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## Track and fields runs to El Pa

By Craig Martin THE BATTALION

With less than half of the season left ahead of it and only six weeks until the Big 12 Outdoor Championship, the Texas A&M track and field team is heading to El Paso determined to bring a victory back to College Station.

The air will be thin and the weather will be hot, but A&M head coach Ted Nelson said he feels his athletes are very well prepared and will make A&M proud.

A&M will travel to El Paso this weekend to compete in the University of Texas-El Paso Springtime Invitational. The meet is a five-school event, pitting the Aggies against the University of Oklahoma, UTEP, Texas Tech University and the University of New Mexico.

Nelson said he is looking forward to seeing where the team is so far in the season.

"We'd also like to follow up with a good showing after last week's performance at the College Station Relays and Multis," Nelson said.

The El Paso meet will be the first team-scored meet of the season, and will showcase the abilities of many athletes looking to qualify for regionals.

El Paso's altitude will play a major role in the discus, shotput and javelin competitions. Senior discus thrower Josh Ralston said the altitude will cause less air resistance on the disc.

"The thin air should allow for some records to

be broken," Nelson said. Besides chalking up a victory for

Ralston will be attempting to break his po in bi best of 206 feet.

The meet will be especially exciti Ralston, who is looking to redeem himself last year's performance.

'I was in a slump last year, so I'm real ing forward to this event," Ralston said.

The Woodlands native is also looking to victory over rival Jason Young of Texas Text head-to-head matchup will be worth watch the competition will stay heated in El Paso. University of Oklahoma co-head on

Lancaster is also looking forward to this invit "This meet will be good, it will get out

petitive juices flowing," Lancaster said. Monique Lee, an A&M freshman from Navasota, is looking to qualify form als in the 100-meter dash after qualifying

200 at last week's event. Lee, who will compete in the El Paso said she hopes that in addition to qualify Regionals she will break her personal record said she believes that a solid 11.7 second in be enough to qualify for regionals. Her per best time is 11.56 seconds, just a fraction le

The next home meet for the Aggies Saturday April 10, when they host the A&M Invitational.

what she plans to run this weekend.

**Aggies** 

Continued from page 5

"I think we're playing well," Mechem said. "After we had a bump in the road against LSU, it has shown us, in a good way, that we have to be ready to go every single day. It kind of refocused us.

Oklahoma State (5-6, 1-2 Big 12) and No. 17 Oklahoma (11-1, 1-0) will be formidable opponents this weekend. The Cowgirls, although 1-2, will not be overlooked by the Aggies.

"With Oklahoma State, you never know about them," Kleinecke said. "They play very well against us, and we are going to have to be ready to play. We'll just see what they throw at us.'

Oklahoma State has been ranked as high as No. 38 this season. Since then, it has fallen out of the top 75.

"We'll be really ready,"

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Mechem said. "They beat us last year in the tournament championship so that will pump us up.

After tangling with the Cowgirls, A&M will meet Oklahoma on Sunday. That will be A&M's toughest test up to this point in the conference season.

"They are having a very good year," Kleinecke said. "We're expecting a dog fight. They compete hard. We're expecting a great battle.'

The Sooners have been very impressive so far this season in building an 11-1 record. They have beaten seven ranked teams this season, including recent wins over No. 34 Brigham Young University and No. 21 William & Mary. They boast the No. 6-ranked player in the nation, senior Anda Perianu. She is 9-1 this season and has five wins over ranked opponents. Perianu will face A&M senior Jessica Roland, the No. 16-ranked player in the country

## **Tennis**

Continued from pages

game against the major la the idea team," Peterson said. "The and lig all excited and pumped up the hos it lets them see, 'that's she sai like, okay.' It'll be the Secul thing for us. They'll looke with at Lester Cook and think as Ive

The Aggies believe they the tools to turn this into cessful season, if they can sistency will definitely ben ed to win in the Big 12.

"I feel like this is the team I've been on, but tion of haven't had the best results Way in Cook said. "I think if we gi time, though, the results come. We just need to find consistency right now, and the it will be just a matter of t before we find it."

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