

Lady Ags blitz Bears

Crutcher paces A&M to 70-44 win in Waco

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

After completing the first round of Southwest Conference with a mediocre 4-4 record, Texas A&M women's basketball team cranked up its offense and applied a tough pressure defense to overwhelm the Baylor Bears 70-44 Saturday evening in Waco.

It was an impressive win for A&M Coach Lynn Hickey and her 11-9 Lady Aggies who have struggled this season to combine a strong offense with an equally tough defense.

"Things just seemed to come together, both on offense and defense," said Aggie forward Paula Crutcher, who led all players with 19 points and 14 rebounds. "We played real well as a team. We applied tough defensive pressure and kept our intensity up the whole game."

Baylor, on the other hand, ruined any chance it had of improving its 5-14 record by hitting only 18 of 64 shots from the field (28.1 percent). The Bears fell to 3-6 in the conference, 5-15 overall.

Crutcher, whose season average is only 9.8 points a game, was one of four Aggies to score in double figures. Freshmen Lisa Jordan and Donna Roper had 11 points each, while senior Lisa Langston contributed 10.

"Paula Crutcher played really well," Hickey said. "She scored well, was tough under the boards and was under control. Lisa Jordan also rebounded well and Donna Roper did a nice job."

The Aggies' pressure defense forced 25 Baylor turnovers, many of which the Aggies converted into transition points.

Hickey said opening up a 38-25 halftime lead gave her the chance to use 11 of her 14 players, eight of whom scored.

"We used our running game very well," Hickey said. "We switched a lot of people in and out of the game, and that's good. The way I look at it, the more people you play, the better off you are. At the same time, our nucleus played a good bit."

In addition to using the Lady Ags' running game, Hickey said she was forced to use a lot of players because of the oppressive heat in the Heart O' Texas Coliseum.



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

A&M's Rosalind Brown (12) drives past a Baylor defender for an easy layup Saturday in Waco. The Lady Ags buried the Bears, 70-44.

"I'm not sure what the problem was," she said. "Somebody told us that the heaters were on when we got there. We were sweating just sitting on the bench."

Crutcher said she was pleased with her strong performance, adding that she hoped it would continue through the Lady Ags' eight remaining regular-season games.

"I hope to carry a better load this half," Crutcher said, "but I don't know if it will be on offense or defense."

Crutcher also said the Lady Ags

need to continue playing 40 minutes of intense basketball to compete with the better teams in the conference, namely Texas, Houston, Texas Tech and Arkansas. All of those teams defeated the A&M in the first half of SWC play.

"I think we've done real well this season," Crutcher said. "We might have expected too much, but, considering our youth, we've done well."

"We're at the point now where we hoped to be a little bit better. But that comes with the territory."

A&M men netters serve up 2 weekend victories

By KEN SURY
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M men's tennis team played both at home and away this weekend, and in the end the results were the same — victory.

The 15th-ranked Aggies beat Pan American 8-1 Friday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center, but the wins were harder to come by against No. 25 Southwest Louisiana Sunday as the Aggies sneaked by 5-4.

On Friday, Mark Smith was the only A&M victim against Pan American, but Sunday, "He saved the day," A&M Men's Coach David Kent said. "He had just a phenomenal comeback. He was down 5-2 in the third set and came back to win."

Kent said his team faced adversity from more than just the Southwest Louisiana players.

"It was the worst-acting crowd we've ever played in front of," Kent said. "The fans were just horrible. It was like a wrestling match out there."

"It's tough to win on the road, so this is really a good plus for us."

A&M's Kimmo Alkio remains undefeated in spring singles play, but it took three sets to do it Sunday as he defeated Ashley Rhone 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

A&M women crush NTSU

The Texas A&M women's tennis team defeated North Texas State with such ease Saturday that it took an injury default for NTSU to gain its only win.

A&M's only loss came in the No. 2 singles match between A&M's Kim Labuschagne and NTSU's Holly Pugsley. Labuschagne had won the first set 6-1, and was leading 4-1 in the second when she twisted her ankle as she approached the net to return a volley.

A&M Coach Bobby Kleinecke said her injury was not as serious as it first appeared, but she was kept from continuing her match to allow as much healing time as possible before she and doubles teammate Karen Marshall compete in the ITCA nationals tournament Thursday through Sunday.

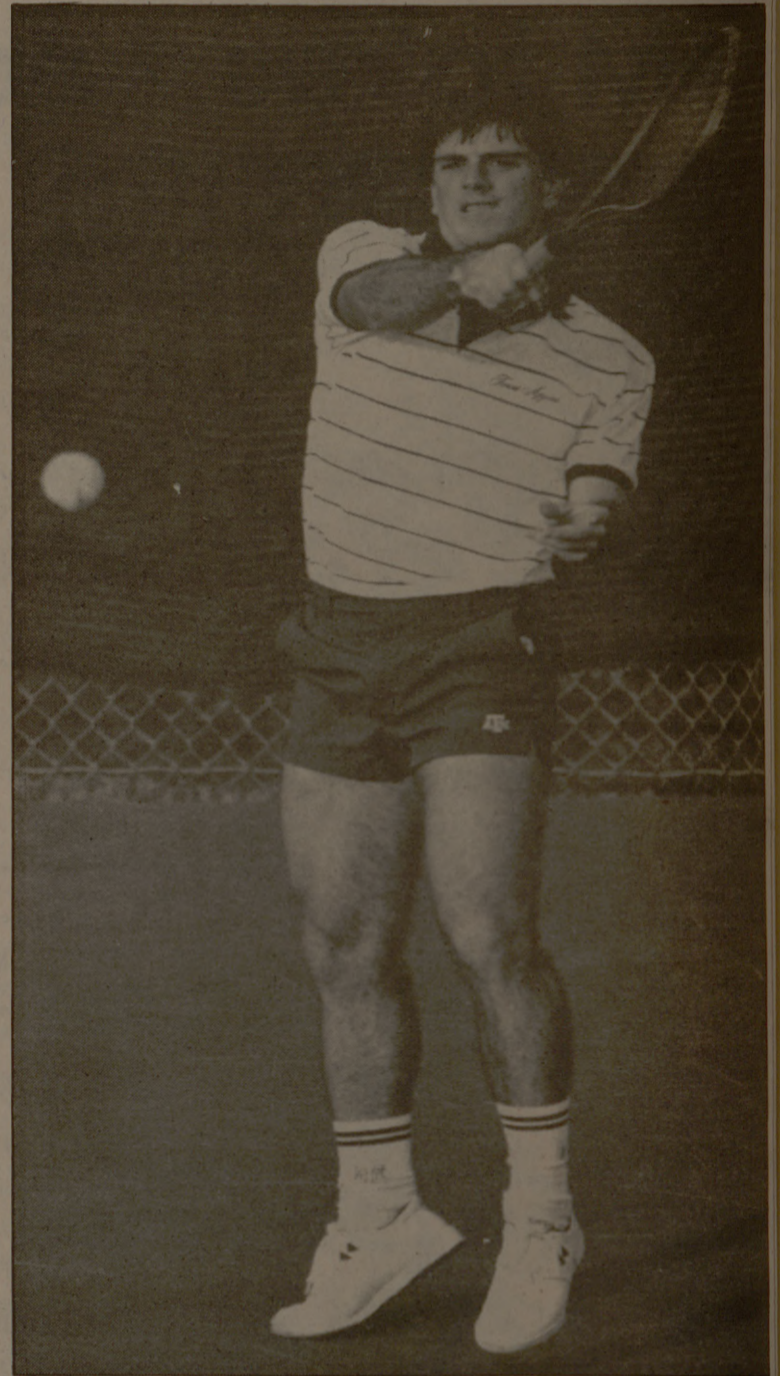


Photo by GREG BAILEY

Texas A&M's Russ Simmons returns a forehand volley Friday against Pan American. The Aggies defeated the Broncos 8-1.



The 4th Bryan-College Station Eagle Straight Shot 10K Road Race

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986
2p.m.

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Photos will be taken until
February 7 at Yearbook
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No pictures will be taken
at the Pavillion
this year