

SPORTS

Frustration over for Edgar, Aggies

Do Cougars know how to beat Ags?

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Several times in three years of college basketball, playing was actually frustrating for Texas A&M forward Jenni Edgar. So frustrating, that quitting crossed her mind.

"I never thought I would get sick of playing," Edgar said. "I never was on a losing team until I came (to A&M). We lost so much it got to be a habit. It was a lot easier to give up and let the other team have it."

"We don't know how to keep a lead because we've never had one. Coach (Lynn) Hickey tells us we don't know how to win, and it's true."

This year, Edgar's last at A&M, Hickey was lured away from Kansas State to lead the Aggies. In Hickey's first season and Edgar's last, the Aggies recorded their first winning season, 14-13, since 1980.

"We're finally putting it together," Edgar said. "It feels great to be a part of it. I wish it hadn't taken four years though."

"We're showing ourselves we can do things. We now know it's possible. The year's gone pretty good."

Edgar said Hickey has been the difference in the Aggies' turnaround.

"We knew we were going to have to go through a complete change when she came in," she said. "We were willing to do anything. Coach Hickey really knows what she's talking about. I have a lot of respect for her. As you can see, it's paid off."

Edgar broke the Aggies' season scoring mark earlier this season. However, her record has since been broken by senior Michell Tatum and junior Lisa Langston. Edgar has scored 1,133 points in her career.

She said it will mean a lot to leave her mark on the A&M women's basketball record book.

"It means a whole lot," said the 5-foot-8 Dallas Bryan Adams' product. "I'm proud to be able to come here and play. I hope I helped the program. I hope things have turned around for the basketball team."

Consistency is Edgar's only



Photo by DEAN SAITO

A&M's Jenni Edgar (above) — "I never thought I would get sick of playing (basketball). I never was on a losing team until I came (to A&M). We lost so much it got to be a habit. It was a lot easier to give up and let the other team have it."

complaint about her performance this season. Edgar is averaging 13.3 points per game, failing to score in double figures in only six games.

"I haven't been as consistent as I wanted to," she said. "I was told my main job is scoring and I had a couple of games when I didn't even hit in double figures. I feel

like I let the team down in those games. Overall, I guess I feel pretty good about the way I've played."

Edgar said the Aggies are playing as a team and not just as individuals, which was the case in the past.

"The floor isn't dominated by one person," she said. "In the

(second) Houston game we had four people in double figures. If just one person is scoring, it's hard on that person, and the team."

The choice to attend A&M was by no means an easy one for Edgar. The opportunity to play her freshman year was what finally lured her to College Station.

"I thought I'd get to play my freshman year," she said. "At least I thought it would be a lot sooner than if I had gone to any other school. Besides, A&M wanted me real bad."

The pressure exerted by the A&M coaching staff also had a lot to do with the decision.

"I was pressured by A&M," Edgar said. "They called and said they needed a decision or they wanted to sign another player."

"My main goal was to go to a Division I, four-year college. That was my dream. That's what I wanted to accomplish."

However, that sense of accomplishment soon turned to disappointment.

"I thought my progress would be a lot faster than it was," Edgar said. "It really frustrated me not getting to play my freshman year. There's a big difference between high school ball and college ball. I guess I didn't realize that. My sophomore year I really wanted to show them what I could do."

And show them she did.

Edgar became the Aggies' starting forward and averaged 12 points per game. Others took note of her outstanding season by naming her to the All-Southwest Conference team — what she called her "highest moment."

Next season, Edgar would like to stay with the Aggie team as a coach.

"I hope to stay around and work with the team next season if Coach Hickey wants me to," Edgar said. "I think I can learn a lot from her. I'm just fascinated with the way she works."

"When I graduate, coaching would be the first thing I would like to do. Then, I would like to get into corporate fitness or something like that."

But Edgar is thinking of the present now. She wants to enjoy her final season — her first winning season at A&M.

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The Houston Cougars (21-7) bring nothing but smiles to the faces of the Texas A&M (14-13) women's basketball team. The Aggies have enjoyed playing the Cougars, especially this season.

The Aggies have won three of the last four games between the teams, including both games this season.

A&M upset Houston 63-62 in College Station on Jan. 26 and then surprised the slumbering Cougars again last week.

Last Wednesday at Hofheinz, Cougar fans were yelling, "Eat 'em up! Eat 'em up! Rah! Rah! Rah!" The Aggies must have heard the cat call and thought they were supposed to enjoy the Cougars for dinner.

The meal was a tasty one for the Ags — a 74-67 muncher.

After the game, A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said she was not looking forward to playing the Cougars again. However, tonight at 7 p.m. in Hofheinz Pavilion, she must face the Cougs in a first-round Southwest Conference tournament tilt.

"Houston is a good team," said Hickey after last week's game. "I will not look forward to playing them again."

The players have a different opinion on the matter.

"(Last week's) win over Houston was a big boost," said Aggie forward Jenni Edgar. "We want to beat them again. I personally wanted to play Houston in the first round. We know how to beat them. We will be more positive going in."

More positive than a trip to Fayetteville, Ark. to play with the Razorbacks.

Arkansas has been very unfriendly to A&M. The Aggies have yet to win in Fayetteville. In fact, they have yet to win against Arkansas. The Razorbacks are also the cause of the Aggies 0-2 playoff record.

So for Edgar and the rest of the Ags, getting Houston was a relief.

"Knowing we lost to Arkansas the last three years might hurt us a little bit," Edgar said. "We can beat Arkansas but thinking about the losses could hurt us. We know we'll beat Houston."

"You have to cause (Houston) to make mistakes. Consistency is their big question mark. They don't have the real strong guards. We will put pressure on them and play a zone defense. We've got to put pressure on the outside and force turnovers."
— Coach Lynn Hickey

A&M guard Lisa Langston said the Ags know how to beat the Cougars.

"We know what it takes to beat them," Langston said. "We will have to cut out some mistakes, like turnovers, but we can do it again."

Speaking of turnovers, that's the way the Cougars have managed to lose seven times this season.

Houston averages 23.6 turnovers per game. The Cougs turned the ball over 33 times last week against A&M.

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

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

Two big reasons why the Aggies must worry about the inside are Monica Lamb and Sonya Watkins.

Lamb, a 6-foot-5 sophomore, ranks second in the nation in field goal shooting at 65.3 percent. Watkins scored a game-high 27 against the Ags in the last encounter.

"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."

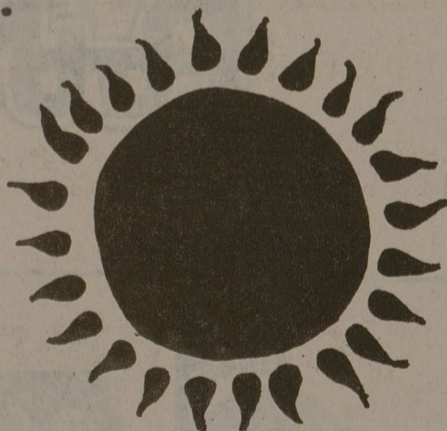
But, the Aggies know how to beat the Cougars. The question will be: Do the Cougars know how to beat the Aggies?

DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK

To encourage responsible drinking and provide information about drugs, Student Government and the Department of Student Affairs are sponsoring a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week. Presentations will be taking place from noon - 1p.m. in the MSC Lounge during the week. As you plan for an exciting Spring Break, come by and find out how to have a safe one.

Groups supporting drug and alcohol awareness:

- Student Government
- Dept. of Student Affairs
- Division of Student Services
- Safety Education Program
- Health and P.E. Dept.
- OPA
- OCA
- AADD
- Coors
- Miller
- Anheuser - Busch
- MHMR
- Greenleaf
- Brazos Family Institute
- University Police
- Bryan Police



TO HELP YOU HAVE A SAFE

SPRING BREAK



ALCOHOL AWARENESS DAY Wednesday March, 6

A representative from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission will speak about legal issues concerning alcohol. Local beer distributors and community health agencies will have resource tables set up.



Where: MSC Lounge

When: Speakers noon - 1p.m.

Resource Tables 11a.m. - 2p.m.

Who: Sponsored by Student Government and Department of Student Affairs