

SPORTS

Hoyas feel new pressure

Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Before the season began, Georgetown basketball Coach John Thompson wondered, "If we're as good as everyone says, why don't they cancel the season and just give us the trophy?"

Now that his No. 1-ranked Hoyas have proven to be mere mortals by losing a game, 66-65 to No. 3 St. John's at the Capital Centre Saturday, Thompson was asked if the snapping of the 29-game winning streak lessened the pressure.

"Losing never helped me do anything," said Thompson, whose team won the NCAA crown last year. "Pressure has been a lifestyle with us because we'd really gotten accustomed to winning. I don't know what effect it's going to have on us."

The Hoyas, 18-1 overall and 7-1 in the Big East Conference this season, have had close games with all the tougher Big East teams, beating both Boston College and Villanova in overtime, but few doubt the Hoyas won't be around Final Four time.

If there's any weakness in the Georgetown armor, it's the Hoyas' free-throw shooting which now stands at a woeful 59 percent after hitting only 11 of 22 against the Redmen.

After trailing by 18 points with 12:04 remaining, Georgetown cut the deficit to 59-51, but the free-throw weakness again cost them dearly. Bill Martin missed two one-and-one situations and Patrick Ewing blew two free throws.

Michael Jackson missed two free throws later in the contest.

A free throw by St. John's Chris Mullin with 25 seconds left stood as the margin of victory, raising the Redmen's record to 15-1, 7-0.

The last team to beat the Hoyas before Saturday was St. John's 75-71, also at the Capital Centre, last February. "A phenomenon, an unusual thing," St. John's coach Lou Carnesecca said.

The two teams meet again at Madison Square Garden Feb. 23.

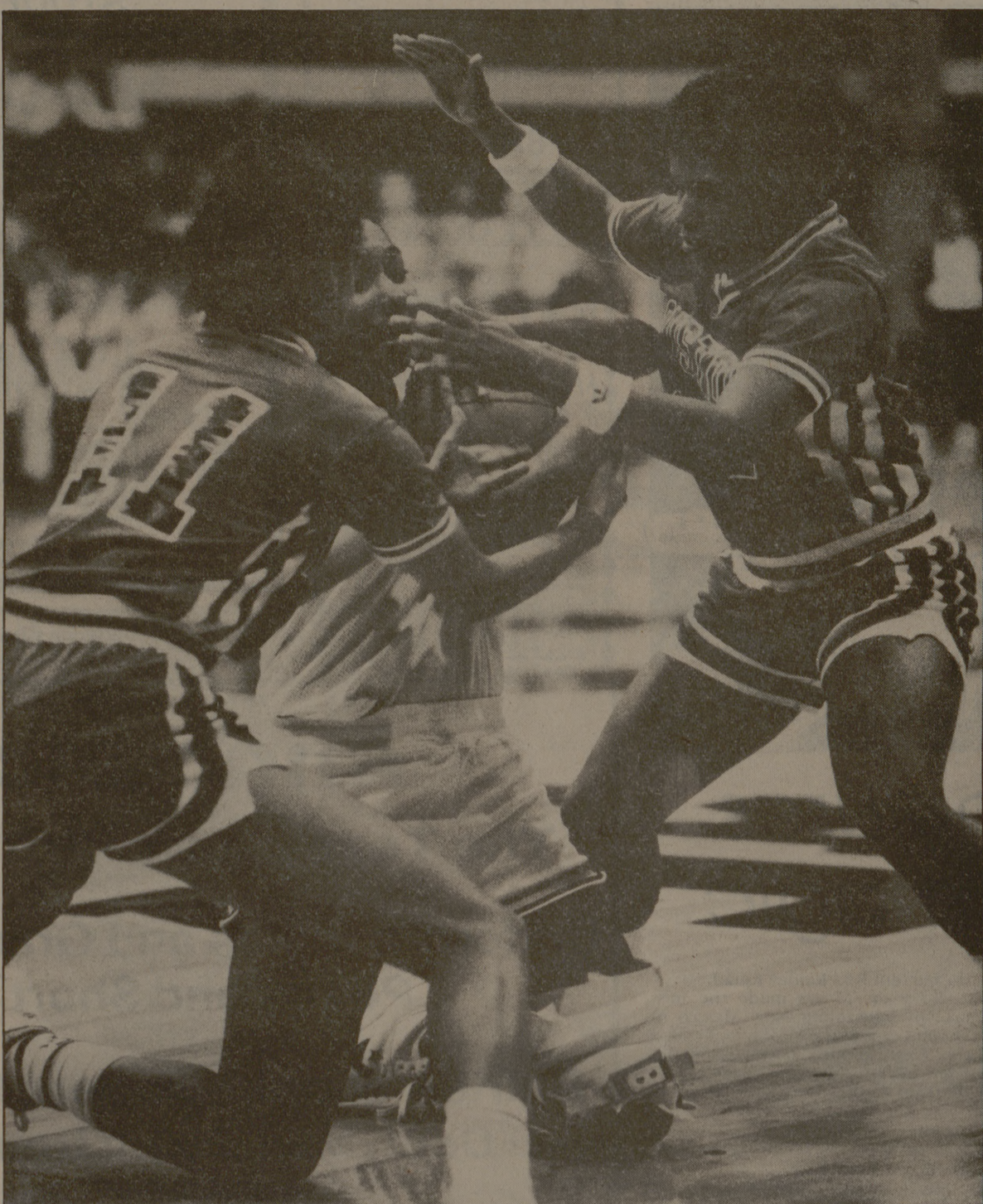


Photo by DEAN SAITO

A&M's Michell Tatum is brought to her knees by the pressure defense of Houston

guards Barbara Anderson (left) and Sylvia Owens (right). The Ags beat the Coogs 63-62.

SWC table set; Aggies hungry

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

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After slaughtering a Lamb and a few Cougars, the Texas A&M women hoopsters will go out for a snack tonight — Rice Krispies. Eat 'em up.

The Aggies will be gunning for their second straight Southwest Conference victory tonight when they battle the Rice Owls at Autry Court in Houston at 7 p.m. Saturday night, the Aggies (9-8, 2-5 in SWC) upset the other Houston team, the Cougars, 63-62.

Now that's something to hoot about.

After almost beating two teams in the Top 20, Texas and Texas Tech, A&M finally put all the parts together and came up with a win.

A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said the win over Houston was a big lift for the Aggies.

"I knew with the way we had been playing, the wins were coming," Hickey said. "That game might be a blessing in disguise. We can't sit back now. I hope (the win over Houston) makes them that much more hungry."

Aggie forward Jenni Edgar, who scored 17 points against Houston, moved within 6 points of becoming A&M's career scoring leader. The senior from Dallas Bryan Adams High School now has 1,010 career points and is looking to pass Cindy Gough (1975-79) and Kelley Sullivan (1978-82) in the record books.

Hickey said Edgar has been a big reason for the Ags' recent success.

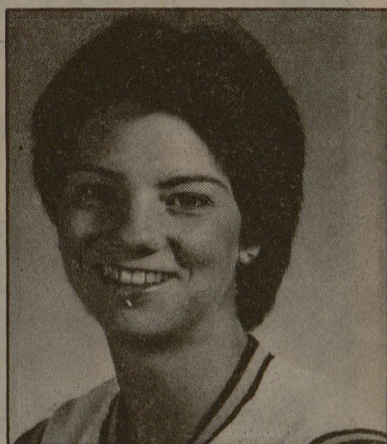
"Edgar has really played well," Hickey said. "I'm glad she's so positive. When she's on, the whole team gets a lift."

The record might be broken next season by junior forward Lisa Langston, who is averaging 18.3 points per game.

Outside threats Langston and Edgar have been helped with the Ags' inside game of late.

"It's good to have inside and outside threats," Hickey said. "That has helped our team look a lot better the past few weeks."

The Aggies outrebounded the taller Longhorns and Red Raiders, but 6-foot-5 Cougar Monica Lamb put a stop to that. The Coogs outre-



A&M's Jenni Edgar

bounded the Ags 41-39 and Lamb, with her 10 blocked shots, extinguished the Aggies inside game.

"Michell (Tatum) got in foul trouble real quick," Hickey said. "That hurt our inside game. Rice does not have the quickness of Houston so our inside game should be more of a factor."

Hickey was especially pleased with the play of center Ann Trinka who aided the Ags when Tatum got in foul trouble.

"Ann Trinka is in a situation where she might go two or three games without playing," Hickey said. "And then she's called upon and she performs. I just can't say enough about the job she has done."

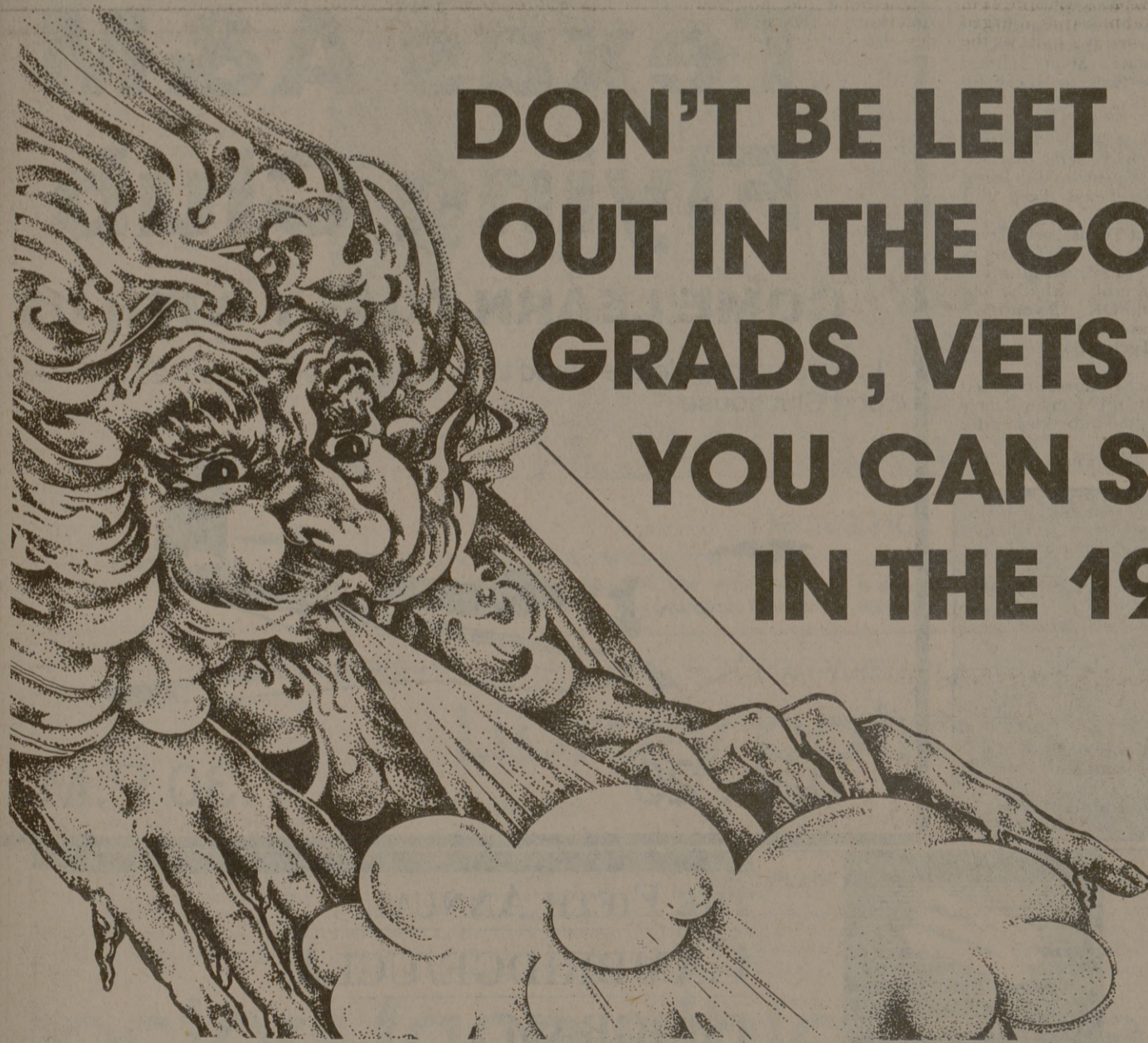
Trinka and friends will be tested on the boards again this time by Rice freshman Edith Adams.

However, the Owls are basically a one-player team, Hickey said.

"They're not real strong," Hickey said of the Owls (4-11, 2-3). "One player, Holly Jones (who is averaging 16.1 points per game), does everything for them. They're just good, hard working kids. They don't have a lot of natural athletes, but they're a scrappy bunch."

"If anyone's hungry for a victory, it's Rice. When you're playing a bunch like that on their home floor, you're in dangerous territory."

After the Longhorns, Raiders and Cougars, it'll probably be fun for A&M to put some Snap, Crackle, Pop into the win column.



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