

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Monday, March 8, 2004

Women's Tennis
TEXAS A&M
vs. PENNSYLVANIA
Monday, 6:30 p.m.
George P. Mitchell Tennis Center

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Baseball takes two games from UCLA

Eight was the magic number in Los Angeles as the winner of each game in Texas A&M baseball's three-game series with UCLA was the first team to reach eight runs.

No. 12 A&M started the road trip in a bad way, dropping the first game of the series, 8-6. The Aggies (14-2) rebounded Saturday with an 8-4 win and won the third game, 8-2, to give A&M the series win.

A&M junior pitcher Zach Jackson (4-0) started Sunday at UCLA's Jackie Robinson Stadium, earning his fourth win as many starts by giving up two runs in 6.2 innings and striking out six.

The Aggies were led at the plate Sunday by sophomore catcher Kevin Whelan, who had three RBIs in game, two coming off a second inning home run.

UCLA (11-5) didn't get on the board until the bottom of the seventh inning when junior shortstop Ryan McCarthy homered off Jackson, prompting A&M head coach Mark Johnson to bring in freshman pitcher Blake Ramey from the bullpen.

Ramey did not allow a hit in his 2.2 innings of work to seal the win for A&M.

The Aggies will face the University of Houston Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Cougar Field in Houston.

Aggies complete winless Big 12 season

The Texas A&M men's basketball team finished the season winless in conference, losing to Big 12 conference champion Oklahoma State University, 70-41, Saturday at Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla.

Oklahoma State (24-3, 14-2) clinched its first outright conference title since winning the Big Eight Conference regular season championship in 1964-65.

The Aggies (7-20, 0-16 Big 12) kept the game tight early as both teams were tied at nine 3:03 into the game. The No. 7 Cowboys then unleashed a 12-1 run over the next 4:32 to build an 11-point lead that would never vanish.

Oklahoma State junior guard John Lucas led the Cowboys with 20 points and three assists.

With a 14-point lead going into the second half, Oklahoma State never let A&M within 12 points as it cruised on to victory.

The Aggies were led by senior forward Nick Anderson and freshman guard Acie Law IV, who both scored 10 points.

A&M will be the No. 11 seed in the Big 12 Conference tournament and will face No. 6-seed Missouri at 8:20 p.m. Thursday at the American Airlines Center in Dallas.

Top doubles team reaches final at La Jolla Invitational

Texas A&M's No. 1-ranked duo of seniors Lester Cook and Ante Matijevic got their wish Sunday as they squared off against William and Richard Barker of Rice University in the finals of the 115th Annual Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Championships. The Barker brothers, ranked No. 2 in the nation, were able to defeat the Aggies' top team, 6-3 and 6-3, to maintain their perfect record this season.

Cook and Matijevic swept through the first five rounds, winning their first four matches in straight sets. They even won locker room bragging rights along the way by defeating a team that included A&M assistant coach Shaun Madden, 6-3, 6-3.

The tournament results, however, should not affect overall rankings since the tournament is not sanctioned by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Aggie tennis overpowers Houston

By Jon Gilbert
THE BATTALION

The No. 16 Texas A&M women's tennis team earned its fifth consecutive win Saturday as it defeated the University of Houston, 6-1.

A&M continues to play well and is solidifying itself as one of the premier teams in the Big 12 conference.

"We're definitely one of the teams to beat in the Big 12," said A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke. "We're playing well and are going to be a difficult team to play down the road."

Although the match looked like a rout on paper, it was very tight during doubles. The Cougars' doubles tandem of junior Biljana Dimovska and sophomore Miranda Foley beat A&M's senior Roberta Spencer and junior Lauren Walker, 8-3. Dimovska and Foley, as well as the rest of the Houston team, played patiently and forced A&M to make errors.

"(Houston) didn't miss volleys, and we had never seen that," Kleinecke said. "We needed to be more finesse. If anything, I should have warned court No. 3 more of their style. We didn't come out flat, though."

Despite the team's initial struggles, A&M's other doubles' pairs won their matches. Senior Jessica Roland and sophomore Nicki Mechem dominated their match, 8-2. On court No. 3, freshman Anna Lubinsky and senior Danielle Lee earned a hard-fought 8-6 win to clinch the doubles point for the Aggies.

In singles, A&M iced the victory. Walker, Roland, Lubinsky and Mechem grabbed quick victories, as they got off to quick starts and gave their opponents no opportunity to come back. Walker's singles win is her fifth consecutive dating back to the Wake Forest match on Feb. 22.

"I just really came out focused," Walker said. "I've stayed positive on the court and gone out there and taken care of business."

Not only is Walker winning, she is winning in dominating fashion. She won 6-0, 6-1, Saturday, and has not allowed more than one point in a match since Feb. 21.

"(Walker) is playing solid," Kleinecke said. "She had been struggling earlier in the year, and it's been good to see her get in a rhythm."

The Aggies return to the court Monday



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior Jessica Roland returns a backhand in the Aggies' 7-0 victory over Rice on Feb. 15. A&M beat Houston, 6-1, Saturday. Roland won her singles match over Houston junior Biljana Dimovska, 6-1, 6-0.

when No. 30 University of Pennsylvania visits the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center. Pennsylvania (7-1) is off to one of its best starts in school history and boasts its highest ranking in school history.

"The Penn match will be a great

match," Kleinecke said. "They beat Maryland, 4-3, just like we did. They also played William & Mary. So, they're a good team. We need to be ready to play. It will be good to play prime time, and hopefully we'll be able to get a lot of

people out to support us."

First serve is set for 6 p.m. It will be the last match of a five-match home stand as the Aggies will travel to Louisiana State University and the University of Nebraska next weekend.

Equestrian takes two of three shows over weekend

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The western squad of the Texas A&M Equestrian team is no longer the national champion — for now. Despite winning two out of three shows this weekend, the Aggies remained behind regional point leader Oklahoma State University.

A&M entered the three-show event 25 points behind OSU for the top spot in the region. A&M, who is the previous two-time national champion, had an opportunity to overtake OSU, but was unable to completely close the point gap.

The first day didn't go as well as the Aggies had hoped, with A&M finishing second behind West Texas A&M University. Aggie juniors Kelly Johnson and Lani Jurena both had the only first place finishes for A&M in the day one events, which qualified the two for individual regional competition.

Jurena has been riding competitively for only two years as compared to many of the other equestrian team members who have been riding since elementary school.

"I've really come a long way," Jurena said. "I've often thought back to my very first practice when it seemed like I wasn't doing anything right."

The second show of the weekend put the Aggies in better position. A&M finished the show in first place ahead of OSU, with West Texas A&M finishing third. A&M juniors Katie Forest and Casie Lisabeth took first place in both reining events for the show.

A&M entered the third show with a very distant opportunity to beat OSU for the top regional spot. The Aggies finished the weekend on a high note, though,



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

A&M junior western rider Casie Lisabeth rides Mikey during the reining section of the western show held at Freeman Arena Sunday.

taking first place in the third show, giving the Aggies two wins for the weekend.

OSU head coach Larry Sanchez said the weekend was tiring for his team.

"I don't care if we're 10 points or 100 points ahead," Sanchez said. "Unless the other team is numerically and statistically out, I'm still going to be nervous. We came out and rode well and didn't let them close that gap."

On the individual side, OSU senior Kristen Dickerson captured the region point total beating out A&M's Forest, the former point champion. Forest had to place first in the event to advance to regional competition.

"I was so nervous I felt sick,"

Forest said. "I feel like I can breathe once again."

Forest said a secret handshake between her and junior teammate Natalie Hill helped ease her fears right before the event.

"I've won almost every time we've done it, so I wasn't about to stop," Forest said.

Despite a second-place finish to OSU, A&M still has the opportunity to advance to the national championship by advancing through regional and zone competitions.

"It's nice that the door is not completely shut yet," said A&M head coach Tana Rawson. "We're just going to set our goals for each competition and see where we end up."

Records fall at Indoor Nationals

By Ryan Irby
THE BATTALION

Legend has it that William Tell shot an apple on the top of his son's head with a bow and arrow. Texas A&M senior All-American archer Mary Zorn would consider this feat nothing more than a day's work.

Zorn secured her place in the archery record books this weekend at the 35th South Region Indoor Nationals held in G. Rollie White Coliseum, when she not only broke her personal records, but shattered the indoor American record and tied a world record, taking home first place in the women's compound division.

Zorn finished with a record 1,177 total points out of a possible 1,200, breaking the American record of 1,174 held by last year's Indoor National champion, Christie Bisco. Zorn's previous personal record was a 1,171. Her 593 of a possible 600 points on day two of the tournament equaled the world indoor record.

A&M head coach Kathy Eissinger expressed the admiration she has for her prized archer. "I am very excited for her," Eissinger said. "She continues to amaze us and keeps adding to it."

For Zorn, the exhilaration of writing her name into the record books was more than she could grasp at the close of her final collegiate indoor round.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," Zorn said.

For nearly three hours Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Zorn and other archers maintained an intense focus on their targets during more than 20 rounds of competition each

day. When arrows had been counted and each bulls-eye totalled, A&M walked away with the top 11 spots in the compound division, with Zorn and teammate Amber Dawson leading the field. Dawson, an All-American, finished the tournament in second place in the compound division with 1,157 points.

In the recurve division, A&M freshman Corrine Yohann walked away with the gold after firing a 1,088.

But it was Zorn who stole the limelight, shattering records and staking her claim in archery lore.

"I just stand back and watch her shoot," Eissinger said, describing her coaching techniques when it comes to Zorn's incomparable talent. "I am basically providing support and not so much coaching on the compound."

Zorn, who stands like a statue frozen in time in preparation to fire one of her award-winning shots, attributed success to her uncharacteristic approach.

"I sing songs when I shoot," Zorn said. "Pressure actually makes me focus more; it keeps me from thinking about other things."

The Aggies will begin re-focusing on their next competitions when the outdoor season begins Monday. Eissinger said her focus is moving forward after her club's record setting day.

"We are going to make the transition to outdoor," Eissinger said. "We're going to get out there and fling some arrows so we are ready to go when that time comes around."

Zorn and the Aggies will shoot again March 27-28 at the Lone Star Tournament in Austin.