

Duckham says Aggie Ladies peaking

Basketball teams ready for Baylor

by John P. Lopez  
Battalion Staff

When the Aggie Ladies take to the hardwood tonight to battle Baylor, Janet Duckham won't be in the middle for Texas A&M. A new and improved Duckham will be battling the Bears.

At least that's what the 6-1 center-forward is hoping for. Duckham started the year in grand fashion, scoring and rebounding with ease, but lately Duckham's game has been reflecting the Aggie Ladies' overall game — inconsistent, inconsistent, inconsistent.

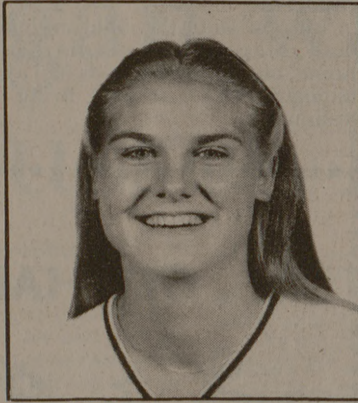
But Duckham said the misfortunes of both her and her teammates should change against the Bears.

"It's hard to understand or figure out," Duckham said. "This team has so much talent, but sometimes things just don't seem to work out for us. But I think we're all starting to push back up to the top."

"Since I was a freshman I've been improving every day, but right now I'm in a slump. I'm hoping I'll get things back together against Baylor. We all encourage each other and things are really starting to look up. Baylor better be prepared for us because we're sure prepared for them."

Despite the Aggie Ladies' recent inconsistent play, Duckham said a win over Baylor should start Texas A&M on a winning track — to the Southwest Conference tournament.

"Baylor's a key game as far as the tournament goes," Duckham said. "Lately things haven't



Duckham says Aggies are ready to chase top teams

been clicking for us, but a win over them will sure help us. I think we have the potential to do a lot in the tournament."

The Aggie Ladies, Duckham said, perhaps have the second best team talent-wise in the conference behind Texas, but bad breaks have kept Texas A&M

from playing the way they are capable.

"I think we can beat Texas if we really work hard and have a good game," she said. "When we beat Houston (Feb. 5), it opened our eyes to how good we can be. We all said, 'Hey, we are good enough to play with them.'"

After the Aggie Ladies defeated Houston, Texas A&M lost their very next game to Rice — a team not considered to be a basketball powerhouse. Duckham said the Rice loss was disheartening, but lately the Aggie Ladies are getting untracked in practice.

"We've had real good practices and I honestly think our time is here. It's like we've all been studying for a big test and the test is finally here and we're ready for it."

Whether or not the Aggie Ladies defeat Baylor tonight, Duckham, no doubt, is a stellar force in the middle of the Texas A&M offense when she's playing to her fullest potential. And

Duckham's attitude gives one the impression that all the other teams in the conference better get their shots in now while they can because when Duckham reaches her peak, heads will roll.

"I just think we're starting to build a great program here," she said. "I think we can beat everybody in the Southwest Conference if we set our minds to it."

The Aggie Ladies will take on

the Bears at 5:15 p.m. today before the men take on the Baylor men's team at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Should the men's team defeat Baylor, the Aggies will take over sole possession of fourth place in the SWC behind Houston, Arkansas and TCU. Texas A&M is currently locked in a tie for fourth with Texas Tech.

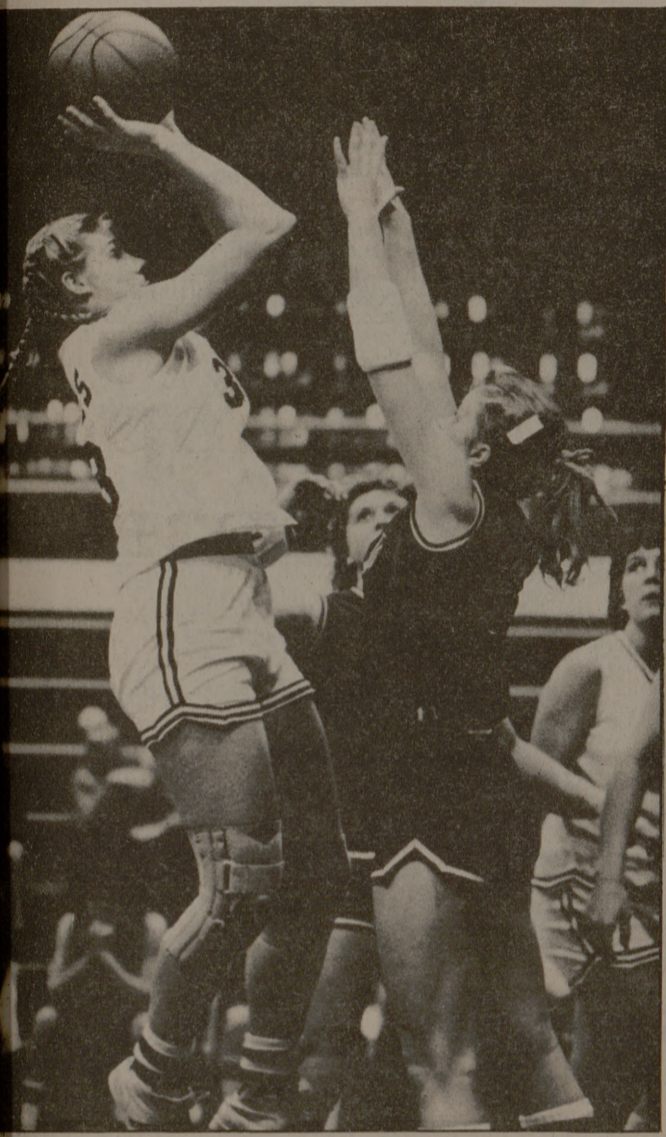


photo by Greg Watermann

Janet Duckham eyes the basket in a recent Aggie Lady game with the University of Houston. Duckham and her teammates hope to beat Baylor tonight at G. Rollie White Coliseum to get back on the winning track. The Aggie Ladies' tipoff is at 5:15 p.m. and the men's game with Baylor follows at 7:30.



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