

Sports

A&M faces toughest team yet

Lady Ags to play No. 17 Oklahoma

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

Last weekend, the Texas A&M's women's basketball team went to Corvallis, Ore. to compete against UCLA, Oregon State and Cal-State Fullerton in the Big "O" Tournament.

However, A&M Coach Lynn Hickey says her 4-1 Lady Aggies will battle the real Big "O" of women's collegiate basketball tonight at 7:30 when they travel to Norman, Okla. to take on the No. 17 Oklahoma Sooners.

"They (the Sooners) will be the best team we've played so far," Hickey said. "They're a veteran club with some really good talent. We'll have to play even better than we did last week (in an upset win over UCLA) to win."

Hickey said Oklahoma, which last week defeated Western Kentucky, the No. 4-ranked team in the nation at the time, boasts five starters whose scoring averages are in double figures.

"They're not real big, but they can run," said Hickey, who faced these same Sooners while coaching at Kansas State three years ago. "They play a tough man-to-man (defense) and are very aggressive."

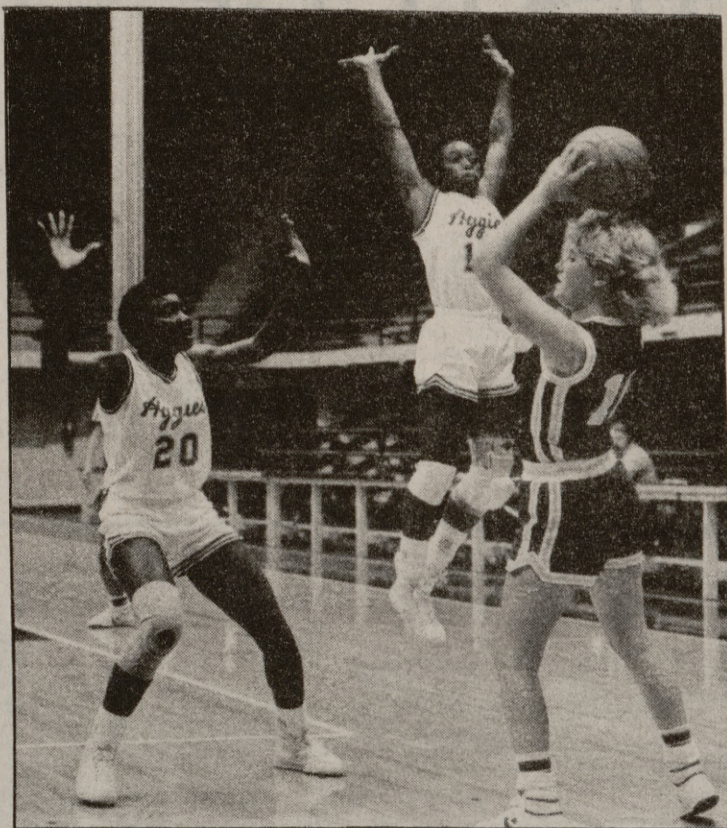


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

A&M's Tamara Jackson (20) and Lisa Langston (right) hope to apply this same type of backcourt pressure against Oklahoma tonight.

Hickey knows the Sooners are an impressive team, but she said the Lady Ags have a chance if they aren't intimidated and stick to their game plan.

"We have to be able to run our offense," Hickey says. "We'll be one of the quicker teams they've

faced all season, so we can't shy away.

"One of our goals is to be able to compete with schools of this caliber. We are going to learn a lot. We're going to find out what our weaknesses and what our strengths are."

Cards derail Ags' train with second half surge

By BRANDON BERRY
Sports Writer

HOUSTON — When the time came to climb The Houston Summit, Texas A&M was the little choo-choo that couldn't Thursday night in a 68-59 loss to Lamar.

The Cardinals, on the other hand, were sleek, well-oiled Amtraks, having as much trouble against the Aggies in the second half as a mountain climber would have with a mole hill.

Lamar used a defensive switch (from a 3-2 zone to a 2-1-2 zone), a three-center lineup and smart ball movement to widen a one-point halftime lead to as large as 11 points.

The game possessed outstanding individual performances, strong board play and a vocal crowd.

The only problem for the Ags was that the Cards possessed the majority of the above. The only statistical edge A&M held was the lion's share of turnovers and fouls.

"The key to the ball game was that we were able to play our three big people in there at one time," Lamar Coach Pat Foster said. "That established our tempo and really put us in control of the game. We controlled the boards and they were unable to get the ball inside. And in a ball game like this, you've got to get the ball inside."

A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf agreed and simplified. "Their inside people just whipped us," Metcalf said. "They whipped us worse than (ex-Houston center) Akeem (Olajuwon) used to whip us. They're a damn good basketball team."

The Cards' frontline outscored their Aggie counterparts, 45-24, and out-rebounded them, 40-34. In the closing two minutes of the game, A&M starters Jimmie Gilbert and Winston Crite fouled out on back-to-back plays. Todd Holloway had already founded A&M's "Dejected and Disqualified Club" on the bench by getting his fifth personal with 2:13 remaining.

Overall, A&M received 28 personal fouls to 16 for Lamar.

"I don't even want to comment on the officiating," Foster said of the three-man crew.

Metcalf wanted to comment, but found discretion to be the better part of valor.

"They (Lamar) didn't need three people inside to whip

us, they were whipping us with two," Metcalf said like we proved tonight, we don't need three officials. It would have been much happier with two."

Both Metcalf and Foster were slapped with technical fouls — Foster's coming in the first half, enabling Lamar to take a six-point lead (28-22), while Metcalf's came in the second half.

After Metcalf was slapped with his technical foul, he converted a three-point play, both technical fouls and three more free throws to "officially" bury the Ags and take a 61-52 lead with only three minutes left in the game.

"I can't say that my technical foul did us any good," Foster said. "But I know it sure had a good effect when Shelby got his."

Metcalf countered by claiming the official that was his "T" was either extremely attentive, hard of hearing, or a Jeanne Dixon impersonator.

"I didn't say anything to him (the official), I was at Winston," Metcalf explained. "The official must have had a mind reader and he was reading someone else's mind. I thought he was yelling at him or I was out of the box (sideline coaching) box. If I was out of the box, it was right. But I don't think I was out of the box."

"The key to this ball game wasn't that technical fouls anyway. We just had way too many turnovers and an awful job on the boards."

Don Marbury led Aggie scorers with 28 points, but Crite (12 points) was the only other Aggie in double figures. Mike Clifford and Crite pulled down 11 and 10 rebounds respectively.

An added ingredient to the Cards' successful season was a highly-partisan crowd.

"We had the fans," Foster understated with a smile.

Metcalf agreed, "They had more people here than we do — no doubt. But they aren't going to the Cotton Bowl. Our fans are kind of caught up with football now and that's understandable."

"We just now have to go out and play and do what we can," Metcalf said alluding to Saturday's match against Tennessee. "Every game's different."

Like choo-choos and Amtraks.

Brown leaves Rice to become Vanderbilt coach

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Football coach Watson Brown, who gave the down-trodden Rice Owls hope of returning to respectability over the past two seasons, resigned Thursday night to return to his alma mater as head coach at Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt Athletic Director Roy Kramer said in Nashville, Tenn., that Brown would assume his new duties immediately, replacing George MacIntyre.

Brown, who directed the Owls to a

4-18 record, made the announcement late Thursday after meeting with his coaching staff and team.

"I want it understood this decision was made on a positive basis toward Nashville and the university and not anything negative toward Rice," Brown said in a tearful announcement.

"Somebody is going to have a good situation," Brown said. "If you don't believe me, just go talk to those kids (the Rice players). I sound like somebody that just got fired. But I'll



be excited when the time comes. It's just very hard right now."

Kramer said, "I am especially delighted that for the first time in al-



most 40 years, a Vanderbilt alumnus will be at the helm of the Vanderbilt football team."

Brown had just completed the second year of a six-year contract with

the Owls that was worth an estimated \$1 million. Brown had been rumored as a candidate for the Vanderbilt job throughout most of the season. But it wasn't until MacIntyre resigned on Tuesday that the position became available.

Brown was offensive coordinator on MacIntyre's staff in 1981 and 1982. Brown's teams set 30 school records in 1981 and set 27 more the following year.

Brown, 34, left Vanderbilt to become head coach at the University of

Cincinnati and after one season signed to accept the Rice post where he also has been athletic director.

Rice junior linebacker Dan Burgess said the players were glad at the announcement but they understood Brown's decision.

"He said he had to do what he thought best and he wanted to go home," Burgess said. "None of us blame him for that. There were some tears shed and everybody spoke his piece."

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