# Six-game streak broken

## *Aggie Ladies turn in worst shooting performance of season against USC*

By JON HEIDTKE
Sports Reporter

The Texas A&M women's basketball team turned in its worst shooting performance of the season Tuesday night and the result was a 71-42 victory for the USC Trojans, snapping the Aggie Ladies' win streak at six.

The Aggie Ladies could connect on only 19 out of 59 shots from the field for an lackluster 32.2 percent.

"I would rather shoot bad in this game," said head coach Cherri Rapp, "than in Saturday's playoff game (against the University of Texas at Arlington)."

But it wasn't bad shooting that got the Ags in an early hole. With the score tied at four, the Trojans went to a full-court press. Five minutes and eight Aggie turnovers later, the Trojans had run up 15 straight points and were seriously threatened only once the rest of the way.

The Trojans opened up their biggest first period lead with six minutes left when they went up 30-12 on a Linda Balabuch lay-up after a steal.

But the Aggies, behind the outside play of Lola Baker and the inside play of Peggy Pope, outscored the Trojans 13-4 the last six minutes to close the gap to nine at intermission, 34-25.

The Aggies appeared to have the momentum built up to make a run at the Trojans, but nine straight points by the Trojans to open the second half sealed the Aggie loss.

The Ags could only manage 17 points in the second period, due largely to a 22 percent field goal percentage (7 out of 31).

"Southern Cal played good defense," Rapp said. "They made us rush our shots and forced us to spend too much time getting the ball down the court. If we could pass the basketball, we'd have a much better team."

The Trojans who were beaten 85-74 by Texas on Monday, only put up 52 shots, but hit 28 of them for 53.8 percent. "USC intimidated us and forced us to play their game," Rapp said.

There were some bright spots for the Aggies however. Trigg Crawford, making her second straight start, scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

"Trigg has improved more in the past four games than anybody on the team," Rapp said. Lola Baker also turned in a strong performance. She pulled down seven rebounds, to share high honors with C[illegible] and also scored nine point[illegible] those coming on long-range[illegible]

Pope led all Aggie scorers [illegible] points.

The Trojans were paced [illegible] Maria Lopez, who scored [illegible] high 17 points. Terri Huff [illegible] points and Kathy Hammon [illegible] in 10 points to round out the [illegible] figure scoring for USC.

## SMU wins in overtime over Rice

United Press International

DALLAS — A three-point play by Dave Piehler with nine seconds left in overtime broke a 79-79 tie Wednesday night and sparked Southern Methodist to an 82-81 victory over the Rice Owls.

The win all but wrapped up a home-court advantage in the first round of the SWC's postseason tournament for the Mustangs.

Piehler scored 21 points overall and hit five of them in the overtime period to boost SMU to a 6-8 record in the league and to 14-10 overall.

Rice had come back from a 10-point deficit midway through the final half to tie the score with 20 seconds remaining in regulation on the final basket of the night by forward Ricky Pierce, who finished with 30 points.

That left the score tied at the end of 40 minutes, 74-74, and SMU scored the first four points in the overtime. But the Owls fought back to tie the score and set up Piehler's clutch three point play.

Brad Branson added 18 points for the Mustangs and Richard Harris contributed 14.

Rice fell to 3-10 in league action and to 5-16 for the season with the setback.

The SMU victory, combined with Baylor's loss to Texas Wednesday night, left the Mistangs in sixth place by themselves. The sixth spot in the final standings carries with it a home court edge in the tournament's opening round.

## SWC signing begins today

United Press International

Bowl games are important and the opening game of the season always brings nervous tummies, but for Southwest Conference coaches, today will be the biggest day of the year.

It's signing date — the first day on which members of the SWC may sign high school players to scholarship agreements. And, for a change, the recruiting season has been fairly tame.

There have been the usual number of tough fights for certain players, of course, but the lack of an obvious Heisman Trophy-type superstar has made this year's recruiting war less spectacular than usual.

Last year there was the recruiting coup by SMU in landing both Eric Dickerson and Craig James — the two most sought-after running backs in Texas.

And in recent years there have been such remembered episodes as the wooing of Darrell Shepherd by the Houston Cougars — who wound up on probation because of it — and the recruitment of Billy Sims by Oklahoma just when the Baylor Bears felt they had him.

This year, so far at least, things have been a little quieter.

There seems to be a little something, or somebody, for every team in the SWC. But Texas and Texas A&M have their share of commitments going into signing day.

The Aggies are expected to sign such highly touted players as quarterback John Elkins of Baytown Lee and linemen Scott Polk of Dallas White, Tommy Robison of Gregory-Portland and Jeff Sciba of Pasadena Dobie.

Running backs Michael Brown of Richardson Lake Highlands, Mike Luck of Spring Branch and Bobby Micho of Austin Anderson have said they would sign with Texas, as has lineman Doug Dawson of Houston Memorial.

SMU, plagued with injuries last season, has managed to overcome its lackluster year by conducting apparent successful recruiting campaigns with quarterback Lance McIlhenny of Highland Park and David Randle of Dallas White, considered to be the best tight end in the state.

Baylor has a commitment from Alfred Anderson of Waco Richfield, one of the better quarterbacks in Texas this season, and another top quarterback — Phillip Money of Edinburg — has pledged to Rice.

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