

Sports

A&M lady cagers humble ORU

Ags improve record to 4-1 with 72-61 win

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M's women's basketball team recorded its second victory at home and fourth in five games by downing Oral Roberts University, 72-61, Tuesday night in G. Rolie White Coliseum.

The Lady Aggies were led by Tamara Jackson, who came off the bench to score 12 points, Lisa Langston, who also contributed 12, and Nette Garrett, Paula Crutcher and Beth Young, who each added 10 points.

A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said she was pleased with the Lady Ags' performance because she feared her players might be tired after a long road trip to Oregon. The Lady Ags played in the three-day Big "O" Tournament this past weekend and finished second.

"It's nice to be 4-1," Hickey said. "We were a little sluggish after the long weekend. Last night (Monday), was the first night of good sleep they (the Ags) had had in 48 hours."

The Lady Ags opened an 11-6 lead with only 5 1/2 minutes left in the first half, but saw the Lady Titans tie the score at 13-13 in the next two minutes.

However, by halftime A&M led 33-25 because of the play of Jackson and Lisa Jordan, who chipped in seven first half points.

Jordan, a freshman from Talmage, Ca., who is playing an average nine minutes a game thus far, went on to score nine points and grab five rebounds.

"It feels good to be playing again," Jordan said.

Jordan played her best collegiate game in Saturday's loss to Oregon State, in the Big "O" tourney, scoring 14 points and collecting 13 rebounds.

Hickey said she was pleased with the A&M offense, since the Lady Ags had only 18 turnovers, nine less than they committed a week ago against Abilene Christian.

"We didn't make a lot of really bad mistakes," Hickey said. "Also, we put a lot of people in the game. It's tough to play teams like this (after coming off an emotional upset victory over UCLA in the Big "O" tourney). I'm very proud of that win."

Oral Roberts' sophomore guard LeQuita Smith, who led the Lady Titans with 19 points on the night, helped ORU draw within four points in the second half, at 53-49, with 7:12 left to play.

However, A&M responded with buckets from Young and Garrett and strong free throw shooting down the stretch and opened up a nine-point lead with less than five minutes left in the game.

That was enough to send the Lady Ags to Norman, Okla. with a 4-1 record.

Friday, the Lady Ags will play their toughest game of the season when they battle the highly-regarded Oklahoma Sooners. OU upset No. 4 ranked Western Kentucky last week.

"We have two days to get ready for OU," Hickey said. "We've got quite a challenge on our hands. It's going to be nice to come home on (Dec.) 21st (when the Ags host Creighton after road games against Louisiana Tech and LSU)."

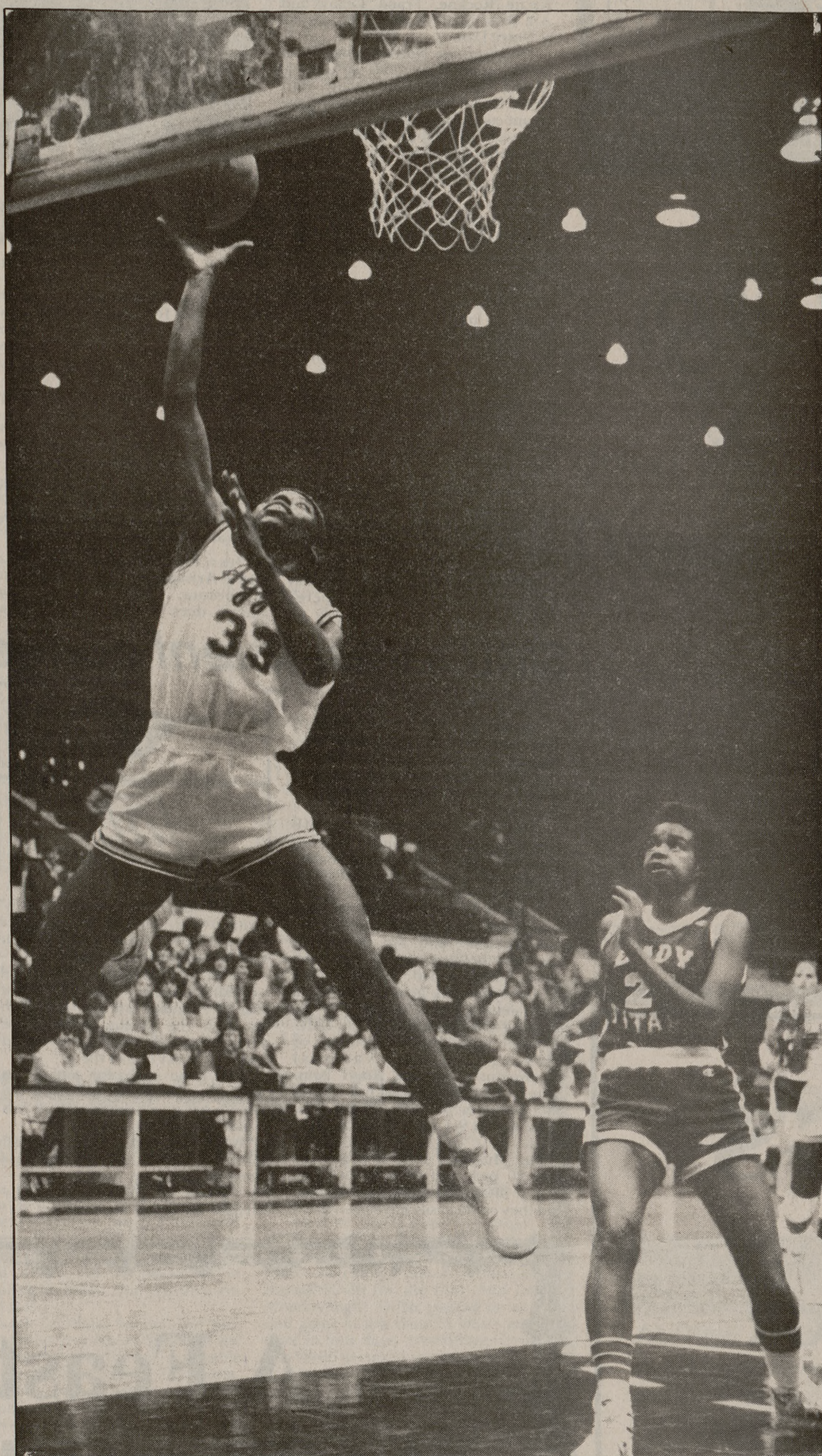


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Texas A&M forward Paula Crutcher (33) gets two easy points against Oral Roberts Tuesday

night. The Lady Aggies jumped past the Lady Titans, 72-61. A&M travels to Oklahoma Friday.

Louisiana Tech and LSU)."

Hickey said she was pleased with the performance of the A&M Jazz Band which entertained during the

first half, but was somewhat disappointed with the small crowd in attendance — only 250 fans.

"Sometimes it's hard to get going," Hickey said. "We need some

help and we need some support. We're going to win this year. So if that was their (the Aggie fans') excuse in the past, it's not going to work this year."

Aggie volleyball tickets to go on sale

Tickets for the first round of the NCAA National Volleyball Championship Tournament between Texas A&M and the University of Texas-Arlington will go on sale Friday.

The Aggies host the Mavericks at

7:30 p.m. Saturday in G. Rolie White Coliseum.

Tickets for the match will be on sale Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at a table in the Memorial Student Center.

An A&M student with an I.D. may purchase a ticket for \$3. Adult tick-

ets cost \$4.

Tickets will also be available Saturday prior to the match, beginning at 6 p.m.

The winner of the match will advance to the South Regional to be held in Austin Dec. 13-14, and will face the winner of the Texas-Duke

match, which is also being played Saturday.

The Aggies, who finished second to Texas in the Southwest Conference, are 25-7 on the season. The Mavericks, 28-3, were the Southland Conference champions.

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