

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Monday, September 27, 2004

Page By: Jordan Meserole

SIDELINES

COMING TUESDAY

After winning two games over the weekend, the A&M soccer team prepares to take on Sam Houston at home. Look for a complete preview.

Holly Clay slid into a position that she had never played before entering college. Now, she's one of the most crucial players on the A&M volleyball team. Get the full story on Clay's transition and pivotal role for the team.

BRIEFLY



The No. 14 A&M soccer team completed a successful road trip weekend, winning both its games. The Aggies beat Baylor 1-0 on Friday and defeated Texas Tech 3-0 on Sunday.

In a battle of top-ranked Big 12 volleyball teams, No. 7 Nebraska defeated No. 11 Texas A&M 30-20, 30-20, 30-27 in front of a sold out, Lincoln, Neb., crowd.

THE SCOREBOARD

NFL	
Houston Texans	24
Kansas City Chiefs	21
MLB	
Texas Rangers	0
Seattle Mariners	9
Chicago Cubs	2
New York Mets	3
Los Angeles Dodgers	7
San Francisco Giants	4
NCAA FOOTBALL	
Texas Tech Raiders	31
Kansas Jayhawks	30

Victorious



SHARON AESCHBACH - THE BATTALION

A&M freshman midfielder **Melissa Garey** jumps into goal keeper **Kati Jo Spisak's** arms after the No. 14 A&M soccer team defeated Baylor University 1-0 Friday night.

Astros beat Brewers

By Arnie Stapleton
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston's backups are doing all they can to propel the Astros into the playoffs. Raul Chavez drove in a career-high five runs, Jason Lane went 3-for-4 with and scored twice and Morgan Ensberg went 4-for-5 with two runs scored as Houston outslugged the Milwaukee Brewers 11-7 on Sunday.

"Nine guys are not going to take you to the playoffs," said Jeff Kent, who hit a three-run homer. "You need a bunch of guys to do some little things to pick up some guys when they are not playing, to pick up some guys when they are not playing well."

Lance Berkman also homered for the Astros, who closed within 1 1/2 games of Chicago in the NL wild-card race. San Francisco is also ahead of Houston, which returns home to play St. Louis three times beginning Monday night and Colorado three times during the final week of the season.

"St. Louis is not going to have the urgency that we're going to have," said Astros manager Phil Garner, who suggested Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, "probably won't use his bullpen like he normally does, may even rest a veteran hitter."

"They can still beat us," Garner said. Garner said he likes his chances when playing at home against a team that's already clinched the NL Central.

The Cardinals are 5-1 at Houston this year, all of the games coming before Garner replaced Jimmy Williams at the

All-Star break.

"The Cardinals and the Astros are playing for different reasons," Kent said. "The Cardinals are trying to play to get themselves ready for the playoffs. We're playing for our lives. The atmosphere will be a little bit different in each dugout."

Chavez capped a four-run first off Victor Santos with an RBI single, then added a bases-clearing double in the fifth off Matt Wise and a run-scoring single in the seventh off Jeff Bennett.

Tim Redding (5-7), the third of eight Astros pitchers, was credited with the win after throwing a 1-2-3 fourth inning. It was the fourth time in club history that the Astros used eight pitchers in a nine-inning game.

Kent hit a three-run homer off Santos (11-12) in the first, pulling within two of Ryne Sandberg's major league record of 277 for a second baseman. It was his 299th homer overall.

Keith Ginter hit his 16th homer in the second off Carlos Hernandez and added an RBI single in the third when Chris Magruder hit his second homer of the season, a two-run shot that tied it at 4.

Berkman led off the fifth with his 30th homer to make it 5-4. Chavez's bases-loaded double to the right-field corner made it 8-4, and he scored on Jose Vizcaino's single for a 9-4 lead.

Chavez followed Lane's leadoff triple in the seventh with a single to left for a 10-4 lead.

Former A&M standout Madden makes debut

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

Former A&M standout tennis athlete and assistant coach Shuon Madden made a decision three months ago to forego a coaching career and enter the professional ranks. On Saturday, Madden made his long awaited debut.

Though it was the first big step in his professional tennis career, Madden wasn't able to step far, losing to Alexander Hartman of Sweden 6-4, 6-3.

"It was a really good experience," Madden said. "I'm a little bit disappointed that I lost, but all I can do is keep putting myself out there and hopefully good things will happen later."

The morning rains and ominous black clouds didn't deter about 60 spectators from lining both sides of center court at the Pebble Creek Country Club to view the event. The fan support was obviously in Madden's favor, as every time he launched an ace past Hartman or won a long rally, the crowd erupted into applause and the occasional "whoop."

"I'm very thankful for the support and the group that came out," Madden said. "Hopefully I won't let them

down next time."

Madden, who committed two double-faults and got only one of his first serves during the first game, fell behind quickly 2-0 to Hartman in the first set. Madden said some of his woes during the first games could be partly attributed to jitters of participating in his first event.

"I was a little bit tense," he said. "I freed up some after that, and my confidence opened up. But I gave him the freedom to swing away and fell behind fast. That's what good players do — you give them an opening and they run away with it."

Hartman, who graduated from Ole' Miss in 2003 and has been touring for about a year, said Madden's nervousness before the match was evident.

"You could really tell it was his first match," Hartman said. "He has high potential to play good tennis, though. He was playing really well when he was good, but he had his ups and downs during the match."

Friends and former A&M teammates Khaled El Dorry and Mohamed Dakki were in attendance to support Madden and said they were optimistic about his

future on the professional tour.

"It's only his first tournament," Dakki said. "You learn by experience in this game. He's a very smart guy, and I'm sure he's gained a lot from this. He's also young and got a lot of years left."

Madden not only received moral support from his friends, but also from his family. Shuon Madden Sr. stood discreetly in the shade of a tree watching his son play for the first time in three years.

"He's very confident about his future," Madden Sr. said. "For his first professional match, I think he played very well against a very good competitor."

Madden Jr. will get his next chance to make waves in the professional ranks on Oct. 4 at a tournament in Austin. Madden said he won't make any drastic changes to prepare for the next match and won't dwell on his loss.

"Right now, one match is no more important than the other when you're staring out," Madden said. "You just have to take each match with a grain of salt and in those bad ones, see the things that will make you better."



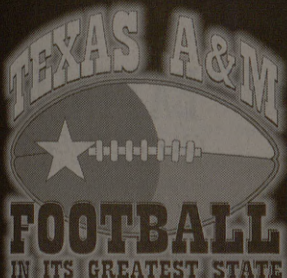
MADDEN

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