

Sports

A&M in desperate need of win Aggies' Holloway says SWC race far from over

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The way Texas A&M guard Todd Holloway sees things, the Southwest Conference race isn't over. And if the other teams are counting the Aggies out, they could be in trouble.

A&M's two straight losses dropped it a game and a half behind SWC leaders TCU and Texas. But since TCU still has SMU and Texas on its schedule, the Aggies' (14-9 overall, 8-3 SWC) game against the Longhorns (15-9, 10-2) Saturday night at 7:30 in Austin's Frank Erwin Center is important.

"We've been hurt because we lost those two games in a row (to SMU and TCU)," Holloway said. "But I've been on this team 2 1/4 years and I know we've always fought back.

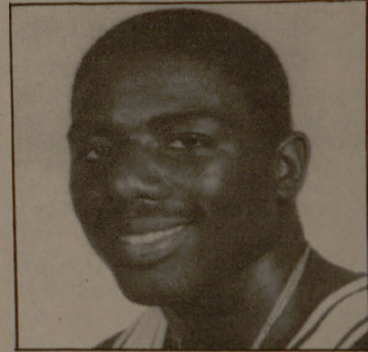
"We're not out of it. It might be hard for us to win it, but we'll try to win the rest of our games and hope someone will help us out."

The 6-foot junior is averaging 10.3 points and 4.5 assists per game. But Holloway would probably rather forget the last two games.

"I haven't been playing as well lately as I was earlier in the season," Holloway said. "I think I'm just fatigued. I want to be out there so much, it's hurting me rather than helping me."

In the 58-56 loss to the Mustangs, Holloway missed the front end of a

"We have to beat Texas to stay in the conference race. If we get our heads together, we'll be alright. If I know these guys and myself, we'll make a race out of this thing before it's over." — A&M guard Todd Holloway



with hardly a scratch — their only loss being to Houston.

"We're happy with the way we've played for most of the conference games," he said. "But all the guys think we can play better. We're trying to do the right things, but it's not turning out right. We'll hang in there and battle to the end."

The battle begins Saturday night against the Longhorns in Austin. An A&M loss would signal a cease fire for the Ags.

"That's the next step on our ladder," Holloway said. "We have to beat Texas to stay in the conference race. We have to shoot well, rebound well and play smart. If we get our heads together, we'll be alright."

And whether the Aggies win the conference title or not, they'll get another chance in the SWC Postseason Tournament March 7-9. The winner of the tourney will go on to the NCAA playoffs.

"I'm not really looking that far ahead yet," Holloway said. "I'm going to go out and get the team fired up for these next five or six games."

"When the conference race is over, we'll get to prove ourselves all over in the tournament. But if I know these guys and myself, we'll make a race out of this thing before it's over."

one-and-one that would have tied the game with two seconds left.

He followed that with a 0-for-6 shooting night in Wednesday's 70-53 loss to the Horned Frogs.

"I was pleased up until the last two games," Holloway said. "(Against TCU,) I just wasn't scoring. We all missed some easy shots we should have made, then we got a few bad calls and got frustrated. Nothing went right."

But two bad games and a few bad calls aren't all that's gone wrong for Holloway this season. On Jan. 16, Holloway and teammate Don Marbury were arrested for possession of marijuana and will be arraigned in March.

"The only thing I'm worried about right now is beating Texas and going to school," Holloway said.

"That's all that's important to me."

But in order to beat the 'Horns, the Aggies will have to do something they didn't do against TCU — shoot over a zone defense.

The Horned Frogs surprised A&M with a zone Wednesday and it had the Aggies running in circles all night. Holloway said the Ags can expect to see a zone the rest of the season.

"In order for us to win, we have to play better against the zone," Holloway said. "We have to take better shots. I thought (TCU) would play a man (defense) to tell you the truth. I don't play well against a zone anyway. We'll be prepared for it now though."

Facing mostly man-to-man defenses, the Aggies zipped through the first half of the SWC schedule

Lady Ags gunning for No. 1 Longhorns

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

Texas A&M Women's Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey said undefeated and No. 1-ranked Texas is bound to lose sooner or later.

The question is, "To who?" The 14-9 Lady Aggies hope to answer that query Saturday at 1:30 p.m. when they travel to Austin's Frank Erwin Center to play the 22-0 Lady Longhorns.

"Our advantage is that they're going to get beat sometime," Hickey said. "You just don't play that many games and not lose. It's going to happen

sometime. Maybe it's our turn."

However, Hickey knows that beating the top-ranked team in the nation will not be an easy task, especially on their home court.

"They (Texas) are going to be much tougher on their home court," Hickey said. "We have to go in loose, relaxed and ready to challenge them. We have nothing to lose."

The Lady Longhorns, on the other hand, have everything to lose, but plenty of weapons to keep the Aggies from tarnishing their perfect record.

Prior to Wednesday's 77-45 victory over Baylor, Texas led the SWC in team field-goal accu-

racy, defense, rebounding, assists and defense turnovers.

"They're so quick, and handle the ball so well that there were just too many times where we got burned last time (in Texas' 73-59 victory at G. Rollie White Coliseum)," Hickey said.

Hickey went on to say that although she hopes the Lady Ags can upset the Lady Longhorns, she realizes her squad is not yet of the same caliber as a nationally-ranked team.

"We're still two players away," Hickey said. "We need a strong power forward and a shooting guard."

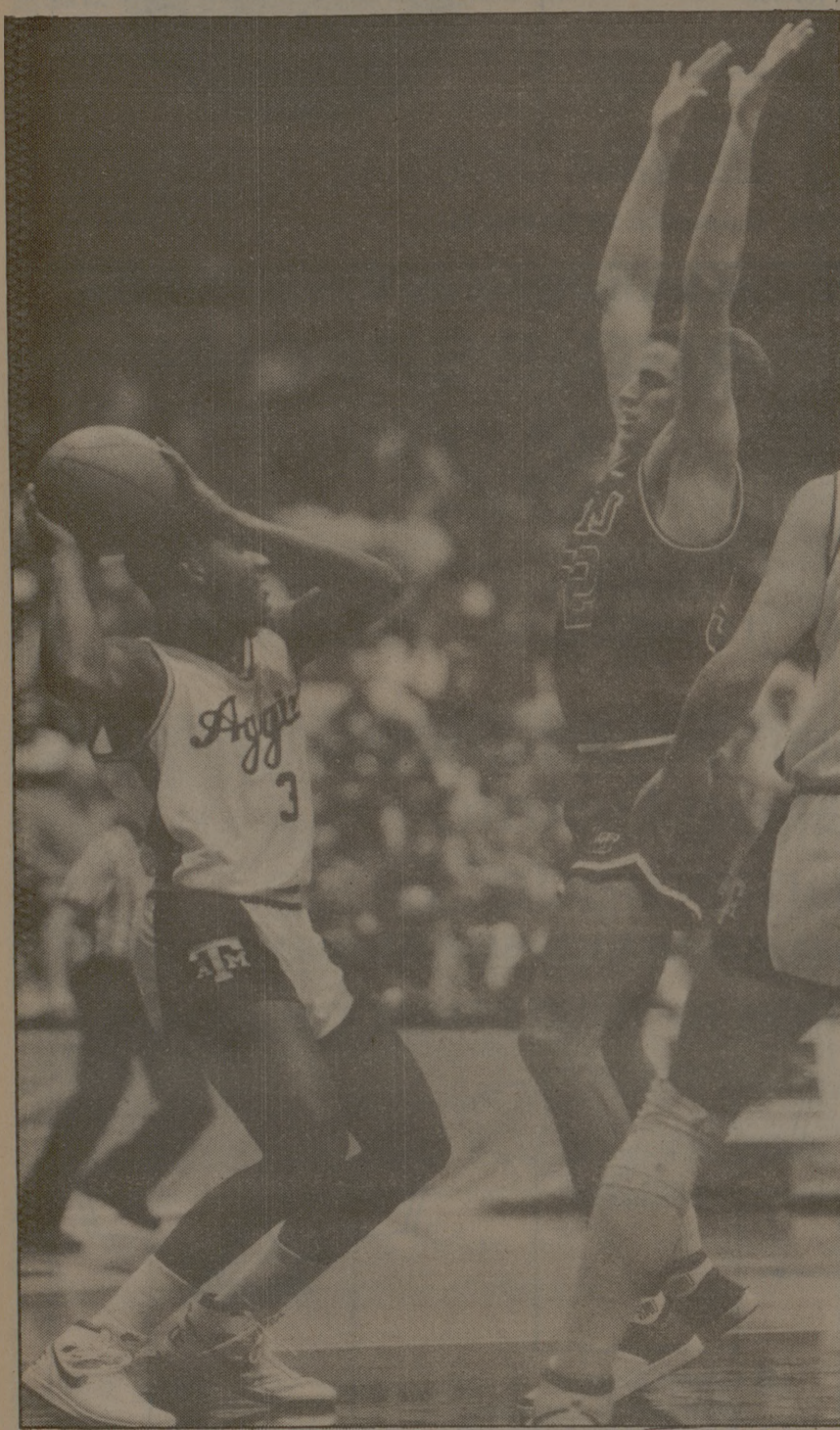


Photo by GREG BAILEY

A&M's Don Marbury tries to get the ball up court against SMU last week. A&M will try to break a two-game skid in Austin Saturday.

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