

Wildcats claim 66-61 win over A&M

Kansas State holds off late Aggie rally

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team (10-6, 2-2) proved something to itself and the Big 12 Conference during Wednesday's game against No. 9 Kansas State University (17-1, 5-0). It was not that it could finally beat two consecutive conference opponents, something the Aggies have not done since entering the league in 1997.

But A&M did show that it could play with the best as they fell in a hard-fought battle, 66-61, in front of 1,721 people at Reed Arena.

"Kansas State is a great team," said A&M head coach Peggie Gillom. "But I think we were good enough to beat them tonight. This is a game we let slip away from us by not doing what we were able to do against Iowa State Saturday."

Junior forward Meg Banahan began the game by scoring the

first nine points for the Aggies, keeping them within striking range in a half when the lead changed hands nine times before halftime. The Aggies went into the locker room trailing 26-24.

Banahan had not practiced since the Iowa State game on Saturday due to soreness in her knee, but finished the contest with a game-high 26 points, including 66 percent shooting from the field.

"I thought Meg really stepped up and had a tremendous game for Texas A&M," said Kansas State head coach Deb Patterson. "She was enough of a threat from the outside that her short game was able to work pretty well for her."

The second half was dominated by guard Laurie Koehn and the Kansas State Wildcats. KSU nailed six 3-pointers in the second half to finish with a Reed Arena visiting team record of 10 for the game. Koehn had three of the second half 3-pointers and five for the game to

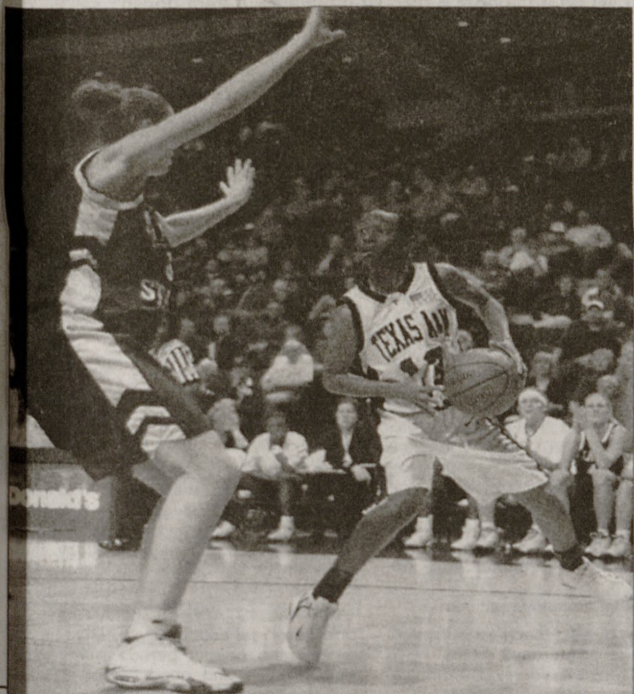
help her finish with 16 points.

Also dominant throughout the game was Wildcats center Nicole Ohlde, who finished the game with 17 points, six assists, four blocks and four steals, team highs in all categories.

"I just don't think we had enough help in the post today," Banahan said. "[Ohlde] is much bigger than we were, and we just needed to get the help down there a little quicker to stop her."

Despite the performance of Koehn and Ohlde, the Aggies received a spark in the second half from freshman guard Mindy Garrison, who nailed two 3-pointers on her way to eight points and a steal during a 12-2 A&M run. Garrison finished the game with 10 points.

"Mindy is a great shooter," Gillom said. "That's why we put her in there when we did and tonight she added some pretty good defense as well while she was out there."



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Texas A&M guard LaToya Rose tries to drive past Kansas State's Nicole Ohlde during KSU's 66-61 win Wednesday night.

Hornets apply for transfer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Charlotte Hornets, who tried unsuccessfully last spring to relocate to Memphis, want to move to New Orleans, Mayor Pat McCrory said Wednesday.

McCrory said he had not spoken directly with the team, but was told by Mike Crum, director of operations management at the Charlotte Coliseum, that the team plans to apply to the NBA for permission to move. Any move would have to be approved by NBA owners.

"This comes as no surprise. We anticipated it for several weeks," McCrory said. Charlotte management refused to comment Wednesday. Crum could not be reached, and NBA officials did not immediately return phone calls.

A spokeswoman for Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster, Marsanne Golsby, said Foster and team co-owner Ray Woodruff would meet later Wednesday in Baton Rouge.

"It's not ever a done deal until it's signed," she said. "We've been very cautious about expressing our optimism because Charlotte could make an offer and they would change their minds."

Hornets co-owner George Shinn refused to comment as he left practice Wednesday morning after meeting with players.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

No. 19 Missouri rips A&M, 74-50

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Wesley Stokes, out of the starting lineup for the second straight game, scored 13 points to lead No. 21 Missouri to a 74-50 victory over Texas A&M on Wednesday night.

Stokes was one of four Missouri players to score in double figures as Kareem Rush had 15 points and Arthur Johnson and Clarence Gilbert each had 12.

Back forces Mahan out of football

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

Michael Mahan, a three-year starter for the Texas A&M football team at offensive tackle, announced his retirement from football Tuesday.

Mahan developed four bulging disks in his back in the latter part of the season, and decided to quit instead of undergoing surgery.

"I had a little bit of a gut feeling about it," said Mahan, a senior from Homer, La. "I talked with some doctors and

coaches, and we kind of made a group decision that it would be best that I not play so [the disks] wouldn't have a chance to rupture."

Mahan was plagued the previous two seasons with a heart arrhythmia that required two surgeries last season. After spring drills, Mahan was given a clean bill of health to start the 2001 season.



MAHAN

The heart condition flared up before the Aggies played Kansas State on Oct. 20, forcing Mahan out of the contest.

After playing in pain against Oklahoma on Nov. 10, Mahan took just one snap in the Texas game on Nov. 23 before having to leave the game after his back locked up.

As a freshman in 1999, Mahan earned second-team All-America honors from *The Sporting News*, after playing at both left and right tackle for six games.

"It hasn't really set in yet,"

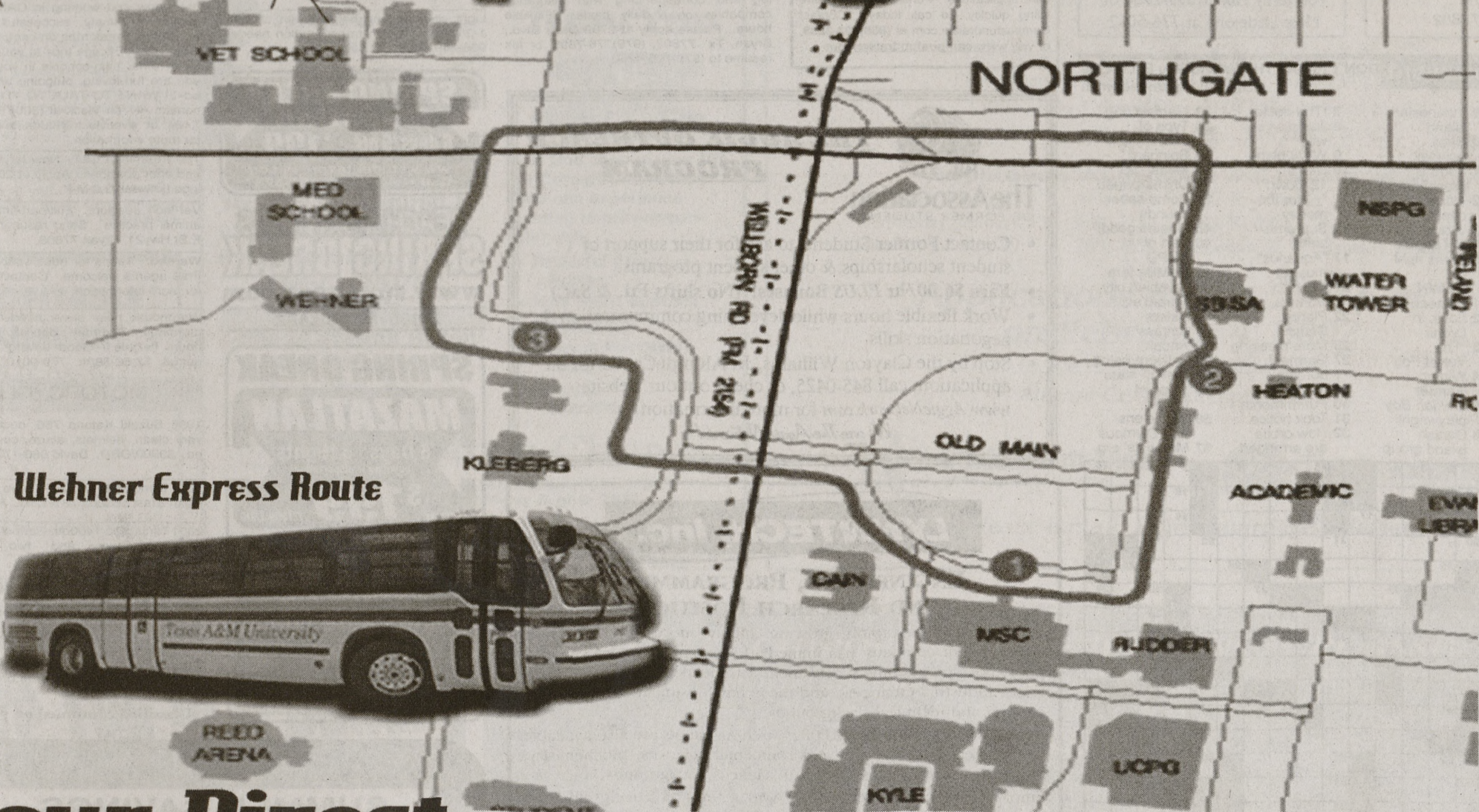
Mahan said. "I'm sure it will hit me in a few months. When two-a-days roll around in August, I may be a little miserable for a while. This is the first time in my life I've been told that I physically couldn't do something, and that is the hardest part to cope with."

Mahan is on track to graduate in August and will be getting married in March.

"Between school and planning the wedding, hopefully that will keep my mind off of having to stop playing football," Mahan said.

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