

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Aggies beat No. 30 Penn, 4-2

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

A&M senior **Roberta Spencer** and junior **Lauren Walker** rest during their doubles match Monday at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center. **Spencer** and **Walker** lost their doubles match, 8-3, to Pennsylvania junior **Shelah Chao** and senior **Rachel Shweky**. The Aggies lost the doubles point, but came back to win, 4-2.

was also for self pride as well as team pride. I just made up my mind that I wasn't going to lose and that I needed to find a way to win."

The match between Mecham and Ciochina was stopped due to time constraints.

"The guts that they displayed tonight were unbelievable," Kleinecke said. "We talked about how hard we worked and how much was on the line, and you just can't let it slip through without a fight. They really won it with heart tonight — heart and guts."

The Aggies are hoping that the added

momentum from this hard-fought win will help guide them through the rest of the season.

"It will definitely bring momentum to the team," Spencer said. "We fought hard, and like Coach said in the locker room, some championship teams don't pass through easily every day. There is going to be some conflict, and there is going to be some struggle, and to get through the struggle is the biggest thing. Those determine the true winners."

A&M takes on conference's best

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team's record won't be enough to earn it a coveted spot to the NCAA tournament that starts next week. The only way the team can get there now is the hard way: By winning four games in a row against ranked opponents in one of the nation's most difficult conference tournaments.

The Aggies' (9-18, 2-14 Big 12) first opponent in their last-ditch effort at post-season play is No. 17 University of Oklahoma, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at the American Airlines Center in Dallas.

The Aggies have played the Sooners (19-8, 9-7) twice this season and have lost both games, Feb. 7 in Norman, 56-46, and an overtime loss Jan. 14 in College Station, 65-56.

A&M head coach Gary Blair said teams this season have been playing the Aggies better the second time.

"Maybe teams just haven't been respecting us the first time around," Blair said.

Baylor University increased its win margin over the Aggies from three points on Jan. 10 to 25 points on Feb. 28. Similarly,

the win margin against the University of Texas increased from two points Jan. 25 to nine points Feb. 11.

The Aggies have played some teams better the second time around, beating Oklahoma State University on Feb. 4 after losing to them on Jan. 7, and losing to Texas Tech University by one point on Feb. 14 after losing to them by nine on Jan. 28.

A&M sophomore forward Tamea Scales said the regular season record doesn't matter heading into the tournament.

"We are going to go into the (tournament) starting with a new slate," she said.

Scales said the team has come together and learned from the season's losses, which will benefit them in tournament play.

"Everything happens for a reason," Scales said. "I believe those losses are going to contribute to how we play in the tournament."

The Aggies will need strength and endurance in this week's tournament if they want to go far. If A&M defeats the Sooners, the Aggies will play No. 8 Kansas State in the second round on Wednesday.

A&M senior guard Toccara Williams, who was recently named First Team All-Big 12,

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