

Sports

Ags win home opener

Women cagers down Abilene Christian, 66-47

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

Even though the Texas A&M women's basketball team found a way to defeat Abilene Christian Monday night, 66-47, Coach Lynn Hickey wasn't happy with the Lady Aggies' means of doing so.

Of course, Hickey was happy with the home-opening victory at G. Rollie White Coliseum, but she wasn't pleased with the Lady Aggies quality of play.

"I'm really disappointed," Hickey said of the 2-0 Lady Ags. "We were a lot sharper the other night (in A&M's season-opening victory over Stephen F. Austin Friday, 83-59)."

Hickey's disappointment stemmed from the Lady Ags' inability to convert 27 steals into points and their ability to throw the ball away constantly. A&M committed 29 turnovers on the night.

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A&M senior guard Lisa Langston, who became the Aggies' all-time leading scorer Friday against SFA, agreed with Hickey.

"(The ACU win) was terrible," Langston said. "I think it was just a case of the first home game jitters. We all wanted to impress the fans and the community so bad, we just tried too hard. We were a little out of control."

Langston, who scored only four points in her 22 minutes of playing time, wasn't pleased with that performance.

"I just couldn't get on track," she said. "It seemed the harder I tried, the worse it got. But we're not going

to get down on ourselves."

The Lady Ags, who had 13 players contribute to the scoring, were led by 12-point performances by freshman guard Donna Roper and junior forward Paula Crutcher.

A&M opened up an 11-2 lead just over five minutes into the game and never relinquished its advantage. By halftime, the Lady Ags led 33-13, despite being out-rebounded by the Wildcats, 20-15.

"We're still having rebounding troubles," Hickey said. "Once again, we really have to get something going on the inside."

ACU opened the second half trying to press A&M in the backcourt, but could never draw closer than 16 points. Senior guards Claudia Schleyer and Deonna Moore led

ACU with 14 points each.

Hickey said the Lady Ags spent too much time before the game concentrating on humiliating the the Division II Wildcats.

"We talked too much before the game about blowing them out," Hickey said. "We should have concentrated more on our own execution. We need to work on slowing it down a bit."

A&M will travel to Corvallis, Ore., this weekend for the "Big O" Tournament, where it will face UCLA Friday at 11:00 p.m. Hickey said the Bruins are a young team with a weak inside game and average ball handlers.

"It looks like we have a chance of matching up a little bit better than we'd hoped," she said.

Hickey also said A&M is preparing for a rough December schedule in which it will tangle with national powerhouses Oklahoma, Louisiana State and Louisiana Tech before opening conference play against Baylor Jan. 2 at G. Rollie White.

"We're going to find out real quick what the big time is all about," she said.

Center swap fills Mavs, Clips' needs

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The way has been cleared for Benoit Benjamin, the third player taken in last June's NBA college draft, to become the starting center for the Los Angeles Clippers.

James Donaldson, who started at center in the Clippers' first 14 games of the season, was traded to the Dallas Mavericks Monday in exchange for center Kurt Nimphius.

At 7-foot-2, Donaldson will become the tallest player in the brief history of the Mavericks, who were formed as an expansion team in 1980. Dallas is 6-7 so far this year.

Nimphius, who stands 6-10, figures to serve in a reserve role for the Clippers, who have a 6-8 record.

"Benoit will start immediately," L.A. Coach Don Chaney said. "We're going to have to force-feed him to get him ready. We wanted to bring him along slowly, but he'll have to mature faster than we all had anticipated."

Benjamin, a 7-footer from Creighton who turned 21 last Friday, will make his first NBA start at Seattle Tuesday night. Nimphius won't make the trip — he'll make his debut with the Clippers Wednesday night when they host Houston.

Donaldson, playing in his sixth NBA season, brought a career average of 9.2 points, 6.6 rebounds and 1.4 blocked shots per game into this

year. He made an NBA-leading 63.7 percent of his field goal attempts last season.

In 14 games this year, the 28-year-old Donaldson has averaged 10.2 points, 9.4 rebounds and 2.1 blocked shots. He has made 51 percent of his field goal attempts.

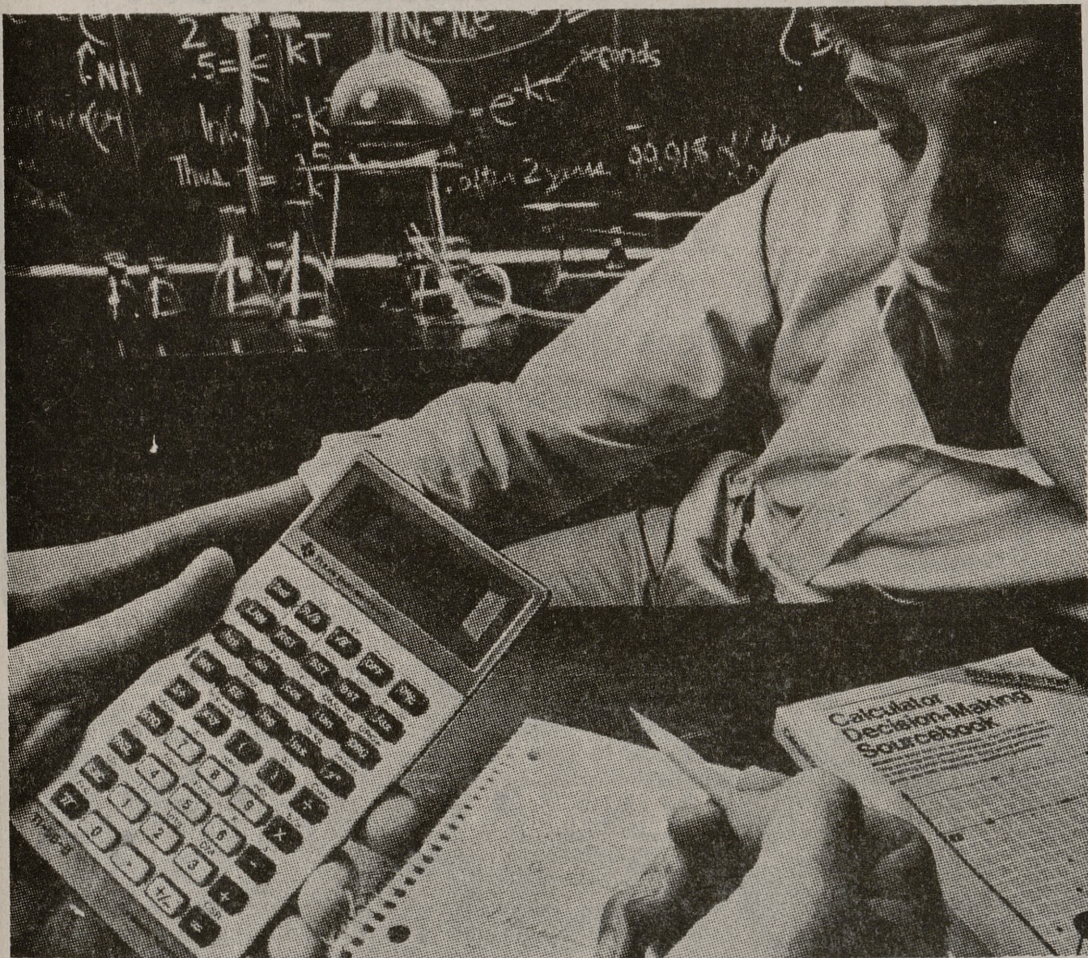
"I've always heard the Mavericks were a first-class organization and I'm happy to be playing for them," said Donaldson, who could be in a Dallas uniform as early as Tuesday night when the Mavericks host Washington.

Norm Sonju, general manager of the Mavericks, said, "The coaches have been intrigued by Donaldson. He gives us a dimension we've never had in the past."

Nimphius, who is playing in his fifth NBA season, has averaged 7.0 points and 4.6 rebounds in 13 games for the Mavericks, four of which he started. Nimphius, 27, averaged 6.2 points and 5.3 rebounds in his first four professional years.

"In Kurt Nimphius, we get a strong, competitive player who's a great shot blocker and adequate passer," General Manager Carl Scheer of the Clippers said. "We think with his experience in the league he will compliment Benoit Benjamin very well in our offense."

"We are excited about the acquisition of Kurt and look forward to him making his debut with us Wednesday night."



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