

# SPORTS

## No time for Lady Ags to rest against Baylor

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M women's basketball team doesn't seem to know the meaning of the word "rest."

The Aggies returned from Arkansas late Sunday night after a 75-65 defeat. Monday, the Aggies practiced and watched game films of the Razorback loss. Tuesday, the team had a hard practice.

Tonight it's back to the hardwoods for yet another game.

At 5:15 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum, the Ags will take on the Baylor Bears, who are only a game ahead of the Ags in the Southwest Conference standings.

For the Aggies (10-9, 3-6 in SWC) it's a good chance to gain some ground on the conference front-runners.

"It's an important game," said A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey. "You've got to win the home games. We're close to several teams in the conference. If we beat a few of these teams, we could move into the fifth spot."

The Aggies have been playing some tough games as of late. And Hickey said Baylor will be no exception.

"Baylor may have some of the finest athletes in the conference. They have good size and can really jump. They have an outside and an inside game."

"Their biggest problem is that they haven't been consistent. We've got to play our hardest and our best. We have to try to intimidate them and control the game. They are so quick; we don't want to get in a running game with them."

Ann Trinka, the Aggies' sixth man, could see a lot more playing time against Baylor. Trinka led the Ags with six rebounds and had a season-high 16 points against Arkansas last Saturday.

Center Michelle Tatum injured her shoulder against Arkansas and is

a probable starter. Tatum may only limited action against the Bears.

Hickey said the Ags haven't made a decision on the final starting line-up, but feel comfortable with Trinka in the game.

"We may move Ann (Trinka) into the starting line-up," Hickey said. "You just never know whether a kid will perform better coming off the bench or starting. The people she would be replacing have done a fine job, so you don't want to jump that either."

"I don't think Michell's injury is serious, but she will miss two days of practice. That might hurt her a little bit. Thank goodness Ann has started to play well."

One of the Aggies biggest problems has been offensive consistency.

One night, Jenni Edgar will carry the team with her perimeter shooting and another night Lisa Langston will be controlling the inside. Other nights someone else will enter to save the Aggies, ala a Beth Young jumper at the buzzer to beat Rice in Houston last week.

And then some nights, none of the Aggies are hitting.

"We've been waiting for them to all be hitting on the same night," Hickey said. "If we ever get that consistency, there aren't many teams that will beat us. But, we're still waiting for it. With only nine games left, there's not much more time to wait."

Hickey said she was pleased with the progress and dedication the senior-laden team has shown.

"They have worked hard," Hickey said. "I feel good about the things they have done. It's just hard to go through that and not get the success on the scoreboard."

Tonight, the Aggies are hoping to feel that unknown feeling of success. If the Ags defeat the Bears, they will have won three out of their last four games — a giant step for the women's program in only Hickey's first season.

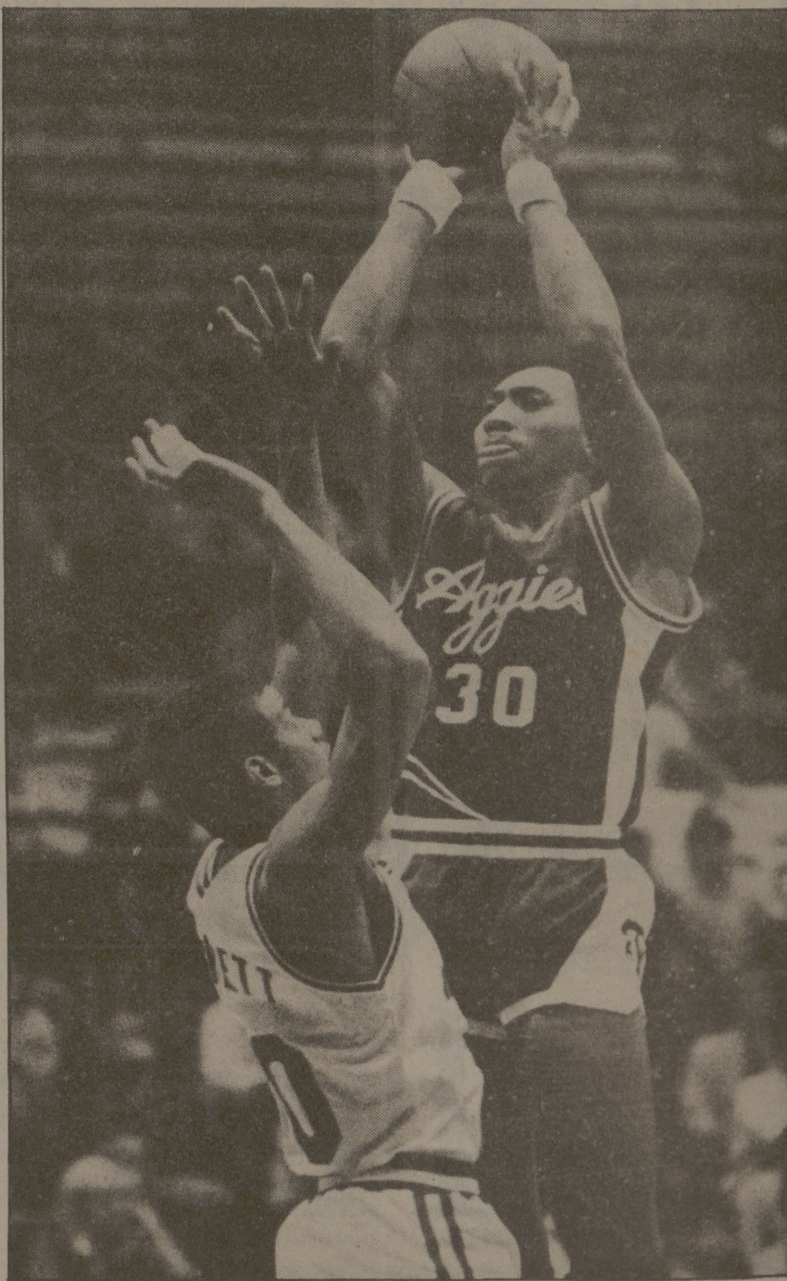


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M's Jimmie Gilbert (30) shoots a jumper over the top of Rice's Tony Barnett during the Aggies' victory over the Owls last week in Houston. A&M will meet another struggling SWC foe tonight in the form of the Baylor Bears.

## A&M can't elude last-place Bears

By BRANDON BERRY  
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's basketball team hopes to avoid a fire and brimstone baptism by the last-place Baylor Bears at 7:30 tonight in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"(Baylor's) a real quick team," said Aggie Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf. "They have some tremendous athletes and have been playing real well in their last three games."

"They've just been playing the wrong teams."

The Bears come into the game having lost in overtime to the Arkansas Razorbacks last Wednesday. Their one conference win of the season, over Rice in Houston last Sunday, followed a strong performance against the Houston Cougars.

Baylor really has been playing well against the good teams. So why are they in last place in the Southwest Conference?

Following a 7-2 record to start the season, the Bears lost their next eight games, six of which were SWC contests. Baylor still ranks as one of the highest scoring teams in the nation, but their weaknesses frequently resulted in the other team finishing with just a few more points when the final buzzer sounded.

Until recently, that is. "They're a lot less of a gambling team on defense than they were ear-

lier in the year," Metcalf said. "They still lead the conference steals."

"They really do have some tremendous athletes."

And some very inexperienced ones. Their leading scorer, Carlos Briggs, is a junior who transferred and their next two scorers, guards Michael Williams and Eric Johnson, are freshmen.

So why should the Aggies be scared of a team long on offense and short on defense?

"This game is important to us just because it's the next one," Metcalf said, "but also because we need a win right now. That loss to Arkansas really hurt us and we need to play well against Baylor. The sure to play well against us."

Hopefully for the Aggies, not enough to spoil Metcalf's chance of recording his 200th SWC victory over A&M. That milestone eluded Metcalf last Friday night in the friendly confines of Barnhill in Arkansas.

Metcalf wants a win for the Ags. The team wants a win for Metcalf.

Maybe Baylor will find it a heart to oblige.

### Texas A&M Sportsday

#### Men's Basketball

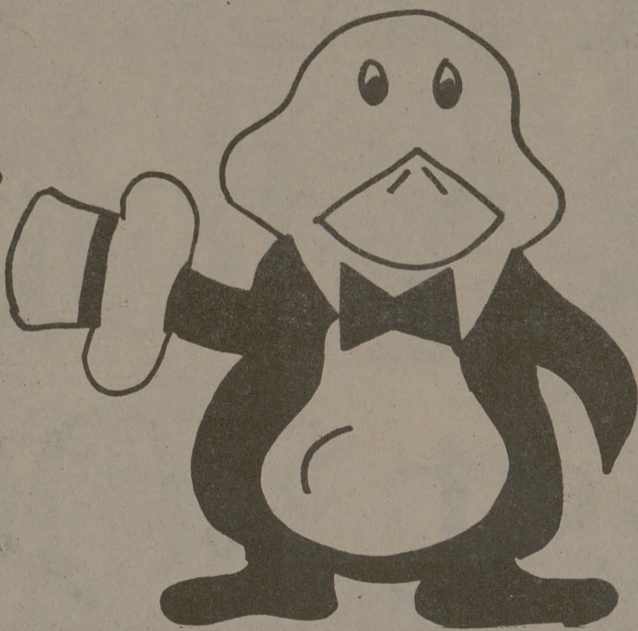
Ags (14-6, 6-3 in SWC) vs. Baylor (8-11, 1-7 in SWC)  
G. Rollie White Coliseum — 7:30 p.m.

#### Women's Basketball

Ags (10-9, 3-6 in SWC) vs. Baylor (8-9, 3-5 in SWC)  
G. Rollie White Coliseum — 5:15 p.m.

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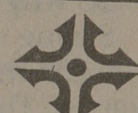
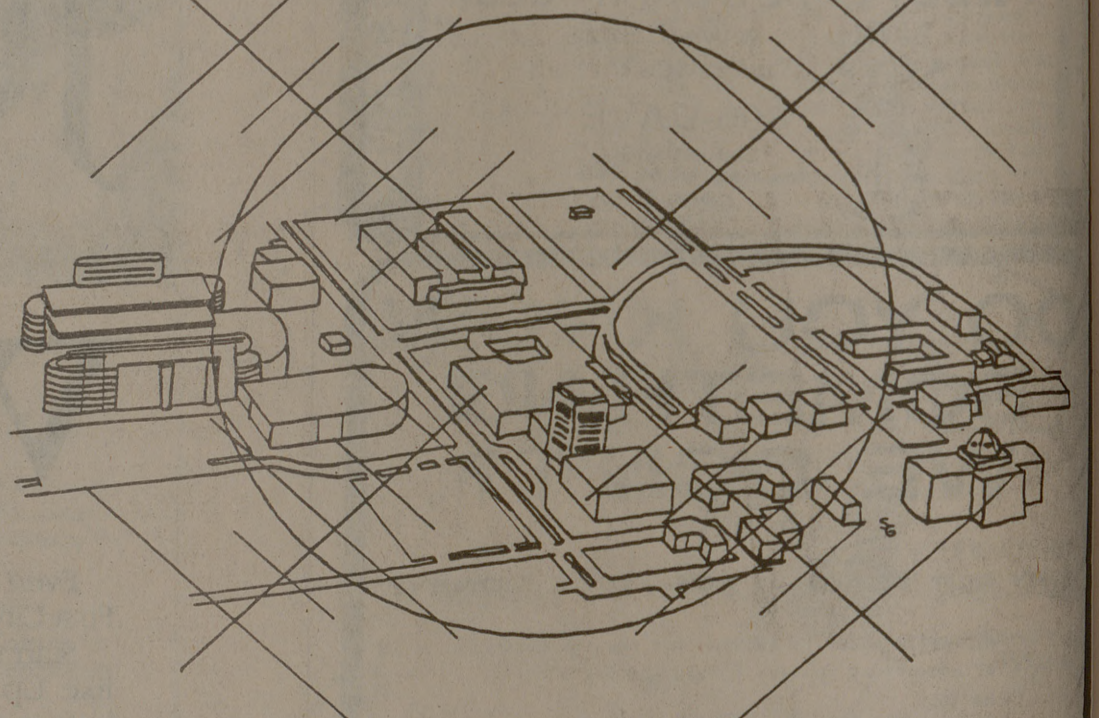
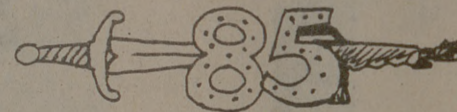
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