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# Ags hover over sacrificial 'Lamb'

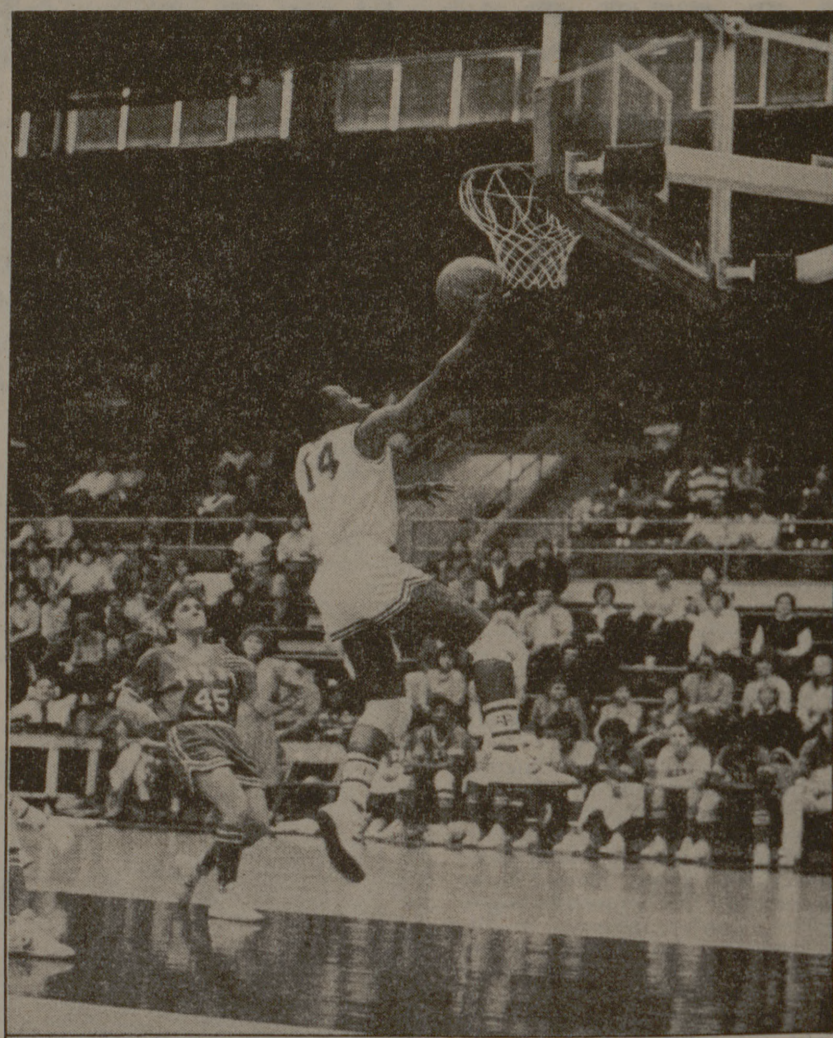


Photo by TONY CASPER

Texas A&M forward Lisa Langston (14) makes an easy layup against Texas last Wednesday. The Aggies (12-13, 5-9 in SWC) are hoping for a lot of easy layups when they take on Houston (20-6, 10-4) tonight at 4:30 in Hofheinz Pavilion.

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M women's basketball team seems to be finally catching on to Coach Lynn Hickey's style of play.

The Aggies have come to life in the last two weeks and seem to be ready to challenge almost any team in the Southwest Conference.

Against No. 19 Texas Tech Saturday, the Ags almost pulled a major upset before falling 77-69. Hickey said her Aggies finally come together.

"If they're the No. 19 team in the country, maybe we don't have as far to go as we thought," said Hickey after the game.

The Aggie Ladies will get a chance to advance even higher on Hickey's totem pole when they take on Houston at Hofheinz Pavilion Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

The first time the teams met, the encounter was a pleasant one for the Aggies. The Cougars fell asleep early and slept through the entire contest like a "Lamb" — Coog center Monica Lamb that is.

"Amen," said Hickey, when asked if the Cougars would be awake this time. "They will be ready. So, we have to be ready for them. We have to be alert."

What makes A&M's task even tougher is the fact that Houston has been the hottest team in the SWC lately.

"They beat Tech and Arkansas," Hickey said. "They are really on a roll. They have perhaps the best talent of any team in the conference. They have good size and quickness."

The size comes from Houston's "other" twin towers.

Lamb, a 6-foot-5 post, and 6-1 forward Sonya Watkins provide havoc inside the paint for every team

they face. Lamb is third in the nation in field goal percentage at 66.1 percent. Watkins had 22 points and 11 rebounds against A&M last year.

"You have to front Monica," Hickey said. "However, Watkins has been playing well. She plants on the weak side and goes in for Lamb's misses. They get the boards. That's the way they've been scoring. You can't ignore Watkins. She makes Lamb look even better."

The Cougars biggest problem has been their ball handling. Houston's guards make more turnovers than Betty Crocker.

"You have to cause them to make mistakes," Hickey said. "Consistency is their big question mark. They don't have the real strong guard. We will put pressure on them and we will play a zone."

"We've got to cut off the inside, but on the other hand we've got to put pressure on the outside and force the turnovers."

Hickey said that strategy worked well last time and hopes it won't backfire this time around.

"That game plan worked last time, whether it will this time or not, I don't know," Hickey said. "We are keeping our fingers crossed."

"We will have a different look on offense to get the outside open. We also worked on going to a 2-3 zone. There are a couple of things we might experiment with."

The whole season has been one big experiment for the Aggies. Fortunately for A&M, the Aggies have finally come up with a winning formula. That formula will be put to the test tonight.

## St. John's, Georgetown: the game means little

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In reality, Wednesday night's game between St. John's and Georgetown is little more than a prelude to bigger things. Yet it is being treated here as the biggest thing to hit New York since that big ape climbed that big building.

The game will decide little. Oh, the top of the The Associated Press poll could be altered. The seedings in the Big East Conference tournament could be affected, too, and perhaps the national championship tournament as well.

But this is actually only the second half of the teams' home-and-home schedule. Barring an upset, they will be playing each other again in a couple of weeks in the Big East championship game. And they have their sights set on the Final Four in Lexington, Ky., where they could meet yet again, converging in the national tournament's climax from different regions.

Nevertheless, St. John's is No. 1, Georgetown is No. 2 and they are playing a game in the media capital of the world. And that alone is enough to stir the interest of even the casual fan.

The 19,500 seats in Madison Square Garden, still the mecca for college basketball, have been sold out since December. No wonder that, depending on the rumor of the moment, the top ticket, \$12.50, is going for anywhere from \$300 to \$500.

The game is considered to be the Garden's biggest since Willis Reed limped out of the locker room on

May 8, 1970, and electrified his teammates and the crowd with baskets on his first two (and only) shots to spark the New York Knicks to a 113-99 victory over Wilt Chamberlain and the Los Angeles Lakers for the National Basketball Association championship.

Meetings between the nation's top two teams are not a rarity. It has already happened this season. Early in the season, when Georgetown was still the picture of invincibility, the top-ranked Hoyas routed second-ranked DePaul 77-57. And just two years ago, when North Carolina and Virginia stood 1-2 in both the nation and the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Tar Heels eked out a 64-63 victory.

Adding to the drama of Wednesday night's get-together is the prospect of another showdown between two of college basketball's premier players — Chris Mullin, the 6-foot-6 guard for the Redmen, and 7-foot center Patrick Ewing of the Hoyas.

In their first game, when St. John's held on for a 66-65 victory at the Capital Centre in Landover, Md., Mullin had 20 points and eight rebounds, while Ewing, his shooting chopped down by St. John's sagging defense, scored nine points and grabbed 15 rebounds.

But these personal confrontations, too, have precedence.

On Jan. 20, 1968, Lew Alcindor (now known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) of UCLA faced Elvin Hayes of Houston in the Astrodome in what has long been considered one of the great showdowns.

## Texas A&M Sportscope

A&M baseball team hosts OCU

Mark Johnson's Texas A&M baseball team (4-0) hosts Oklahoma City University (0-5) in the final game of a three-game series Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Olsen Field.

A&M cagers travel to Houston

Both the Texas A&M men's and women's basketball teams will make their last regular season road trip against the University of Houston Wednesday night.

A&M women (12-13, 5-6 in SWC) vs. Houston (20-6, 10-4 in SWC)

Hofheinz Pavilion — 4:30 p.m.

A&M men (16-9, 8-6 in SWC) vs. Houston (15-11, 7-7 in SWC)

Hofheinz Pavilion — 7:30 p.m.

Ag men's tennis team at home against WSTU

David Kent's No. 9 A&M men's tennis team (7-1) will host West Texas State University of the Missouri Valley Conference in a dual-match Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

TAMU Rifle Team qualifies for nationals

The Texas A&M Rifle Team has recently been confirmed as the only non-scholarship team to qualify for the NCAA nationals to be held in West Point, N.Y., March 8-10.

Out of 124 Division I teams eligible, only eight qualified for the field. A&M will send the four-man team of Eric Uptagraff, David Edmondson, Chris Fedun and Kevin Schabacker to New York for the competition.

Uptagraff will compete for individual honors in the air rifle and small bore three-position rifle events, along with Edmondson, who also qualified in small bore, 22-caliber rifle event.

Aggie Hockey Team to battle SMU

The Texas A&M Hockey Team will tangle with Southern Methodist University in Houston this weekend at the Sharpstown Mall Ice Rink. Games are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at midnight.

The Aggies head into the series with a record of 3-2, while the Mustangs will be playing their season opener.

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