

Hickey's Ags end 3-game skid

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

After three consecutive Southwest Conference losses — the last two on the road — Texas A&M Women's Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey was glad to be back in the friendly con-

finer of G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday night.

The fact that the Lady Aggies' opponent, the Rice Owls, were 0-6 in the SWC, offered Hickey's team an even better chance to break their losing streak.

Not to be denied, the Lady Ags

used a pressure defense, a strong inside game and their overwhelming quickness to trounce the Lady Owls, 90-62, and raise their SWC record to 4-3.

"We're a little bit quicker than they (the Owls) are," Hickey said. "It's kind of like us against Texas.

It's a case of being half a step quicker to the ball all the time."

Indeed, A&M, now 10-8 overall, used its quickness to pressure Rice into 19 turnovers and come up with 12 steals.

After last Wednesday's 80-75 loss to Houston, Hickey decided the Lady Ags would use full-court pressure against Rice to help open up their fastbreak offense.

"I was very pleased," Hickey said. "We wanted to press full-court throughout the game. In the second half, (leading 43-20) we tried to change the pace some and fell into a 1-3-1 zone. We tried to play some man-to-man, but (Rice center Holly) Jones hurt us."

All fourteen members of the Aggie squad saw playing time Saturday night, with all but three contributing points.

Senior forward Lisa Langston and junior transfer Evelyn Sanders led the Ags with 15 points apiece.

Hickey, who started three freshmen, was especially pleased with the play of freshman center Lisa Jordan, who had 12 points and led all rebounders with 10.

"I thought Lisa Jordan played an excellent game," Hickey said. "She worked the whole time. She was physical and talking the whole time."

Sanders, who has averaged only 17 minutes of playing time and 6.7 points in A&M's previous SWC games, was a key figure in the Ags' tough defense.

"When we bring Evelyn in," Hickey said, "it's because we know that she's going to pick up the defensive part of (the game) and make some things happen. We're a much better team when we're able to run the ball. We seem to run it better when she (Sanders) is at the point of that defense."

Hickey acknowledged the fact that beating Rice was a far cry from beating No. 1-ranked Texas, but said A&M showed a great deal of promise for the future.

"Granted, we weren't playing the best team in the conference," she said. "But what was pleasing was that, at one time, we had three freshmen and one sophomore out there (on the court), so we're really talking about the future."



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies blasted the Owls, 90-62, to break a three-game losing streak.

A&M center Nette Garrett (42) battles Rice forward Marci Zajac (30) for a loose ball Saturday at

Ag golfers stand 11th in Mexico

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — The Texas A&M women's golf team opened its spring season Sunday at the Oklahoma State Invitational and stands in 11th place after the first round of play.

A&M, the defending Southwest Conference Champions, shot a combined score of 315 on the Guadalajara Country Club course to finish 18 strokes behind tourney-leading Florida.

SMU, a team which A&M Golf Coach Kitty Holley says will be a strong contender in this year's SWC race, carded a 302 to end the opening round tied for second-place with Tulsa.

In the individual standings, Texas' Sue Ginter leads all players with an even par round of 72. Six golfers are tied for second with 73.

Fiona Conner, one of the Aggies' four returning golfers, posted A&M's best round with a 4-over par 76.

The tourney's second round begins today and the final round is scheduled for Tuesday.

Sutton seals Phoenix Open with risky shot on 18th green

Associated Press

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Hal Sutton, under pressure from Tony Sills, played a courageous shot over the corner of a lake on the 18th green that nailed down the title in the Phoenix Open Golf Tournament Sunday.

Sutton, the leader all the way this hot, sunny day, needed only a round of par 71 as Sills and Calvin Peete were unable to sustain a challenge in the occasionally gusty winds.

Sutton, a former PGA titleholder, gained this sixth victory of his five-year PGA Tour career with a 267 total, 17 shots under par on the Phoenix Country Club course.

The victory was worth \$90,000 from the total purse of \$500,000 and pushed his earnings for three tournaments this season to \$137,967.

Sills, 30, not yet a winner in three full seasons as a touring pro, recorded his career-high finish with a 68 that tied him for second with Peete, the defending titleholder here and a runaway winner two weeks ago in the Tournament of Champions.

They were at 269, 15 under par — one better than Peete's winning total last year — and two shots back. Each won \$44,000.

Peete also had a 3-under-par 68 despite an erratic putter.

"I had a chance to put some heat on him but I just couldn't keep the putter hot. I missed short birdie putts on the 12th and 15th and that just about did it," Peete said.

Dan Forsman, who scored an eagle-3 on the final hole, was next at 66-270 but never really got in the title chase.

He was followed by Don Pooley and Australian Greg Norman, tied at 271. Norman had a closing 70, Pooley 69.

No one else really was in it.

Sutton, now the winner of three official events and a team title in the last six months, had a two-stroke lead over Sills going to the par-5 18th.

But Sills put the pressure on him when he ran a long-iron shot over the sun-baked fairway, onto the

green and to within six feet of the flag. He had that putt for eagle-3.

Sutton, in the fairway, never hesitated. Playing it safe, laying it up, he said, never entered his mind.

He, too, took an iron, a 2-iron from 246 yards, started it out over the corner of the lake.

"I played it toward the left bunker and it went there like an arrow," Sutton said. It kicked off the grass of a mound facing the bunker, kicked onto the green and ran through to the fringe, some 15 feet away.

That did it.

"It was a tough putt," Sutton said. "I was frozen against the fringe and had to hit down on it. Sometimes a shot like that can explode and you run it 6-8 feet away."

But he ran it up to within tap-in distance and made the birdie putt.

That made moot the possibility of Sills' eagle. And Tony, who had failed on a four-footer on the 17th, also missed this one and had to settle for a birdie that lifted him into a tie for second.

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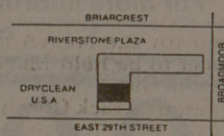
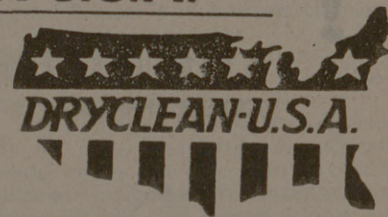
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