TCU match, we're probably No. 5 in the country today; instead, we lost and we're 11th. You get what you deserve in life, and we lost, so we deserved to move down."

After the loss to TCU, however, the Aggies responded with two dominating performances over their first Big 12 opponents - Nebraska and Colorado. The Aggies no doubt wish to duplicate these performances Saturday when they face-off against the University of Texas-San Antonio (4-4).

In what was one of their best performances of the year, the Aggies swept Nebraska, 7-0, winning all but one of the singles matches in straight sets. Against Colorado, travel arrangements denied A&M the chance at a second-consecutive shutout. After sweeping the doubles point and winning four singles matches, the Aggies defaulted the two remaining matches to catch a 7 p.m. flight from Denver.

"We had been on the road 19 of the last 30 days," Cass said. "If we were going to make the flight, we weren't going to be able to finish the final two matches, so rather than miss a whole other day of school and spend an extra \$1,500 to \$2,000 to stay an extra night, we left."

The Aggies finally return home for more than a week and will get things started against UTSA, which has had its share of ups and downs. The Roadrunners are coming off of a California road trip where they dropped all three of their matches. In fact, UTSA has yet to win a road match this year.

Roadrunner head coach Oliver Trittenwein said he believes the team's road woes are purely coincidental. "Our first road match was against (the University of Texas-Austin), which is a pretty siz-



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A&M senior Khaled El Dorry returns a backhand on Jan. 19.

able opponent for the first match of the season and the matches we've had at home have been mainly against Division II and junior college teams," Trittenwein said. "I wouldn't necessarily say that being on the road makes it much tougher because we've had winning seasons on the road."

Even in the midst of its current slide, UTSA, a team that can come in and create some problems. Cass said it is important for his team to win and create some momentum that will carry it through the rest of conference play.

"We need to build some momentum, and I look at this weekend as a chance to build some of that," Cass said. "We haven't played outdoors in a while and that will be a challenge for us so I don't anticipate any letdown this weekend."

"I don't really know the different levels of the teams we play," said A&M senior Mohammad Dakki. "Tennis is about winning, and if you win a match it's a win just like any other win."

# Blair takes women to Baylor in search of two-game streak

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M women's basketball team had a rare two days off earlier this week thanks to a late season bye week. Senior guard Toccara Williams said during the time off that she rested and had a relaxing shoot around and story telling session with her team.

"It felt great. My body is rejuvenated," Williams said.

While the Aggies (9-16, 2-12 Big 12) were relaxing after their second conference victory, A&M's next opponent, No. 21 University of Baylor (20-7, 8-6), was preparing just 90 miles up the road for one of its biggest games of the year: Wednesday's double-overtime loss to No. 5 Texas, 73-72.

"They are playing Texas first, and that is what they are peaking for," said A&M head coach Gary Blair. "Their last two

games are A&M and Oklahoma State, and so she is throwing the ranch in for this game for sure."

Sophomore forward Tamea Scales said she thinks the time off will give the Aggies the edge.

"Baylor just got finished playing a tough game last night," Scales said. "They are going to be tired and worn out, and we are going to be fresh legged."

This will be the second game between these two teams this season. On Jan. 10 in College Station, Baylor overcame a 16-point half-time deficit to win, 60-57.

"(Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson) told me at the time before the game that her team wasn't playing on all cylinders," Blair said. "Since then, they are playing on all cylinders."

Robertson said the Big 12 conference schedule will produce upsets because of the stiff competition this year.

"It's a league that is just bru-

tal and brutal in a good way," Robertson said. "We've had seven teams in the top 25 this year, and we've had teams that could possibly end up having losing conference records that have beaten some of the best teams in our league."

Blair said Baylor is one of the top teams in the league and has a chance at winning the Big 12 tournament in two weeks.

"I think (Baylor) has a chance. When you talk about the big three: Texas, Kansas State and Texas Tech, watch out for Baylor," Blair said. "They can win the whole thing in Dallas."

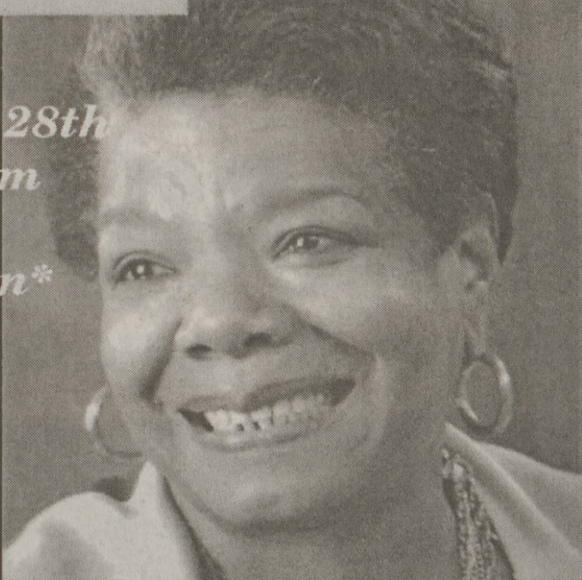
Blair said that despite his team's record and Baylor's recent success that he hopes his team can finish off the season with victories.

"I am on a one-game winning streak," Blair said. "One of these days I would like to hold up two fingers and know what looks like."

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