

SPORTS

Gymnasts to sponsor TGA meet

By **MARCY BASILE**
Sports Writer

They fly through the air with the greatest of ease. Only they fly without the usual trapeze.

The Texas A&M Gymnastic Club, the proverbial "they," are sponsoring a men's gymnastic meet tomorrow starting at 2 p.m. at Aerofit. Along with the Aggies are teams from Texas, Texas Tech and Texas-Arlington, along with several recent local high school graduates.

Competing teams are all members of the Texas Gymnastics Association (TGA), which is composed of 15 teams. Members of the association are from schools across Texas which have club teams instead of NCAA teams.

Although A&M practices in East Kyle, the meet is being held at Aerofit, located at the corner of FM 2818 and Villa Maria.

The A&M gymnastics team is open for both men and women. The workout room boasts men's and women's event apparatus, but there are more men involved than women.

"Our club is open to anyone that goes to school here," said Grant Lauderdale, president of the team. "It doesn't matter whether they've never seen a gymnastics meet, or even a mat, before. They can come up and try something."

Dues for the club are \$10 for non-competing members and \$12 for competitors. Snyder and Lauderdale don't mind paying the extra bucks though since they work almost 20 hours every week.

Lauderdale's specialty is the men's all-around competition. Men's all-around competitors must be well versed on all six of the men's events — rings, pommel horse, parallel bars, high bar, floor exercise and vault.

"The pommel horse is the most difficult of the six events," said Lauderdale as he shot the horse dirty looks. "All the other events use natural movements, like swings. The whole idea behind the pommel horse (another dirty look) is unnatural."

If you get a chance, mosey out to Aerofit and watch the men tackle the pommel horse and the other events.

Ags wearing heart on Frogs' sleeve

By **CHAREAN WILLIAMS**
Assistant Sports Editor

Heartbreak, disappointment and despair are all good words to describe the Texas A&M basketball team's feelings Thursday afternoon.

"Disappointment would be a good word," said Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf.

Heartbreak on Valentine's Day? For the Aggies, Cupid arrived a day late. A&M fell two points short of taking sole possession of first place in the Southwest Conference.

Behind by 17 points at halftime, the Ags rallied and with only 29 seconds remaining had the ball and a chance to tie.

However, Todd Holloway's off-balance 20-foot jumper bounced off the rim and the Ags went home where they started — second place.

"Don (Marbury) had fouled out, so we wanted to get the ball to Kenny (Brown)," Metcalf said. "I think they knew we wanted Kenny to shoot the ball."

"I tell you what, Kenny Brown is a great money player. He's good all the time, but he is great at money time."

The Aggies must quickly recover from the heartbreak and try to rebound against TCU at 7:35 p.m. Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"TCU's won six out of their last seven," Metcalf said. "They're the hottest team in the SWC right now."

A&M can't afford to wear its heart on its sleeve against TCU. If the Ags want to stay in the chase after the first-place Stangs, they must contain

the Horned Frogs' outside shooters, especially All-SWC guard Dennis Nutt.

"They have the best perimeter shooting team in the conference, although you had to be impressed with SMU's perimeter shooting in the first half (when the Mustangs made 75 percent of their shots)," Metcalf said.

Metcalf said if the opportunity arises, the Aggies will look inside for more scoring.

"We always like to go inside," Metcalf said. "Winston (Crite) is really coming on. He is getting better all the time."

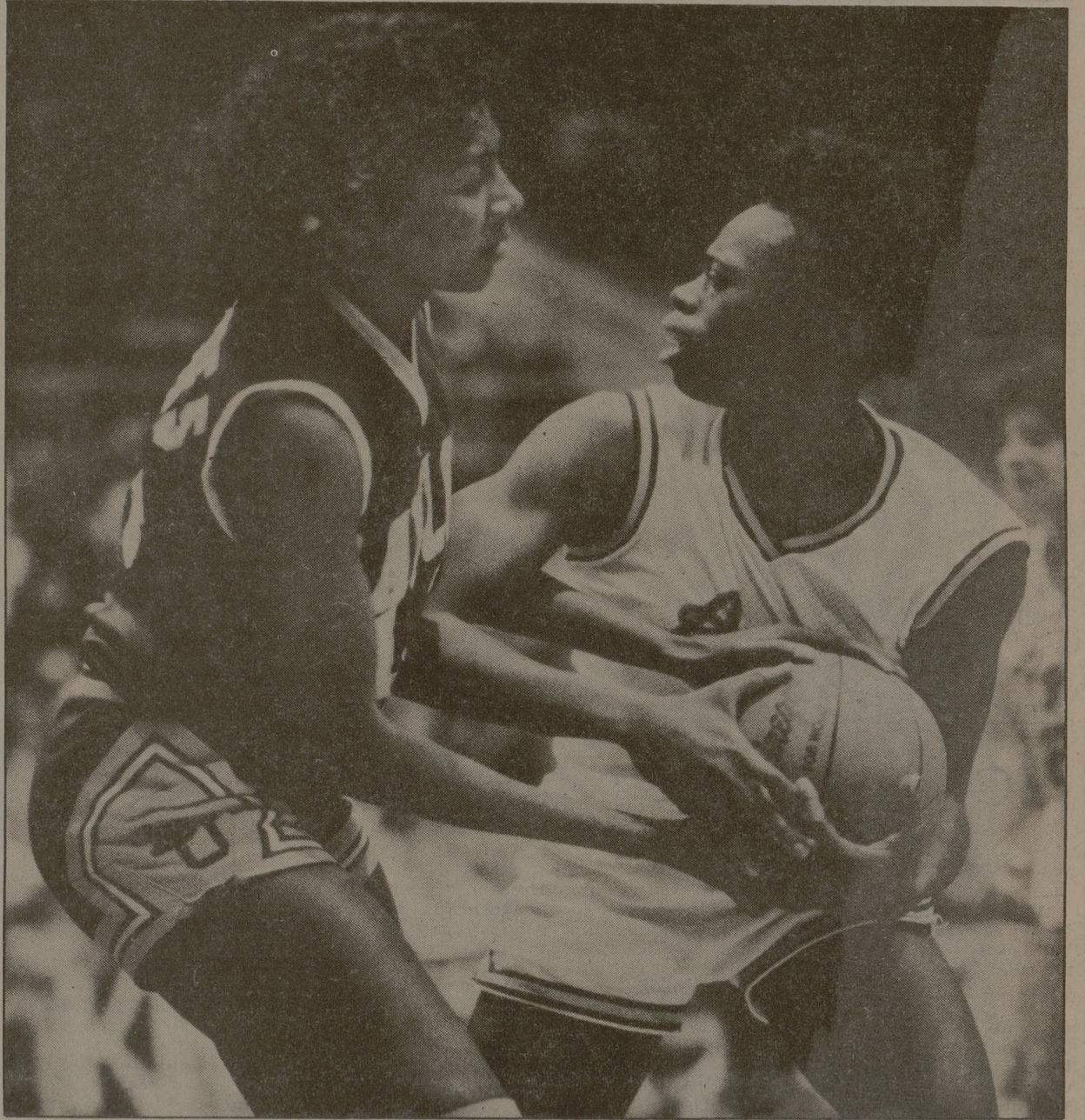
"They've been playing a lot of man defense. They used to only play zone. It really depends on what defense they use and what they will give us."

Metcalf said the Ags still have a shot at not only the SWC championship, but an NCAA or NIT postseason bid.

"They have got to be disappointed," Metcalf said of his players. "They have bounced back all year. It's out of our hands now though."

"We were in a position going into Dallas where if we won the rest of our games, we would be the champions. We don't know what's going to happen. There are still seeds in the (SWC) tournament at stake and we need to win as many as possible to get an NCAA or NIT bid."

If the Ags don't lose again, a NCAA bid is theirs for the asking. The asking begins Saturday against TCU.



Lisa Langston (right) is A&M's leading scorer and rebounder going in to Saturday's

TCU game. Above, Langston tries to keep a Baylor defender from tying up the ball.

TCU win puts Ag Ladies in tournament picture

By **CHAREAN WILLIAMS**
Assistant Sports Editor

The biggest win in Lynn Hickey's first year at Texas A&M arrived Wednesday night when the Aggies left Dallas with a 77-69 win over SMU.

The win moved the Ags ahead of the Mustangs into sixth place in the Southwest Conference and into the driver's seat for a SWC post-season bid.

For Hickey, the win was an especially sweet one.

"It was a big, big win," Hickey said. "It proves we have a good team

and we haven't given up."

A&M forward Lisa Langston, who led the Ags with 33 points, said she knew they could and would defeat the Mustangs.

"We needed it and we got it," Langston said. "We knew all along we could beat SMU. We had a real positive attitude going in. We really knew from the start we had the game."

Langston said she had something to prove against the Mustangs.

"The last time we played SMU, their coach told the players not to guard me because I couldn't shoot

from the outside. I guess I had scored all my points against them from the inside before. I felt like I had something to prove against them."

"When I went out to warm-up, I had a good feeling. It was just one of those nights."

The Aggies get another big test Saturday at 5:15 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum against the TCU Horned Frogs.

The Aggies must get the expected wins against TCU and Rice in order to keep the No. 6 spot and the SWC bid that goes with that territory.

"The big key for us now is that we have to beat TCU and Rice," Hickey said. "And it would be nice to get some insurance by beating either Houston or Tech."

Langston agreed with Hickey saying A&M's victory over SMU would be all for naught if it loses to either TCU or Rice.

"Right now those are games we have to win," Langston said. "If we pick up a Houston or Tech it would be nice. We aren't going to blow off the other teams, but we won't overlook those two teams. We're just going to take them one at a time."

If the Aggies hope to advance past the regular season, they must play as well as they did against the Mustangs.

"I think the SMU game was one game we really played as a team," Langston said. "We never did give up on each other. Our scoring was really balanced and the guards did a good job of passing the ball. It was an all-around team effort."

A team effort is what it will take to hang onto the No. 6 spot in the SWC, a goal that has the Aggies thinking post-season play.

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