

Sports



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

A&M Women's Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey comments on freshman Donna Roper (21) — "Donna is one the finest natural athletes I

have ever coached . . . As far as running, jumping and her quickness, she has as much ability as any of the guards I have coached."

Freshman learning the ropes

Roper leads Lady Ags into battle against Hogs

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

Ask Texas A&M Women's Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey about some of the best natural athletes she has ever coached, and she will quickly tell you about freshman guard Donna Roper.

Considering that Hickey has coached at three major universities over the past 12 years and produced several All-America players, that puts Roper among some pretty lofty company.

"Donna is one the finest natural athletes I have ever coached," Hickey said. "And that's saying a lot, because we have some very good players. As far as running, jumping and her quickness, she has as much ability as any of the guards I have coached."

And Roper, averaging 14.3 points through her first seven Southwest Conference games, is not one to let her talent go to waste.

"I'm pleased with the way the season has gone," said Roper, who has started 11 of the Lady Aggies' first 18 games. "I really don't care if I start, I just want to get some action."

With only four players from last year's 14-14 squad returning for the '85-86 season, Hickey organized a massive recruiting effort prior to this season which attracted six freshmen prospects and four junior college transfers.

Roper was at the top of Hickey's talent list.

The Houston Yates High School product earned All-Greater Houston and *Houston Chronicle* Player of the Year honors her senior year, averaging over 18 points a game. Despite scholarship offers from several schools with more established basketball programs, Roper chose to help Hickey build a program at A&M.

"I had my heart set on going to

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Berry uncovers Patriots' drug problem

Associated Press

BOSTON — At least five New England Patriots have a serious drug problem and five to seven more are suspected to have a problem, Coach Raymond Berry told the *Boston Globe* in a copyright interview in Tuesday's editions.

"I would say we may be 28th in the league as far as this problem

goes, but there are at least five players we know who have a serious problem and five to seven more whom we suspect very strongly," Berry said Monday after the Patriots' 46-10 Super Bowl loss to the Chicago Bears.

The identifications of the players, who Berry said include at least four starters, were not released.

"We have a situation that exists here that we feel is intolerable," he said. "It has been going on for a year, and I had to weigh the damages of doing something about it immediately by going public."

"We felt with the season going the way it had, we had to keep our eye on the bull's-eye. That's why we didn't do anything before. But our

bull's-eye looking is over. It's time to do something about this problem, and it cannot be done in secret."

After being addressed Monday in New Orleans by Berry about the extent of the problem — specifically, the use of cocaine, the *Globe* said — and the possible consequences, the

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Juniors, Seniors, Vets, Meds & Grads

Last chance to have your picture taken for the '86 Aggieland

Photos will be taken until February 7 at Yearbook Associate's studio, above Campus Photo Center at Northgate.
Office hours 8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30

No pictures will be taken at the Pavilion this year

