



Rutuja Bhosale, featured above, and her doubles partner Saska Gavrilovska clinched the first point for the Aggies.

Women's tennis falls to Frogs 4-2 in ITA Kick-Off Championship

Men's tennis to take on Ohio State next week.

By Milkyas Gashaw

► The Aggie women's and men's tennis teams completed their ITA tournaments this weekend at the Mitchell Tennis Center.

The 10th-ranked men finished the tournament with a victory in the consolation game against San Diego 4-1, while the 11th-ranked women fell against the TCU Horned Frogs in match play 4-2 Sunday. With the victory, the Horned Frogs clinched a berth in the ITA National Team Indoor Championship.

The doubles tandem of sophomores Rutuja Bhosale and Saska

Gavrilovska had a tough start to their match against TCU's Simona Parajova and Sofiko Kadzhaya, digging themselves into an early 4-1 hole. As the game progressed, the Aggie duo began to string points together and stormed back to clinch the first point for the Aggies.

The Aggie men took the first point on Sunday in the doubles match with victories from the tandems of Jeremy Efferding and Jordan Szabo as well as AJ Catanzariti and Arthur Rinderknech.

The women began the singles portion needing to win three of the six singles matches to clinch the team victory. In five of the six singles matches, the Aggies dropped the first set, with junior Stefania

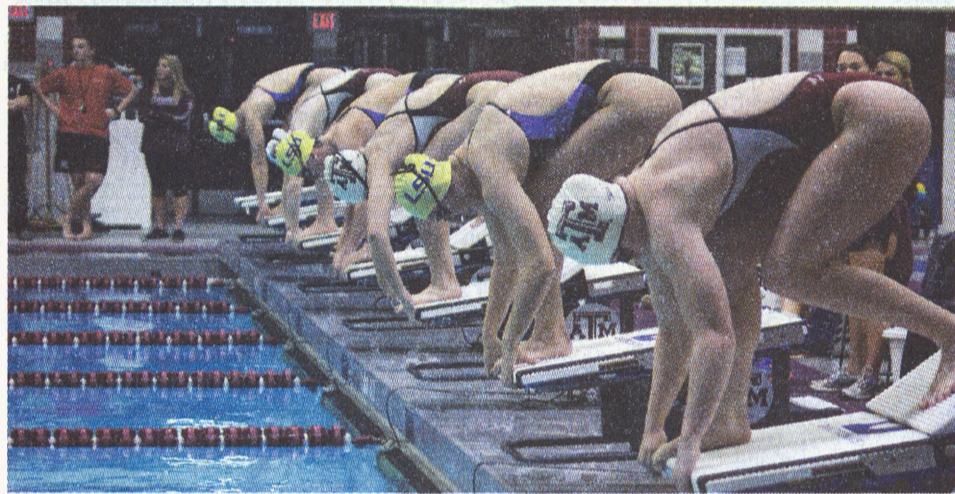
Hristov, the lone Aggie, to win her first set.

Junior Ines Deheza went down in the second set 4-6, 4-6 to Kadzhaya. The other five matches went down to the wire, with the Aggies falling in tough three set matches.

For men's singles, freshman Arthur Rinderknech finished the victory for the Aggies 6-4, 6-4 against Jordan Angus of San Diego.

The men continue play Sunday in College Station against Ohio State and UT-Pan American, while the women travel to Houston to face No. 3 North Carolina. Play begins at noon for the men at the Mitchell Tennis Center.

SWIMMING & DIVING



The women's swim team claimed a 166-128 victory over LSU on Saturday.

A&M sinks LSU in dual meet sweep

Aggie seniors find success at contest with LSU

By Kevin Roark

► The No. 4 Aggie women (9-0, 4-0 SEC) kicked off Senior Day against the No. 20 Tigers (4-4, 1-4 SEC) with a nail-biting 400 medley relay. After hanging onto second for the majority of the race, senior Sammi Bosma pulled a huge comeback in the final moments to claim A&M victory with a final time of 3:39.70. The women went on to top LSU 166-128.

In her last swim before the SEC Championships in Auburn, senior

Sarah Henry led the women to a 500 free with a time of 4:49.25. Henry said she was proud of the performance, but now "it's crunch time."

"Now it's time to get serious," Henry said. "Right now I'm just going to finish out the collegiate season, and then after I graduate in May my focus will be on the 2016 Olympic team."

The A&M men's team (6-3, 1-2 SEC) capped a solid start with a 1-2-3 victory over the Tigers (2-5, 0-5 SEC) in the 100 backstroke. SEC Freshman of the Week Brock Bonetti headed the pack with a time of 48.69. Clocking in behind him were juniors Jacob Wallace

(48.73) and Alexandros Theocharidis (49.06). Freshman Mauro Castillo later set a Texas A&M school record in the 200 yard breaststroke with a time of 1:55.65, beating Bryan Snowden's time of 1:56.55 set in 2011. The Aggies would dominate the Tigers with a 166-121 victory.

Senior Luke Shaw won three races as well as assisted in a relay victory with fellow senior Hayden Duplechain.

The Aggie divers return to action when they head to Colorado Springs to compete in the AFA Diving Invitational January 30. The next full competition is the SEC Championship in Auburn, Ala. starting Feb. 17.

SWIMMING CONTINUED

in and make an impact for us," said men's head coach Jay Holmes. "They did just that. The day they walked on campus I think they made us a better team."

Holmes highlighted the previous successes of other Mexican breaststrokers at A&M and feels that Castillo fits that mold. Like many of the student-athletes at Texas A&M, Castillo said he feeds off the energy of the 12th Man.

"I enjoy seeing people keep up with the A&M swimming family," Castillo said. "We are working hard to make the sport more prestigious. I enjoy the environment and the traditions. A lot of Mexican swimmers have swam here and I feel like I can be myself at Texas A&M."

Looking forward, Holmes said success in the freshman group now is a good sign for the future.

"We needed a good freshman class," Holmes said. "[Bonetti and Castillo] are a big part of that. We needed our freshmen to be good right now. We didn't have time to wait."

With a roster loaded with talent and more to follow thanks to strong recruiting, Holmes' program is poised for continued success going forward. Bonetti said weekly honors are nice, but the team is focused on bigger, long term goals.

"Everyone is stepping up and swimming really fast," Bonetti said. "We are going to keep building. We have a good class coming in next year as well. It's going to be really fun to see us rise up."



Courtney Williams pulls up for a jumper over LSU's No. 24, DaShawn Harden.

W. BASKETBALL CONTINUED

road. However, not all streaks work against the Aggies. They are 3-0 against South Carolina since the 2012-2013 season. When the teams tip off at Colonial Life Arena, they will have the chance to write history rather than follow it.

The Aggies will look to the SEC leader in assists, Jordan Jones, to light a fire under the A&M offense on Monday night. The Aggies also have the league's second-leading scorer in junior Courtney Williams and the second-leading rebounder Achiri Ade to counter the No. 1 Gamecocks. South Carolina enters the game averaging just fewer than 80 points per game, boasting an 18-0 overall record including 6-0 in SEC play. Led by Tiffany Mitchell with 15.2 points per contest, the Gamecocks are scoring roughly 30 more points per game than their opponents.

The Gamecocks are searching for their 27th straight win at home, good for a tie with UConn for the longest active streak in the nation. Their 18-0 record is also

a school record for consecutive victories. Head coach Dawn Staley has led the team to a 75-25 record at home during her tenure.

"We just take it one game at a time," Staley said. Obviously it's a big game, it's Texas A&M. They are coming to our place. Our main focus is to try and take care of home and get another win in the SEC."

Unable to play until next fall but a new addition to the Texas A&M roster worth mentioning is 6-foot guard/forward Jasmine Lumpkin. Lumpkin started in 14 of the 15 games she played at Michigan State before transferring to A&M due to a medical situation. After scoring a career-high 16 against No. 9 Baylor on Dec. 20, Lumpkin will have the luxury of learning under Blair before unleashing her skills against top-10 talent such as South Carolina next year.

After the Gamecocks, the Aggies head back to Reed Arena with a home matchup against Auburn before back-to-back road games against Missouri and Mississippi State.

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