

the sports

Ags defeat UTA, prepare for tourney

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Sports Staff

Although the Aggie Lady basketball team had a relatively easy time defeating the University of Texas at Arlington 72-45 Thursday night, there was a great deal of suspense for the Ladies until the final seconds of the game.

The suspense was broken when Kelley Sullivan pulled down an offensive rebound and put it back up and in to give the Ladies their 72nd point with approximately 20 seconds.

Why all the suspense? "We set a goal before the game," said coach Wanda Bender. "If the girls didn't score 71 points, they would have to practice Friday and Saturday."

"The reason we set that goal is because we beat them (UTA) by 71 in Austin and I figured we should at least beat them by that much here. They almost didn't make it there," she said laughing. "And believe me, I would have stuck to our deal. They would have had practice tomorrow."

Aside from the 71 points they almost didn't get and the suspense surrounding it, the game was an all-Aggie Lady show. They controlled most of the game and led at halftime 37-20.

"Our girls knew they were going to enjoy playing this game," Bender said. "Don't get me wrong though, UTA has beaten some people who have beaten us so that shows how bad our girls wanted this game."

"We're playing just about how I want us to be playing going into the state tournament. We're scoring well and doing the things we want to do inside the lane," she said. "Our

shooting percentage has been pretty good, in fact, we shot 48 percent from the field the first half.

"So I think the girls are right up there where they need to be going into the tournament. And believe me, it's going to be a tough tournament."

Tough is an understatement. The Aggie Ladies are going to the TAIAW State basketball tournament in Nacogdoches where some of the strongest women's basketball teams in the country will compete for a chance to advance to the AIAW regional tournament. The top five teams in the tournament will advance.

But whoever made the schedule must be either a marathon runner or sadist. The first night of tournament play is an example of the grueling schedule. The Ladies will play twice on Thursday; once at 11 a.m. against Lamar, which has beaten them twice this year, and again at 7 p.m. If they win their first game, they will probably be playing Stephen F. Austin at 7:00, which is one of the top teams in the country.

The Aggie Ladies were not seeded which means they had to draw to see which one of the seeded teams they would play. Unfortunately, they had a bad draw and play Lamar.

"I was really surprised we weren't seeded," Bender said. "We have beaten some of the teams who are seeded above us. And on top of that we drew Lamar who beat us by 12 the first time we played and 11 the second time."

"If our girls win that game, they will be physically and emotionally sapped and we'll have to play at 7:00

whether we win or lose our first game at 11:00. It is really tough because we will play twice on Thursday and Friday."

It is a double elimination tournament so the Aggie Ladies will have to lose twice before coming back to College Station. And there is still a chance they will go to the regional tournament by receiving an at-large invitation.

"Our state is so strong that the at-large berth in the regional tournament will probably come from Texas," Bender said. "I think we have a good shot at the at-large berth if we don't get in the top five."

The Ladies will have today, tomorrow and Sunday off and will

need all the rest they can get to be ready for the tournament in Nacogdoches.

"The girls will be able to rest and take care of some small injuries and be ready for the tournament. We're pretty healthy all the way around," she said.

The Aggie Ladies will go to the tournament without the services of Pat Werner who is the Ladies' third leading scorer and a strong player at the post position. Werner is out for the season with a foot injury.

"We're going to miss Pat's scoring and rebounding but we have real good depth and will be able to cover for her," Bender said. "I think we can lose anybody on the team and

anyone else can come in and do a great job for us. We really don't have just one girl we rely on always."

The game against UTA was the last home game for seniors Margaret Byrne and Cindy Gough. Byrne had 12 points while Gough went scoreless in her last home appearance. Sullivan led the Aggies with 17 and scored the all important 72nd point for the Ladies. Peggy Pope scored one point less than Sullivan with 16.

The Aggie Ladies finished the regular season with an impressive 24-14 record and hope to add a few more games to the win column before they hang up their well-worn tennis shoes.



Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Texas A&M's Peggy Pope wins a jump ball against UTA.

Officials respond to HEW's Title IX

Department of Health, Education and Welfare's proposed regulations governing Title IX application to intercollegiate athletics would have an adverse effect on women's sports, Texas A&M University officials say.

Texas A&M officials made that reservation in a formal reply to HEW's requests for comments to specific questions concerning its proposed policy in an attempt to use the IX of the civil rights statute to assure "equality" in athletic programs for men and women at college and universities throughout the nation.

The University's comment concerning possible adverse effects on women's sports was made in response to a question about the practicality of a per capita standard. The per capita expenditure standard would require expenditure of thousands of dollars for each woman participant which a university added to its intercollegiate program, regardless of whether such expenditures were necessary to provide equality of opportunity, reasoned the Texas A&M officials.

"This fact would penalize universities for increasing participation in women's athletics and would often discourage universities from actively striving to increase women's participation," they noted in their reply to HEW. "As such, the per capita standard is at cross purposes with the concept of increasing participation."

Texas A&M officials also pointed out that the per capita expenditure standard "would force women's intercollegiate athletic programs into the same mold as men's programs," a situation which would not necessarily meet the needs of women.

In addition to pointing out the proposed policy could be counterproductive, as well as being too

costly and unrealistic generally, Texas A&M officials challenged HEW's authority to become involved in intercollegiate athletics. They emphasized that intercollegiate athletic programs receive no federal funds and, therefore, should not be subject to federal regulations. Almost without exception, men's and women's intercollegiate athletic programs at public institutions are funded from football revenue, the sole net-revenue-producing sport at most institutions.

"The questions which HEW has asked universities assume that HEW has the authority to regulate intercollegiate athletics," Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller observed in a letter attached to the report.

"While we have answered these questions, our responses in no way should be taken as an acceptance by us of HEW's authority to regulate intercollegiate athletics."

Dr. Miller also pointed out that Texas A&M's criticism of the HEW proposal should not be interpreted as opposition to an intercollegiate athletic program "which meets the needs of our women students."

"Texas A&M University is committed to the development of a first-class athletic program for our women students," he said.

The University, with women now accounting for a third of its 30,000 students, sponsors women's intercollegiate teams in eight different

sports. Expenditures for such activities this year will total approximately \$420,000. Officials said 117 women compete in intercollegiate athletics at Texas A&M. The corresponding figure for men is 322.

How much more the University would have to spend under provisions proposed by HEW is unclear. One means of interpretation would require the University to spend \$100,000 more annually for its women's programs, while another interpretation could result in an additional \$500,000 expenditure annually.

Miller said that the only source of funding for such substantial increases would be from increased student activity fees levied on all students.

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