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Lady Ags face first 'must-win'

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

For the Texas A&M Lady Aggies, Saturday's game in Waco against the Baylor Bears can best be described with an old sports cliché — "It's a must-win situation."

Saturday's 5 p.m. tipoff at Heart O' Texas Coliseum will mark the first of four "must-win" Southwest Conference games for A&M.

The Lady Aggies begin the second round of conference play in fifth-place with a 4-4 SWC record, 10-9 overall. A&M stands four games out of first-place behind 8-0 Texas, 7-1 Arkansas, 6-2 Texas Tech and 5-3 Houston.

To have any chance of moving up in the standings, A&M must beat first-round victims Baylor, SMU, TCU and Rice again and hope for some major upsets along the way.

A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said Baylor, which lost to A&M, 92-70, on Jan. 2, will not be a pushover, especially in Waco.

"Even though we beat them fairly easily last time, we're going in expecting a tough contest," Hickey said. "Baylor is one of those teams that can be very cold or very hot."

"We're trying to get ready to attack the second half (of the SWC schedule) with a lot of intensity."

In an effort to shake some life into her starting lineup, Hickey will use sophomore forward Evelyn Sanders in place of freshman center Nette Garrett.

"We feel Evelyn has really played well since about the Texas game and she deserves a look," Hickey said. "That will also give us a little bit more flexibility at the center position where we can give L. J. (Lisa Jordan) and Nette a rest."

Even though Hickey is somewhat disappointed with the Lady Ags' 10-9 record, she said her team has come a long way in just two months.

"I feel that with an extra four to six points in three of our games, we could be in second-place (in the SWC)," said Hickey.

"If we finish among the top five (in the conference), then we've done our job. If we finish in the top three — and there is still that possibility — we've done something special."

Spurs use best defense to halt Cavaliers, 112-99

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs held Cleveland to just 15 points in the fourth period to beat the Cavaliers 112-99 in a National Basketball Association game Thursday night.

The Spurs got 26 points from Mike Mitchell and Artis Gilmore added 22, as San Antonio improved to 25-23 on the season, 7½ games behind the Midwest leaders, the Houston Rockets.

Cleveland was led in scoring by Edgar Jones with 18 points.

John Bagley added 17 to aid the Cavaliers' cause.

However, neither Jones or Bagley had a point in the final period, amounting to Cleveland's collapse.

The Cavaliers played without starter Mel Turpin, who was home with his wife after she underwent surgery Tuesday.

Cleveland trailed only 87-84 going into the fourth quarter.

But Mitchell and Gilmore combined for 13 of San Antonio's 25 points in the period, nearly matching the Cavaliers' total.

Mitchell and Gilmore each had 10 rebounds for the Spurs as did David Greenwood.

San Antonio led by 10 after the first period, 36-26.

Early in the second period the Spurs had increased their lead to 15 points, but Cleveland used a full-court press and six points each from Bagley, Jones and World B. Free to key a 23-11 run and cut San Antonio's lead to three.

The Spurs maintained a 64-57 margin at halftime.

Roy Hinson scored 15 points for Cleveland, while San Antonio got 15 points from forward Steve Johnson.

Cleveland falls to 18-28 on the season.



Other Thursday NBA Scores

Seattle 89
NEW JERSEY 82

Boston 101
CHICAGO 91

New York at
DENVER (late)

Milwaukee at
GOLDEN STATE (late)

Houston at
SACRAMENTO (late)

Orioles to volunteer for drug testing

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles, expressing concern over baseball's tarnished image, announced Thursday the formation of the game's first voluntary drug testing program.

Twenty-six of the 38 players on Baltimore's spring training roster have agreed to take part in the one-year pilot program or were already subject to similar arrangements through contract clauses or minor league testing.

The remaining 12 have not yet been contacted. General Manager Frank Peters said he hoped for 100 percent participation, but added that no disciplinary action would be taken against anyone who refuses.

"We've long been concerned with the individual welfare of our players," Peters said, "and the magni-

tude of the drug problem in baseball has certainly damaged the image of our game."

Noting the many public disclosures of drug abuse in baseball last year, Peters said the new program should "remove any clouds hanging over the club, or baseball."

Baseball has not had an industry-wide program since the club owners withdrew from a limited testing plan last fall. Should agreement be reached on a new drug abuse program, that would supersede the Baltimore plan.

Individual players on other major league teams have agreed to drug testing in exchange for a guaranteed contract. Others have the option of voluntarily putting a drug testing clause in their contracts for image-improving purposes.

The Orioles testing program was

strongly endorsed by pitcher Scott McGregor, Baltimore's player representative for the Major League Baseball Players Association. He asked each player individually if he wished to participate.

This differed from the method used by football's New England Patriots when they met as a team last Monday, and became the first pro team to vote to accept a voluntary testing program.

"We have to stand up and work together with ownership," McGregor said. "If we don't do something, nothing is going to happen. There are players out there who need help. It grieves my heart to see it go on any longer."

Should a player's test prove positive, Peters said, treatment would be strictly between patient and doctor.

While out-patient treatment

would go undetected, Peters said, should a player be missing from the team, "obviously there has to be an explanation."

Peters emphasized it was a hands-off program as far as the club was concerned, with the Orioles being involved only to pay for the testing.

Names of the players and test results would be disclosed only with the consent of the players, under patient-physician relationships.

Attorney Ron Shapiro, who represents 16 of the Orioles — all of whom are among the volunteers — and was a driving force in the test plan, described it as a "player's program."

"The program is not being implemented as the result of a known problem on the ballclub," Shapiro said, "but it is rather an effort to stay ahead of any problem."

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