

sports

Ag Ladies win one, lose one in AIAW hoop tournament

By JON HEIDTKE
Sports Reporter

The Texas A&M women's basketball team won one and lost one in the Association for Women (AIAW) Southwest Regional Tournament held in Baton Rouge, La., March 6-8.

The Aggie Ladies' win was a satisfying 71-65 victory over Houston, and the loss came at the hands of highly ranked Louisiana Tech, 80-57.

The opening-round win over the Cougars gave the Aggies the season series edge, 2-1 and avenged a disappointing state tournament loss. The Ags had defeated the Cougars in their first meeting earlier in the regular season.

"We were emotionally ready to play," said Aggie Ladies' coach Herri Rapp, "because we had a core to settle." And settle it they did.

The Aggies were in control

throughout most of the game, never falling behind by more than four, with that occurring only once. The Aggies led by four at the half, 35-31, and after hitting a cold spell early in the second period, began to get untracked. Senior Lisa Hughes' outside shooting moved the Aggies to an 11-point advantage, 68-57, with five minutes to go and the Aggies were able to coast to the final six-point margin.

The Aggies who have had trouble getting outside scoring all year, were led in scoring by Hughes and Trigg Crawford, who both hit for 16 points. Hughes hit six of nine shots, mostly from the 20-to-25-foot range and was a perfect four-for-four from the free throw line.

The next night, however, the Aggies weren't so fortunate. The Lady Techsters, seeded No. 1 in the tournament, put on a clinic in the 2-3 zone defense. The zone was so effective that it limited post players Peggy

Pope and Lori Foreman to a total of four points and one rebound.

The Aggies stayed close behind the shooting of Hughes, and trailed only 19-15 with ten minutes left in the first period. But Hughes went cold and the Lady Techsters rolled to a 43-27 halftime advantage and were never seriously threatened the rest of the way.

Hughes, who had an outstanding last two games as an Aggie, hit for 14 points and led the team in rebound-

ing with eight. Crawford, a junior, topped all Aggie scorers with 16.

Five seniors, Hughes, Pope, Lola Baker, Pat Weaver, and Susan Kimbro played their last games for the maroon and white in that game.

The Aggies Ladies finished the season with a 19-12 record in Rapp's first year as head basketball coach.

Sophomore Lori Foreman led the Lady Aggies this season with a scoring average of 16 points per game. She also led the team in rebounds, averaging seven per game.

Viridon changes third base coach

United Press International
COCOA, Fla. — Manager Bill Viridon says he probably will use Don Leppert as the Houston Astros' third base coach this season instead of Bob Lillis, who has held the job for the past six years, despite criticism from fans.

Viridon said he wanted to remove Lillis from the hot seat. "Bob Lillis is too valuable a coach

to be put in that position all the time," Viridon said. "Lillis does too many good things to not be put in a good light in the city of Houston."

Lillis has received criticism for waving runners home and for holding them at third base when fans believed he should have done the opposite.

"It's not that Bob can't handle all the fans, but I think Don might be

able to handle it better," Viridon said.

Leppert was hired by the Astros after coaching at third base for the Toronto Blue Jays last season.

Leppert has been handling third base coaching chores for the Astros so far this spring.

"If Leppert wants it, I may move him there," Viridon said.

Aggies top Ponies, up record to 19-4

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Editor

For the third straight weekend, the Texas A&M baseball team dropped the first game of a league series but swept the double-header to get out ahead in the three-game set.

This time the Aggies victimized the SMU Mustangs, who won their first game on Friday 10-9, but who in an inning of tough Aggie pitching Saturday in losing both ends of the twinbill, 3-1 and 4-0.

The Ags jumped off to a 4-0 lead after two innings in the Friday contest. The Ponies scored four in the fourth to tie it up and followed with four more in the fifth to take a 8-4 lead. In the top of the seventh the Ags hit three doubles, a pair of singles and were aided by a Pony error to score five runs and take a 9-8 lead.

But SMU scored single runs in the seventh and eighth innings to win the game.

On Saturday the Ags rebounded to sweep the Ponies behind the pitching of freshmen Rick Luecken and Robert Slavens. Both pitchers went the distance, both struck out six SMU batters, and both upped their season records to 5-0.

The Ags are now 6-3 in SWC play, second to the 6-0 Texas Longhorns, who were idle over the weekend. On the year, the Aggies have a 19-4 record and have won nine of their last 11 games.

The Ags will play their next official games Friday and Saturday at Olsen Field against Texas Tech. On Wednesday, the Texas A&M "B" team will play the St. Francis College of Illinois "B" team in an exhibition double-header at Olsen Field.



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