

sports

Women cagers win Mean Green Classic tourney

By JON HEIDTKE
Sports Reporter

Texas A&M's women's basketball team didn't play its best game of the year but it did manage to pull off a 75-53 victory over North Texas State to take the championship of the Mean Green Classic.

"We had a lot of turnovers and didn't work hard to get the rebounds," said head coach Cheri Rapp, who returned for the first time to the school where she coached for three years before taking over the job at Texas A&M.

"Mentally, it was hard to play somebody that you have already

beaten by 32 points," she said.

The Aggie ladies, who upped their season record to 17-8, played the title game without leading scorer Lori Foreman. Foreman, the 6-2 sophomore transfer from NTSU, watched the game in street clothes after injuring an ankle in warmups before the Texas A&M-Texas Women's University game on Friday night.

"We don't know how serious it is yet," said Rapp. "Hopefully she will be back for the start of the playoffs next week."

The Ags, who had beaten NTSU 82-50 three weeks ago, got off to a

slow start and needed time to thaw out from Denton's sudden snow storm. Trailing by one, 11-10, the Ags heated up and peeled off 14 unanswered points in an eight-minute span. That put them up 24-11 and they went on to take a 39-22 halftime advantage.

Senior Peggy Pope, the Classic's Most Valuable Player, picked up 12 of her 17 points in the first half to boost the Ags to a 17 point lead.

Then the Aggies got sloppy. In the first seven minutes of the second half the women turned the ball over eight times and scored only six points. The Eagles took advantage of A&M's

lackadaisical play to pull within five at 45-40. Shelby Kettle led NTSU's comeback by hitting for 12 of the Eagles' first 18 points of the second half.

But the Aggies got back on track with 10 points from Trigg Crawford down the stretch and were able to pick up their sixth straight win and eleventh out of their last 12.

Crawford, filling in for the injured Foreman, turned in a strong performance, hitting 16 points and yanking down nine rebounds.

Kelly Sullivan and Lola Baker hit 12 and 10 points respectively to round out the double-figure scoring for the Ags. Pope also led the team in rebounds with 12.

The Ags hit almost 50 percent from the floor for the evening (32 of 65) compared to the Eagles' 39 percent (24 of 61). The Eagles also shot poorly from the charity stripe, connecting on only 31 percent of their shots. They missed several front ends of one-and-one situations in the final period.

The Ags reached the finals of the

tournament by knocking off TWU, 79-65, on Friday night. Foreman, making her return to Denton, proved her ankle injury had little effect by pouring in a season-high 39 points. She hit on 16 of 20 field goals, seven of nine free throws and grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds.

Both teams traded buckets

throughout the opening period. A&M went into the locker room during intermission with a slim 39-34 lead paced by Foreman's 19 points. Ten straight points to start the second half got the Aggies on the right track. The Aggies opened up their biggest lead of the game (26 points) midway through the final

frame at 66-40. The Pioneers battled back but still wound up 14 points down at the final buzzer.

Pope was second on the team in scoring and rebounding with 15 points and eight caroms.

The women are back in action Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. in C. Rolie White Coliseum against USC.

Men swimmers take two, women fall shy in Houston

Mark Scott set a Texas A&M University school record in leading the Aggies to the first of two men's dual swim meet wins over the weekend. The women's team lost, 77-63, to Houston in weekend action.

The men swimmers took 12 first places and 15 second places in 26 events as Texas A&M beat Texas Tech in College Station, 65-48, Friday, and then UH, 59-54, Saturday. Scott eclipsed the old Texas A&M 50-meter freestyle record of 21.33 with a 21.28 time.

James Brown took second in the 50 freestyle behind Scott with a 21.61 in the Tech meet. Brown also took second in the event at Houston with a 21.97 but Scott was unable to break 22 seconds.

In the Tech meet, the 400 medley relay team took first place with a time of 3:32.13 to Tech's 3:34.69. Rick Ranzau took a two-second win over Tech's Sid Glenn to win the 200 freestyle in 1:44.14. Tech's Jay John-

son finished first in the 100 freestyle but the Ags' Matt Hobart, Tom Ingram, Bill McCracken, and Ricardo Cidall took the next four places. John Oberto picked up an Aggie first in the 200 individual medley with a time of 1:58.10.

In the 100 freestyle, Rich Suhs finished first with a clocking of 47.33, while Brown was second in 47.93.

The 200 backstroke winner was Kevin Weaver in 1:58.28. Texas A&M took first and third in the 400 Free Relay to finish the meet.

In Saturday's meet at Houston, Texas A&M won both relays again and added firsts in the 100 freestyle, 3-meter dive and 200 breaststroke in stroking to the win. The Aggies had strong showings in the 50 freestyle, 200 fly, 100 freestyle and 200 breast, though. Suhs was the Ag winner in the 100 freestyle, coming home in 47.50. Kerry Lacaze took the win in the diving event with a point total of 317.20, and Ingram took the 200 breast in 2:15.20.

The women took seven firsts against Houston but were not able to overcome the Cougars' depth. The 200 medley relay team was awarded a first on a disqualification and the 200 freestyle relay swam unopposed. Tracy Johnson swam first in the 400 individual medley in 4:37.33 and Shirley Hill took the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.89. Hill also won the 50 freestyle in 25.71. Jenny Hsu was first in the 100 individual medley in 1:03.03 while Hill finished second. Johnson won another first, in the 100 breaststroke, in 1:09.91.

The women's team, now 6-4, has one more regular season meet left. They will host Rice at P.L. Downs Natatorium today at 4 p.m. They will then compete in the TIAAW championships Feb. 28-March 1 in Fort Worth.

The men's team has completed its regular season with a record of 6-3, and will compete next in the Southwest Conference championships in Dallas March 6-8.

— Tony Gallucci

Golfers take sixth in Pan Am tourney

MONTERREY, Mexico — Texas A&M finished sixth in the 24-team field of the 54-hole Pan American Intercollegiate Golf Tournament Saturday. Oklahoma State took the title with a 22-under-par performance.

Oklahoma State's 849 total was 16 shots ahead of runner-up Brigham Young, which posted an 865. Then came Oral Roberts at 877, TCU at 883, Texas at 884 and Texas A&M's 886.

"This was the strongest field we'll see until the NCAA championships," said Aggie coach Bob Ellis. "Houston finished eighth, so the Southwest Conference had four teams in the top eight."

Bob Tway of Oklahoma State set a meet record in winning the individual championship with a 15-under-par 201. Bob Clampett of Brigham Young and Joe Rossett of Oral Roberts tied for second at 211.

Dave Ogrin and Richard Cromwell led A&M's five players with four-over-par 220's. Dan Briggs had a 221, Gary Krueger had a 225 and Steve Bowman had 227.

— Rick Stolle



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