

# Sports

## Lady Ags lose, but hold onto 4th in SWC

By DOUG HALL  
Sports Writer

After a disappointing 77-64 loss to No. 1 Texas on Saturday, Texas A&M women's basketball team should ask for an "A" to be placed alongside the "L" in the loss column.

The "A," of course, being they grade they deserve for effort.

After all, when the top-ranked team in the nation is going for its 111th consecutive Southwest Conference victory, is at home and shoots 60.4 percent from the floor, staying within 13 points is nothing to be ashamed of.

"This time last year (against Texas), we were worried about getting beat by 30 or 40 points," A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said. "We're disappointed, but we showed a lot of promise."

The Lady Aggies (14-10 overall, 7-5 in SWC) remain in fourth place, but had two opportune chances to hand the Lady Longhorns their first loss in 23 games.

After falling behind 8-0 to start the game, A&M rallied and only trailed 27-26 with five minutes left in the first half. But Longhorn freshman Clarissa Davis, one of five UT players in double figures, led a 16-2 spurt that sent A&M to the locker room trailing 43-28 at the half.

The Lady Ags, after suffering another six-point run by the 'Horns to open the second half, fought back under the leadership of senior forward Lisa Langston (23 points) and freshman guard Donna Roper (14 points) to pull within 67-60.

But two missed shots by Langston and a three-point play at the other end by Kami Ethridge gave UT a comfortable 10-point lead with only three minutes left in the game.

## Aggies stumble again in SWC title race

Texas, TCU gain inside track with victories over A&M, SMU

By TRAVIS TINGLE  
Sports Editor

Orange and purple might be nearly at opposite ends of the color spectrum, but as far as the Southwest Conference basketball race is concerned, they're clashing at the top.

Texas manhandled Texas A&M, 58-47, and TCU routed SMU, 76-54, Saturday night to keep both teams' hopes for a SWC title alive.

Even A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf admits the Longhorns and Horned Frogs have earned the opportunity.

"It's a two-team race now," Metcalf said. "I like both teams (Texas and TCU). I think they're playing real well right now."

And, if anyone knows just how well, Metcalf does.

Last week in Fort Worth, TCU breezed past A&M, 70-53, then Saturday night in Austin, Texas extended A&M's losing streak to three games before a sellout Frank Erwin Center crowd of 16,231.

"(The Texas game) was a lot closer than the score indicates," Metcalf said. "But a loss is a loss, whether you keep it close or not."

A&M did keep it close, until the second half.

The Aggies led by as much as seven points twice during the first half. But the Longhorns took advantage of two charging fouls against the Aggies to pull within a single point by halftime at 26-25.

"The key was in the first half when we were down by seven," Texas Coach Bob Weltlich said. "We hit three jump shots in the last three minutes and, equally as important, we didn't allow (A&M) to score."

"That got us back into it and swung the momentum our way."

UT took the lead quickly in the second half and stretched it to five points in just the first four minutes. Texas then used perimeter shooting and trips to the free-throw line to thwart any attempt at an A&M comeback.

In fact, the Aggies went without a field goal for over seven minutes beginning at the 9:43 mark of the second half.

"We played a good first half," Metcalf said. "We didn't play very well at all in the second half. We took ourselves out of it. We didn't have the good ball movement we had in the first half."

"It's frustrating to the players and frustrating to anyone connected with A&M basketball."

Texas (16-8 overall and 11-2 in the SWC) hopes to end seven years of basketball frustration this week.

UT, which shared the SWC title with Arkansas in 1979, hosts SMU Wednesday and travels to Fort Worth Saturday for a showdown with first-place counterpart TCU (19-5, 11-2).

The Horned Frogs have never claimed a SWC crown under Coach Jim Killingsworth and last won the title back in 1971.

"The bottom line is that somebody's going to win (the SWC title) with two, maybe three, losses," Weltlich said.

A&M, on the other hand, has now fallen to 14-10 overall and into a two-way tie for third place with SMU at 8-4.

When asked how the Aggies will respond for their remaining four SWC games, Metcalf said he wasn't sure.

"It takes you longer to get over a loss, especially to Texas, than (the trip back to College Station)," Metcalf said. "I'll be able to tell you more toward the middle of the week. It's got to hurt (the players) some, though."

A&M hosts Tech Wednesday night at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum and Metcalf said the Red Raiders are his only concern right now.

"We've got to beat Tech," he said. "We've got to be ready Wednesday night. I'm not thinking about the (SWC) tournament yet. We've still got some games left to play."

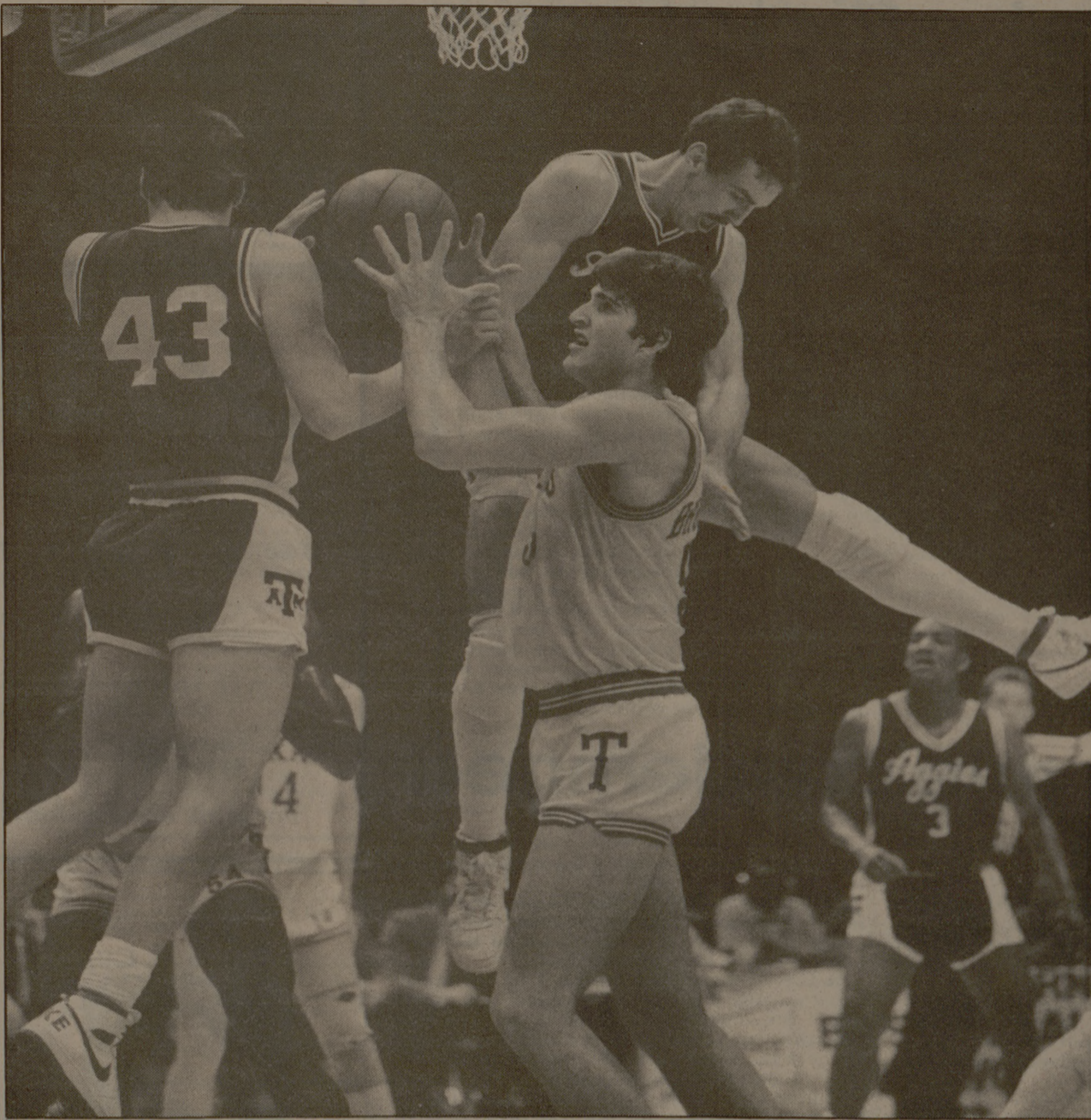


Photo by DEAN SAITO

A&M's Tadd Thomas (43) and Paul Crawford try to strip the ball away from Texas' John Brownlee

Saturday night in Austin. The 'Horns erased the Ags from the SWC title picture with a 58-47 win.

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