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Sooners trounce Lady Ags

Men cagers find going tough in Tennessee

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

The No. 17 Oklahoma women's basketball team handed Texas A&M its worst defeat this season, a 93-62 trampling Friday night in Norman, Okla.

"We just couldn't score," A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said of the Ags, who shot a weak 31.9 percent from the field. "When we couldn't score, we didn't know how to react. That's the first time all season that has happened."

Evelyn Sanders and Lisa Langston paced the Ags with 14 and 12 points respectively.

The Sooners took a commanding 22-point lead within the first 10 minutes of the game and never relinquished it.

"After the first 10 minutes, it wasn't bad," Hickey said. "We matched them pretty well after that. I don't think it (such a poor performance) will happen again. They tried hard, but it just wasn't their night."

Hickey attributed the Ags' loss to an overall lack of aggressiveness and weak inside play. The Sooners won the battle of the boards 48-40.

"We got hurt on the inside game and just didn't get back on defense," Hickey said. "We need work on our intensity all over the floor. We're past the time where we can say we're young and that we expect these kind of games."

Oklahoma used a balanced scoring attack, with four of its starting five finishing in double figures, to improve their record to 5-0.

"OU is a veteran squad," Hickey said. "By far, they are the best team we have played."

But from listening to Hickey, it would be unwise for any team to take the Lady Ags lightly.

"I'm very proud of this team," she said. "We're off to really good start at 4-2. We're still a very young team (with 11 newcomers to the squad). The thing you have to understand about young teams is that they have to be pushed hard until they realize their potential."

After Friday night's game, Hickey did just that. Following the seven-hour bus ride home, the players got off the bus, went in to the gym and had a two-hour practice.

"They have a really good attitude," she said. "Everything they say is still, 'yes ma'am, no ma'am.' So long as we have that, we'll be okay."

Men's Basketball

Texas A&M and four other Southwest Conference basketball teams were defeated Saturday, leaving Southern Methodist as the only unbeaten team in the conference.

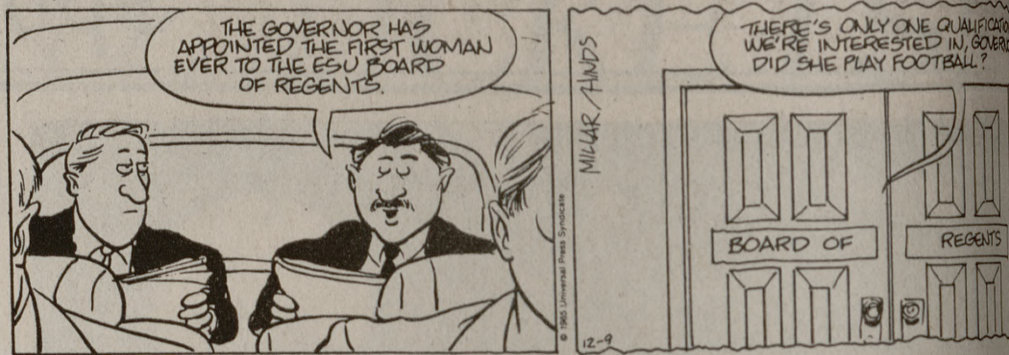
Arkansas, Baylor, and Texas Christian were bounced from the unblemished ranks while SMU admired its 4-0 ledger, which was compiled against some weak teams. Texas Tech rounded out the ranks of defeated SWC teams.

SMU doesn't play again until the Dallas Morning News Classic, which begins Friday. The Mustangs will open against North Texas State and should they survive, the winner of the Illinois State-McNeese State game will play them on Saturday.

Tennessee drilled Texas A&M 86-70 although Don Marbury had 31 points for A&M. The Aggies, 2-3, couldn't handle guard Tony White, who scored 34 points for the Volunteers.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Aggies advance in NCAAAs

(continued from page 11)

Brinkman didn't place all the blame on the setting.

"We were having a hard time in the middle," Brinkman agreed. "The sets were real low. But you have to remember, the setter is the hardest position on the court. Besides just playing, they have to quarterback our team. All the pressure is on them."

So with senior Brinkman out of commission, and the match full of high-pressure situations, the Ags looked to their freshman.

And Steensma, with 16 kills and a .260 hitting percentage, delivered in the clutch like a veteran.

"Cheri's playing very well," Condon said. "For a freshman, she made some very nice shots. She got trapped a couple of times, but she tapped the ball and used the blocks."

Although Steensma was playing in her first NCAA post-season match, the 5-foot-10 Californian said she was oblivious to the pressure.

"I really wasn't nervous at all," Steensma said. "It felt like a normal match. In fact, I really don't even remember any particular plays or a particular game. I was just taking it one step at a time."

For awhile it was a toe-to-toe battle between freshmen Steensma and Oliveira.

Oliveira, a left-handed hitter from Uruguay, had 16 kills and hit .217. Her play in the fourth game helped the Mavs win that one easily.

So a match the Aggies were expected to have to only go through the motions to win turned into a do-or-die situation. One game and the Aggies were ready for burial.

"It was one of the most exciting matches we've been in," Love said. "When it goes to game five, you can toss a coin."

And the coin came up on A&M's side.

With the Ags leading 9-8 in the final game, they decided it was time to turn the power on for the first time.

Outside hitter Stacey Gildner, who had 17 kills and a .261, and Spence, who hit .389 with 15 kills, arose and sent the Mavericks into hibernation until next season.

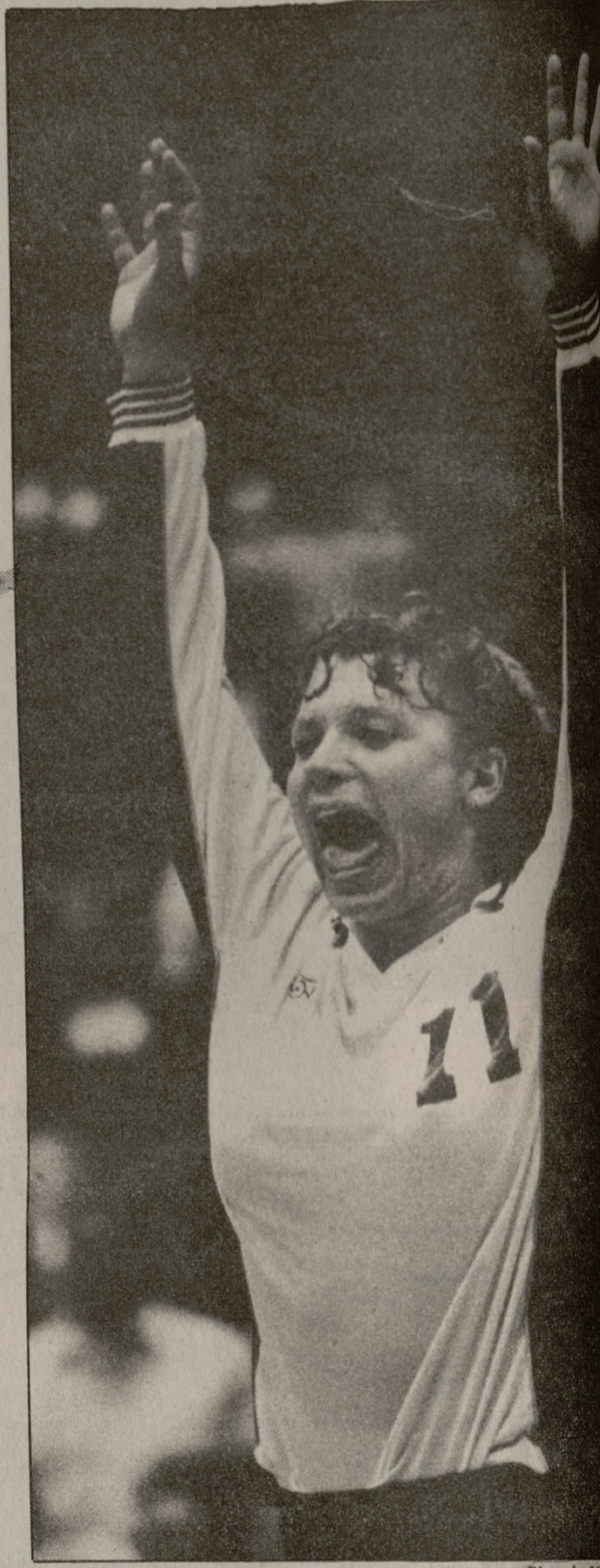
"We gave them too many opportunities to score," Condon said. "We didn't want to get into long rallies with them. We needed a power game. We needed to pass, set and hit. We did at times. We did it in the fifth game the last five or six points. I guess that's fine."

Love said the difference in the match was the serve-receive play of the Mavs.

"You have to give credit where credit is due," she said. "A&M served well. In the three games we lost, we broke down in our serve-receive. Up to game five, we did what we had to do to win the match. The breaks in the fifth game went their way. But, hey, 15-10 is a credible score."

Now in the Final 16, the next obstacle to clear will be the No. 8 'Horns, a team the Aggies haven't defeated since 1981. UT beat A&M twice in SWC play this season.

But the Ags are singing a new



A&M's Sherri Brinkman shows her elation after the Aggies defeated UTA Saturday and advanced to play Texas in the South Regional.

song this time, although with everyone saying it, it almost sounded like a broken record.

"Third time's a charm and that's all I'm going to say," Steensma said.

Beakley is glad the setters have a chance for redemption and she's glad it will be against Texas.

"I'm real disappointed (with the UTA match) in a way," Beakley said. "We, as setters, were inconsistent.

When we play Texas, we're more consistent. We will win hard this week and be ready to go."

"Third time's a charm, right?"

"A&M compares nicely to Illinois and (No. 16) Western Michigan (who the Mavericks lost to in the year)," she said. "Some of those schools are very good of their Top 20 ranking."

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226 SOUTHWEST PKWY.	693-2457
* YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES	7:20-9:20
TARGET (R)	7:15-9:35
JAGGED EDGE (R)	7:25-9:45
*Dolby Stereo	
MANOR EAST 3	
MANOR EAST MALL	823-8300
*SANTA CLAUS - THE MOVIE (PG)	7:25-9:55
JOURNEY OF NATTY GANN (PG)	7:15-9:35
ONCE BITTEN (PG-13)	7:20-9:45
*Dolby Stereo	
SCHULMAN 6	
2002 E. 29th	775-2463
KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN	7:25-9:50
AFTER HOURS (R)	7:10-9:35
NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 2 (R)	7:30-9:40
RAINBOW BRIDE (G)	2:15-4:40
RETURN OF THE SOLDIER	7:20-9:55
KRUSH GROOVE (R)	7:15-9:30
THE STUFF (R)	7:35-9:45

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