

SPORTS

Langston dreaming of '88 Olympic gold

By **CHAREAN WILLIAMS**
Assistant Sports Editor

Everyone dreams of Olympic gold, but few experience the feeling.

Texas A&M forward Lisa Langston dreams of the feeling, but, unlike most, she had a chance to experience it.

Langston was one of 106 players invited to try out for the 1984 Olympic team. Although she didn't make the final cut, Langston was thrilled just to get a chance to make the team.

"It was a great experience," Langston said. "I got to see (USC All-America) Cheryl Miller and the rest. That was the greatest thing I got out of going. It was really exciting."

Langston said she made a fatal mistake when trying out for the team.

"I tried out for forward," Langston said. "I should have been an off-guard. It was hard for me, being 5-foot-8 and having to guard (USC All-America) Pam McGee."

"I didn't really go up there with the best attitude either. I can't say I had a bad attitude, but I was just kind of passive."

Langston, a junior, returned to A&M an improved player.

Last season, Langston was named to the All-Southwest Conference team, averaging 16.8 points and 6.5 rebounds per game.

This season, those statistics are looking even better.

Try these numbers on for size — 18.6 points and 7.7 rebounds per game.

However, Langston said she isn't satisfied with her performance this season.

"I'm not really pleased," Langston said. "On paper everything looks great. There are a lot of things I wish I could do better — passing and defense. Those things don't show up in the statistics."

"I can score 31 points and not play good and the points don't really matter."

Langston said the Aggies (10-11, 3-7 in SWC) have improved since Lynn Hickey took over the



A&M's Lisa Langston

head coaching job at the beginning of the season.

"We have definitely improved since the beginning of the season," Langston said. "It was a combination of us changing toward (Hickey) and her changing toward us. It has been a two-way street. She realized what we were capable of and we tried to give her what she wanted."

Although the Aggies are losing six players to graduation, including three starters, they should be a better team because of Hickey's recruiting, Langston said.

"We should be much improved," Langston said. "She is going after the quality athlete. There is a big difference between a good athlete and one that has all the fundamentals."

"If we get just half the players they're going after, we'll have a good team. With good players and a good coach, there is always the potential for a great team."

Langston said as far as this season, she has been especially pleased with the Aggies' dedication.

"If I had to choose one thing I've been most pleased with, it would be the hard work we've put in," she said. "We really work hard in practice and at the end of every game. We never give up no matter what the situation."

Langston was an All-American athlete at H. Grady Spruce High School in Dallas. She lettered in

four sports and actually received more attention in track.

"My school wasn't really known for basketball," Langston said. "I only received letters from A&M, Baylor and SMU. When (former A&M) Coach Rapp saw me the first time, she was actually recruiting a girl named Fran Harris."

"I was an All-American in track, but I wasn't even interested in running track in college. I got offers from Nebraska and schools like that. Sometimes I think about just going out there and running, just to see how I could do."

Langston, who got the name Leggs in high school, was influenced by her mother in the decision to attend A&M.

"This was the only school I visited," Langston said. "I was real shy, so my mother did most of the talking. She loved the campus and we knew educationally it was a great school. We were thinking education first."

"My mother's pretty right about most things. If my mother says it's right then it's usually right."

Professional basketball is a possibility for Langston following graduation.

"I don't know whether there will be a league in the U.S.," Langston said. "It's questionable right now. I might go overseas and play. It just depends on how I feel when I graduate. I will finish my degree before I do anything."

Coaching women's collegiate basketball is also a possibility for the physical education major.

"If I get a good coaching job after graduation, I will snap it up," Langston said. "Working with Coach Hickey will help me. She's well known in women's basketball."

Still, she just can't give up the thought of Olympic gold.

"If I play overseas, I will still be eligible for the '88 Olympics," Langston said. "I will be 24 years old. I figure I will still be a spring chicken."



Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M's Lisa Langston (14) puts up a shot against Miami (Fla.) Saturday night. Langston leads the Ags in scoring.

St. John's remains in top spots

Associated Press

St. John's and Georgetown remained No. 1 and 2, respectively. The Associated Press college basketball poll Monday, while the rest of the Top Twenty swapped places.

After a week of upsets, the fight was for No. 3, where Michigan became the top challenger to the Big East powers.

St. John's received 63 of 64 first-place votes and 1,279 points from the nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters. The Rednecks are currently on the nation's longest Division I winning streak — 11 games — and they set a Big East Conference record with Saturday's 70-68 decision over Villanova, consecutive league victories.

Georgetown, which received the other first-place vote, was runner-up on every other ballot to finish with 1,217 points.

Michigan, 18-3, which had beaten No. 8, made the week's biggest gain and finished third in the voting with 1,044 points. The Wolverines beat Big Ten foes Purdue and Illinois last week.

Oklahoma, 19-4, jumped from seventh last week to fourth with 907 points, while Memphis State, which received just five points less, fell from third to fifth. The Tigers suffered just their second loss of the season last weekend when they were beaten by Kansas 75-71 on the road.

Georgia Tech, 18-4, moved from 10th to sixth with 929 points after registering Atlantic Coast Conference victories over Duke and Wake Forest last week. Duke, 17-4, was next with 920 points, while Syracuse, 8-15, Southern Methodist, 7-11, and Kansas, 7-17, rounded out the Top Ten.

Southern Methodist fell from last week's No. 4 ranking after suffering road losses to Arkansas, 69-66, and North Carolina State, 82-78 in one time.

Iowa led the Second Ten, followed by Louisiana Tech, North Carolina, Nevada-Las Vegas, Tulsa, Villanova, Illinois, Oregon State, Alabama-Birmingham and Maryland.

Last week, the Second Ten included Nevada-Las Vegas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana Tech, North Carolina, Oregon State, Tulsa, DePaul, Villanova and Maryland.

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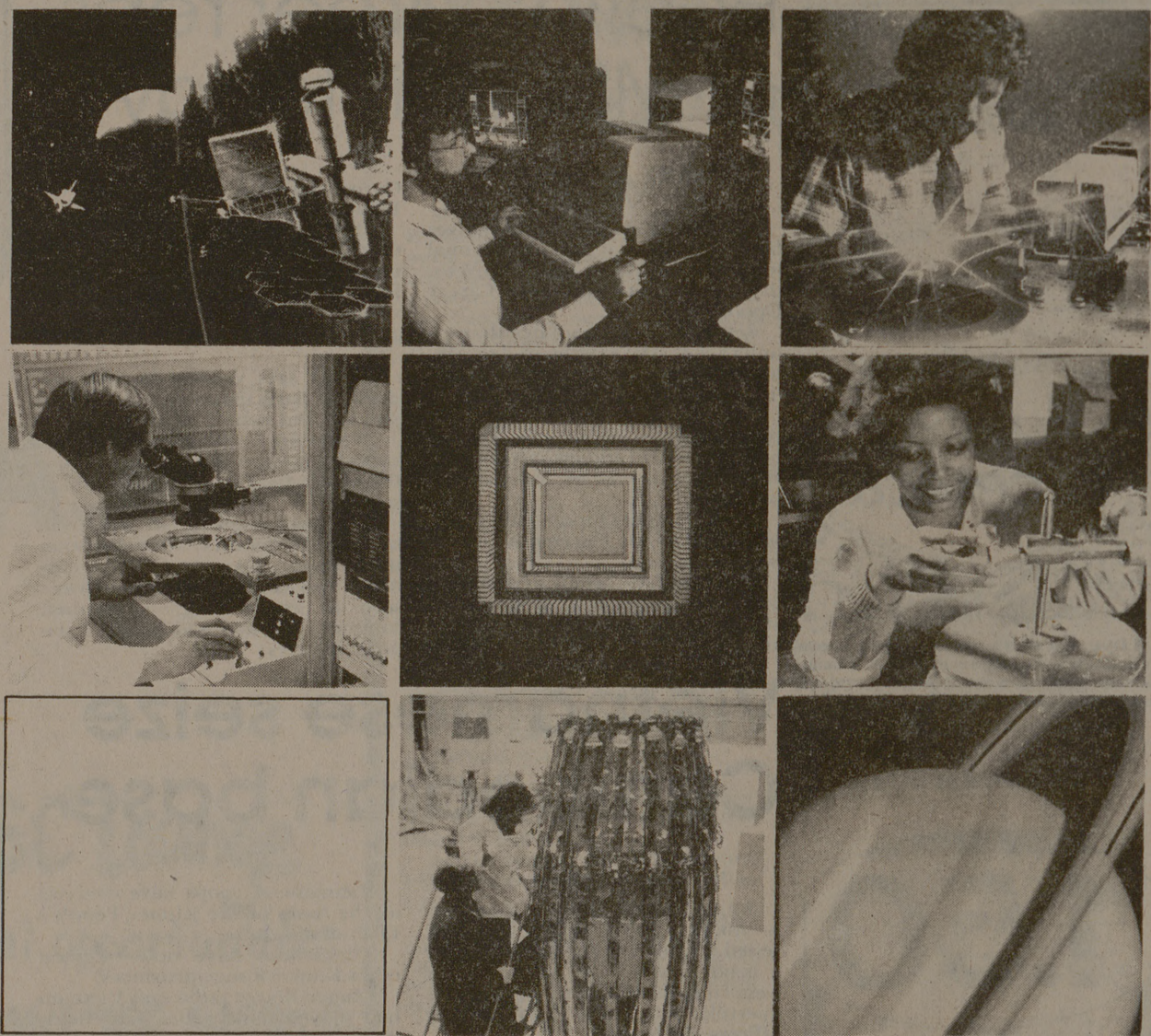
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