

# A&M men's tennis faces No. 7 Rice Tuesday

By Kyle Davoust  
THE BATTALION

Coming off his team's first conference loss and with an important match against No. 7 Rice University at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center, Texas A&M men's tennis head coach Tim Cass has called on the A&M student body for support.

"We need the student body to come out and support us," Cass said. "That's a call out, and come wearing maroon shirts."

Cass understands what this match means as far as momentum and confidence and believes his team would benefit from the extra support.

The Owls (18-2) tore through their early season schedule compiling a perfect 18-0 record. Since then, however, the Owls have dropped two straight, losing to No. 28 Oklahoma State University and No. 58 University of Alabama. With their post-season tournament starting in less than a month, the Owls have not picked the best time to hit a skid.

Rice hopes to change its downward swing as the team heads to College Station to take on the No. 25 Aggies. A loss against A&M (16-

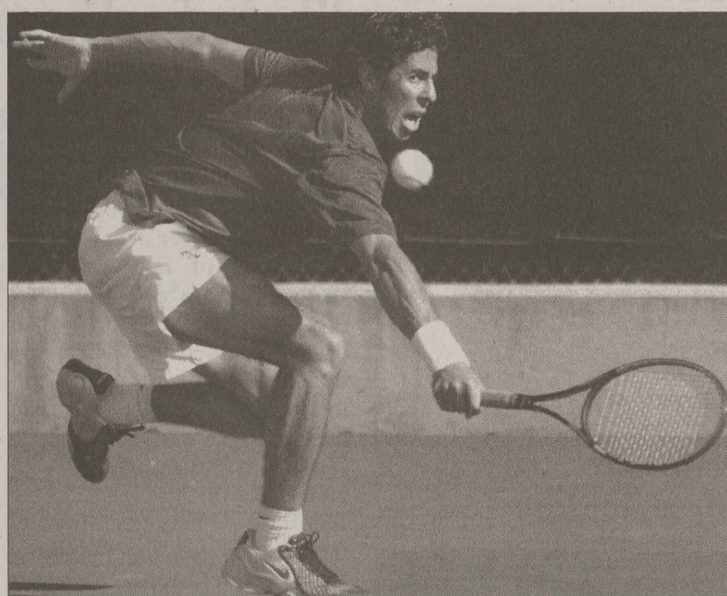
7) would be its third straight heading into a tough home match against the No. 33 University of Texas. The Owls have not dropped three straight since last April, when they coincidentally lost to A&M, Texas and Oklahoma State.

"We lost some close matches that came down to the last point, but hopefully we'll refocus for tomorrow night," said Rice head coach Ron Smarr. "We've always had good matches against A&M, and I don't see why this one would be any different."

When asked about Rice, A&M junior All-American Ante Matijevic said his team need only worry about itself.

"(The losses) could mean that they're losing their confidence, but it could also mean that they'll come in more focused; I don't know," Matijevic said. "But it doesn't matter for us, we're still going to have to play our best to beat them."

Like Rice, the Aggies enter the match on a down note, as their five-match win streak was halted Saturday in a 5-2 loss to No. 2 Baylor University. It was the Aggies' first conference loss and only their second loss at home.



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior Mohamed Dakki reaches for a backhand during A&M's 5-2 loss to Baylor University Saturday. A&M faces Rice University Tuesday.

"We clearly need to get a good win, and Rice provides that opportunity tomorrow night," Cass said. "This team needs to experience a good victory."

The most intriguing match-up will be in doubles, where the nation's top two doubles teams, A&M junior Lester Cook and Matijevic and Rice senior twin

brothers Richard and William Barker, will face off for the third time this year after splitting their other two matches.

"If we play the Barker brothers, we just have to play the way we usually play - with a lot of freedom," Matijevic said. "I think we're a better team than they are, so we have

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Aggie baseball faces off against Sam Houston

The No. 15 Texas A&M baseball team will finish a three-game series with Sam Houston State University at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Olsen Field.

The Aggies (26-8) beat the Bearkats (14-20-1), winners of seven of their last eight games, in the first two games between the teams, 15-1, in Huntsville, Tex., on Feb. 17, and 15-2 at Olsen Field on March 17.

A&M will start freshman pitcher Austin Creps in his first collegiate start. Creps has pitched 20.2 innings of relief work earning one win and holding a 2.61 earned runs average.

The Aggies lost two of three games last weekend at

### Archery grabs gold, bronze at Arizona Cup

Oklahoma State University. This past weekend the Texas A&M archery team traveled to Phoenix, Ariz., to compete in the Arizona Cup.

The tournament was scheduled to take place over the course of four days, but inclement weather shortened the competition.

A&M senior Mary Zorn earned the No. 1 seed in the compound division, but because of the weather, Zorn and the 300 other entries were only allowed to shoot six arrows as opposed to the scheduled 70.

Zorn and A&M junior Amber Dawson finished the weekend with gold and bronze medals,

## Murphy

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athletic ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. Roselius said he and Murphy meet once a week or once every other week to study the Bible together and talk.

"(Murphy and I) have a pretty close relationship," Roselius said. "I'm kind of a spiritual mentor for him."

Roselius said Murphy is always looking out for others in his life.

"(Murphy) really wants to be a leader on the team," Roselius said. "He's really concerned about the well-being of the other guys on the team."

Other than the Bible and time management, Murphy said he learned a lesson that every student should take the time to learn.

"I've learned to be nice to everybody and treat people how you want to be treated," Murphy said. "Take advantage of the opportunities you get because if you don't, they could pass you by."

## NCAA

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grade-point average. He's expected to be among the top picks in the NBA draft in June.

Still a junior, Okafor was met by chants of "One more year! One more year!" by Huskies fans when he stepped up to cut down the net.

After growing up in war-torn Nigeria, Pius Okafor said he was most proud that his son needed only three years to earn a college degree. As for his son's basketball talent, "I knew he'd be good, but not that good," he said after the game.

Confetti cannons shot off after the game and Okafor made his way to the podium to collect his prizes. In the stands, his dad was finally beaming.

"This is the American dream come true," Pius Okafor said.

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