

Ladies defeat Panola

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff

In what was nothing more than a controlled scrimmage, the Aggie Ladies basketball team easily downed Panola Junior College 88-51. It could of been worse.

Every healthy player on the Texas A&M bench saw game-time as the Aggies connected on 50.6 percent of their shots in the contest. Peggy Pope lead the Aggie scorers, hitting 12 shots from the field and two free throws for 26 points. Pope also pulled down 12 rebounds to lead all players in both categories. Susan Kimbro grabbed 11 rebounds and added 14 points as the Aggie Ladies ran their season record to 23-14.

"This game was worth playing," Coach Wanda Bender said of the Aggie victory. "They weren't the strongest team that we have played but we needed to come out and score some points. We came out tonight, loosened up and ran with the ball. And I think we can do the same thing against stronger teams."

Peggy and Julia (Crawford, eight points and six rebounds) did tonight what I've wanted them to do all year — go to the basket with the ball. We've been working on penetration in practice, driving inside instead of just turning and shooting.

"I know that we can go to the basket on anyone. We have just never loosened up and done it."

On the strength of Pope's 18 first-half points, the Aggies jumped out to a 40-29 lead at the break. If the Ladies were affected by the loss to Texas Monday night, their first half performance didn't show it.

"The girls realized that we played the No. 2-ranked team in the nation," Bender said of the Longhorns, "but we outplayed Texas in the second half. We hit 11 out of 27 shots while Texas only hit 10 out of 27. So these girls proved to themselves that they can play open basketball with any team."

The Panola game, one of the last warm-ups before the state tournament beginning Thursday, Feb. 22, was special for four members of the Texas Aggie team. Pope, Lisa Hughes, Karen Gentz and Lola Baker played on last year's Panola team that won the junior college national championship. Wednesday night's game was the first meeting against their old team since the four's departure.

"My high school coach (Sandra Walker, in her first year as a head coach at Panola and Pope's high school coach) had me play defense in high school and I never had the

chance to shoot," Pope said "Tonight I wanted to show her I could score. I had fun."

Hughes felt a little strange playing against her old team.

"It felt weird guarding No. 10 (Margaret Wortham) tonight," said Hughes, selected last year to the National All-Tournament team. "I worked against her all last year and I had to guard her tonight."

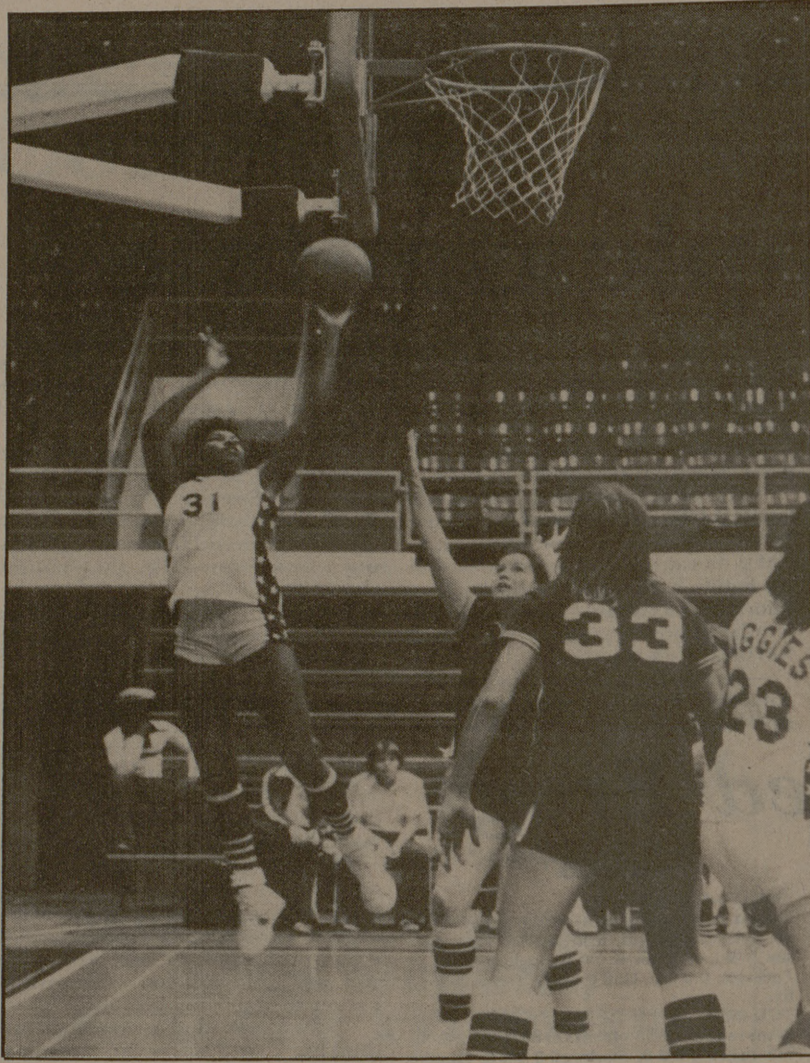
"The win tonight brought us up a little bit after the Texas game. It felt good."

Tonight, in their final home appearance of the season, the Aggie Ladies face the University of Texas-Arlington. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

"UTA is a good basketball team," Coach Bender said of tonight's opponent. "It is ranked in the top 10 in the state. So it won't be just another game."

The game marks the final appearance for Aggies Cindy Gough and Margaret Byrne. The ball club's two seniors will perform for the last time before the home-town fans.

"Tomorrow's game will be dedicated to the two of them from us," Pope said of the UTA game. "It's our last home game of the year and we've decided to make the most of it."



Texas A&M's Peggy Pope, a Panola JC transfer, shoots a jump shot.

Battalion photo by Larry Parker

Track team rolls to SWC indoor meet

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Sports Staff

Last year the Texas Aggie men's track team was like a snowball: the Aggies started out slow during the indoor season, began building and maturing throughout the outdoor season and finally reached full strength at the end of the season by winning the Southwest Conference outdoor championship in Austin.

The defending outdoor conference champs will be trying to win the sixth annual SWC indoor track and field championship tomorrow in Fort Worth at the Tarrant County Convention Center.

But right now, the snowball is just about the same size it was last year going into the indoor meet — small.

The Aggies have had some outstanding performances from several tracksters during the short indoor season. In general, the wonderful weather of January cut the Aggies workout time drastically and coaches Charles Thomas and Ted Nelson feel the Aggies may not exactly blow everyone out of the Convention Center but they will get a lot of points from some top performers.

Halfback-sprinter Curtis Dickey has been spreading the name of Texas A&M around the country by running in invitational meets from coast-to-coast. Dickey won a special 60-yard dash in Los Angeles over three other speedy football players including Texas' Johnny "Lam" Jones. He then flew to Albuquerque to run against Houston McTear and Clancy Edwards and placed third.

Dickey headed east the next week to run in the Millrose Games in New York City's Madison Square Garden where he placed fourth behind the likes of McTear, Harvey Glance and Steve Riddick. The next night he ran with the Aggie team in Oklahoma City where he placed first again.

Dickey has travelled so much in the past two weeks, College Station must look foreign to him.

"I was tired from all the traveling," Dickey said. "My legs started feeling real heavy. But I'm always ready to run."

"I believe I'll win it again (referring to the SWC 60-yard dash which he won last year). I've been pretty pleased with my running so far, even though I've only been working out two weeks and the weather has been lousy."

"I've worked on my starts pretty much and they're improving," he said.

Dickey is also the defending

NCAA indoor 60-yard dash champion and is planning to repeat it again this year.

"I think I'll jump on 'em and the confident junior from the said. "I think I can win it again. I'm going to have some tough competition in (Auburn's) Ed Glance."

Dickey is not the only Aggie who has been having a great indoor season. Quarter-miler, Leslie Kerr, high-jumper Jimmy Howard and are breaking some indoor records and are expected to place high at the SWC meet, as is shot-putter Scott who will go into the meet with the second best indoor throw in the conference.

Kerr broke Curtis Miller's standing A&M indoor 440-yard record of 48.8 with a 48.3 clocking at the Northeast Louisiana Invitational track meet in Monroe.

Howard broke two indoor jump records: one in Monroe, the other at Oklahoma City. Howard cleared 7-1 at Monroe and Oklahoma City to break the records at both of those meets.

Scott threw a personal best of 117-7-inches and became the best all-time shot-putter at A&M. That is quite an honor considering that the two men in the him won Olympic medals. Matson won a gold medal in the 1968 Olympics and Darrow won a silver medal in the Olympics.

But like everything else, the good news and bad news. The news is that quarterback-sprinter hurdler-long jumper Mike will not be running track for this spring. Mosley was the scorer for the Aggie track team last year.

"It hurts, but he just has to do in football," Nelson said. "Quarterback is a skill position and very important that he work on spring football drills. But it hurts when you lose your scorer."

"We also lost quarter-miler Thur Williams who anchored conference winning mile team, to North Texas State," said. "He transferred so he can play basketball there. That's because he was just a freshman year and was second in the race in the 400-meter dash. Mile relay is hurting at this point out by any means. In fact, he feels they have a good shot at indoor championship and a better chance at the outdoor championship again."

Ruggers meet Lumberjacks

The Texas A&M rugby club travels to Nacogdoches this weekend to play Stephen F. Austin. The Aggies are currently ranked third in State Cup competition. The Aggies are coming off a 45-0 win over the Galveston rugby club last weekend.

The rugby club is celebrating its 10th-year anniversary. Since founding in 1969, the club has won the state title twice and the national title twice. Anyone who is interested in joining the team should practice Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m. on the main drill field.

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