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Lady Ags don't plan to get free Pony ride

A&M puts win streak on line against SMU

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies will take a two-game winning streak into G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday at 5:15 p.m. against SMU, a team A&M blew out by 25 points in Dallas a month ago.

But A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said the SMU team A&M defeated last month is a much different one now because of the return of its leading scorer and rebounder, junior center Sheila Bryan.

Bryan, who missed three of the Lady Mustangs' games after Christmas for personal reasons, is averaging 11.4 points and 7.1 rebounds a game coming off the bench.

"They have a lot better depth in the lineup at the inside spot (center)," Hickey said. "That will be a definite problem for us to contend with."

The Aggies will counter with 6-foot-3 freshman Lisa Jordan, A&M's leading rebounder in Southwest Conference games; Nette Garrett, a 6-3 freshman; and Paula Crutcher, a 5-11 junior forward who has led the team in rebounding in eight games this season.

"SMU will be a lot tougher than Sam Houston State was (Tuesday night)," Hickey said. "So there won't be as much of a tendency for them (the Lady Ags) to stand around and reach in."

"They're going to have to be in there fighting it out."

Hickey is counting on Lisa Langston to return to her old form as she did against SHSU. Hickey said Langston had been in a shooting slump, but burst out of it with 26 points and nine rebounds against the Lady Kats.

"(Langston) had two or three games where she wasn't quite shooting too well, but (Tuesday) she was in her old form," Hickey said. "She shot a high percentage, but the most important thing is she also rebounded, had seven assists, and I think she only had two turnovers. And to me that is much more important."

The combination of Crutcher and Langston is proving to be a potent offensive combination for A&M and Hickey hopes that continues.

"I think Paula Crutcher is just playing extremely consistent and that's what we've been looking for all year," Hickey said.

Crutcher said the Lady Ags need to play solid defense Saturday in order to keep their winning streak alive.

"We have to have defensive intensity," Crutcher said. "That's what makes things happen. If our defense is lacking, then the offense won't come around."

"(Defensive intensity) brings about steals, which brings about points."

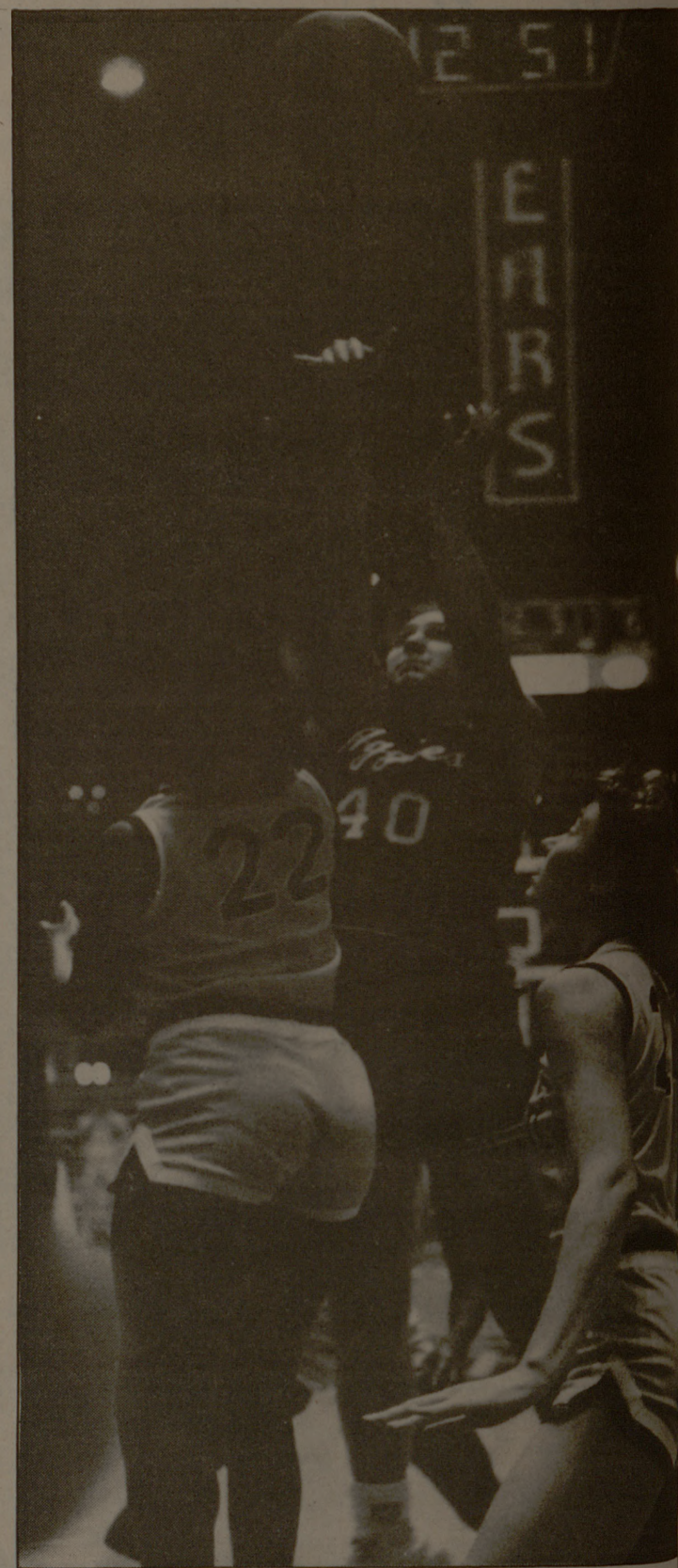


Photo by ANTHONY S. CAS...
A&M's Lisa Jordan, who leads the Aggies in SWC rebounding, finishes a jump shot over a Baylor defender. A&M hosts SMU Saturday.

If A&M is looking for an advantage against SMU, it could come from the home crowd, Hickey said. Fan support could add as much as 10 points to the Aggies' score, she said.

Support is one thing the Lady Ags have not had this season. A crowd of only 250 people showed up for their last home game.

"The basic thing for us is to play one game at a time and not get so far ahead to all these goals that you forget your responsibility," Hickey said. "And as for SMU, we need more point than they do."

The Lady Ags are 11-9 overall, 4 in the SWC, while the Lady Mustangs have a mere 5-12 record this season, 1-8 in the conference.

Ag spikers to start spring season

For the first time in six years, the Texas A&M women's volleyball team will be without Coach Terry Condon when it takes the court.

Although Condon resigned two weeks ago to become assistant athletic director at UCLA, the Aggies take to the court in a United States Volleyball Association tournament on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Read Building all day Saturday.

The A&M team, which now calls itself "Terry's Kids," will take on the likes of Texas, Texas-Arlington, a favored Baton Rouge club and a club from Austin

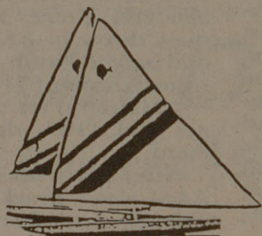
composed of former college players, including Jo Beth Palmer from College Station.

Two A&M men's teams will be competing in an open division of the tournament along with Baylor and Dick's Last Resort.

The women's open division features teams, Baylor, Houston, Oklahoma and Southwest Texas State.

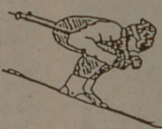
The men's invitational division features the Texas Stars-White, led by Houston women's coach Dave White, and Southern Petro, led by former A&M men's coach Dave Schakel.

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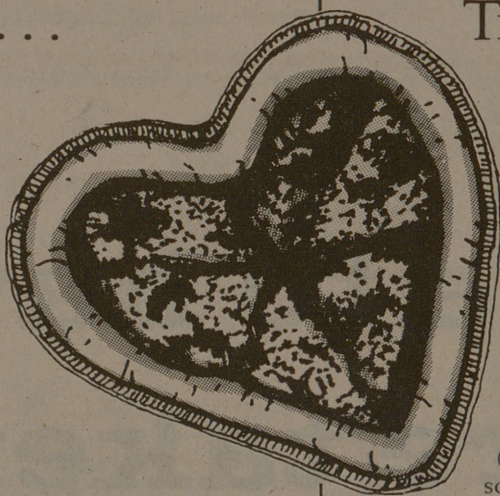
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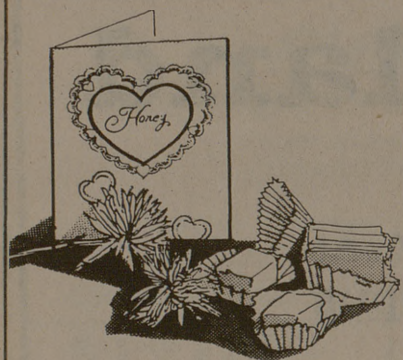


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