

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Aggie Ladies to utilize speed

Rapp relying on experience

by Joe Tindel Jr.

Battalion Staff
The season opener may be a month away for the Texas A&M women's basketball team, but added quickness and a new offensive style of play have Head Coach Cherri Rapp and the Aggie Ladies eager to start the ball rolling — or rather, "bouncing."

Since the first week of September, the women have been working on getting into shape for the upcoming season, in hopes that they'll be able to improve last year's 9-20 record. Full-time workouts began Monday, with defense being stressed, Rapp says.

But a newfangled offense could keep fans on the edge of their seats this season, as Rapp plans to install the fast break.

Such a high-speed offense will make personnel important past the usual five starters, since the fast break is an exhausting offense, Rapp said. The sixth, seventh and eighth players will definitely play an important role for the Aggie Ladies this season.

"Depth is going to be really important to us this year because



Cherri Rapp plans to have quicker team this season

we plan to run a fast break and we plan to press," Rapp said. "So we're going to get tired and we know it."

So one of the fourth-year coach's key tasks to complete within the month is finding a solid starting lineup and a few solid reserves, she said.

"Last year we never really

came up with a real definite starting lineup," Rapp said. "We played a lot of people all last year. We had five freshman that played a lot that really have gained a lot of experience."

"I think that's going to be a big plus — the fact that they have gotten a chance to play so much as freshmen."

One of those now-sophomores is 6-3 post Mitchell Tatum of Jacksonville, last year's second-highest scorer at

seven points a game. Rapp said Tatum's added experience could make the Aggie Ladies tough under the basket.

"She (Tatum) went to the National Sports Festival this summer and played on the junior team, and I think she gained a lot of experience playing with some of the best players in the country in her age bracket," Rapp said.

Rapp said she also has high hopes for Jackie Jones, a 5-6 junior transfer from McLennan Junior College. An all-conference player last year, Jones could provide the Aggie Ladies with some needed

strength at point guard.

Jones isn't the only newcomer Rapp is looking forward to testing next month. Lisa Langston, a freshman from Dallas Spruce, and Felice Lewis another transfer student from McLennan, should add speed and quickness to the team, Rapp said.

"Lisa has excellent jumping ability," Rapp said. "She can jump as high as anybody on the team right now and she's only about 5-9."

The Aggie Ladies will have experience at the forward positions, as 5-9 senior Lynette Joiner and 5-11 senior Kelly Krauskopf will return to fill those spots.

Joiner had a good spring training, Rapp said, but she's been injured for the past two or three weeks, and her role will be determined by how well she comes off the injury.

Rapp described Krauskopf as an "excellent shooter." She finished fourth on the team in the total points category with 178 last season, averaging slightly more than six points a game.

Krauskopf said she's anxious to start the new season and test

the new offense. She said the team has been working on the fast break offense for three days and she can see that it's going to work.

Rapp said team enthusiasm should be higher this year, partly due to the excitement of competing in the Southwest Conference.

"We wind up now playing every team in the conference and we have a conference championship to work for, whereas before that, we played for a state championship," she said. "It wasn't really the same."

But Rapp will have her hands full with competition from perennial power Texas as well as Houston, Baylor and possibly SMU, she said.

Rapp said several teams the Aggie Ladies will play prior to conference action should be more than adequate competition for preparation purposes. Kansas State, Delta State, Nevada-Las Vegas and Tulane are some of the teams that will give Rapp's squad early tough tests.

Texas A&M opens its season Nov. 12 against Southwestern in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Texas A&M's Lynette Joiner pulls up her dribble in a game with Baylor last season as the Bears' Jackie Valentine defends. Joiner and the Aggie Ladies will open their season Nov. 12 in hopes of improving the 9-20 record of last year. Coach Cherri Rapp plans to bring a new-look quickness to her squad this year.

Women's volleyball squad set for No. 9 Texas

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor
Coach Terry Condon says she's looking for a close, exciting match when her Texas A&M women's volleyball squad takes the floor against the University of Texas tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

And if the competition between the two teams in the 1981 season is any indicator, she's right.

When the Aggies and Longhorns met in 1981, Texas won both matches on its way to a 60-6-1 season and an AIAW Division I national championship.

In the first match, played in Austin, the Longhorns defeated Texas A&M 15-8, 15-11, 9-15, 15-7. In match No. 2, played in the coliseum, UT won 15-9, 15-10, 13-15, 16-6 in the Aggie Ladies' last match of the regular season.

Whereas the Longhorns competed in the AIAW last season, the Aggies played within the NCAA and advanced to the second round of the national tournament before losing to No. 1-ranked Hawaii. This year, both teams are competing for the Southwest Conference title and both teams are nationally ranked after the first month of the season.

UT enters tonight's matchup with a 14-10 record and ranked No. 9 in the country and the Aggies start the evening 16-4 and ranked No. 16.

Texas A&M, which won its first seven matches of the season before losing four straight in the Nebraska Invitational Sept. 24-25, has won nine straight after sweeping past seven opponents in the LSU tournament over the weekend. In addition, the Aggie Ladies have won their first two conference matches in topping Rice 16-14, 15-6, 17-15 and Houston 9-15, 15-9, 15-5 and 15-9.

Texas A&M defeated South Alabama,

Nicholls State, Sam Houston State, Memphis State, Kentucky once each and beat LSU twice in the LSU tournament.

The Aggie Ladies' Joey Vrazel has a .461 hitting percentage to lead the SWC, and teammate Jennifer Giese follows with a .333 percentage. Vrazel is averaging 11.5 kills a game to lead the league, and Giese has averaged nine kills a game. Freshman Sherri Brinkman has averaged four blocks a game.

Condon said she's satisfied with the team's performance, even with the four losses in the Nebraska tourney.

"We've been playing well for the last couple

of weeks," she said. "We were sort of in an early slump for a while, but now we're playing much better."

"We played well in the LSU tournament. There weren't any real strong, nationally ranked teams there, but I think that no matter who we played, we would have won it."

"We didn't play too well against Rice," Condon said, "but against Houston, the players just got mad and blew them away."

The Longhorns, who lost several matches in the San Jose State Invitational Sept. 24-25, defeated Texas Tech Monday night for their first conference victory.

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