

Sports

Tech frustrates A&M 74-70

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Needing an upset win over Texas Tech to move up in the Southwest Conference standings, the Texas A&M Lady Aggies played one of their best games of the season Tuesday night.

Unfortunately for the Lady Ags, they fell short, losing 74-70.

A&M (7-6 in SWC, 14-11 overall) shot 52.6 percent from the field, pulled down 32 rebounds, had only 13 turnovers and had 11 steals.

"It's a tough loss," A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said. "When you play that well, it's hard to take."

At the first of the game, it looked like the Lady Ags would play their worst game of the season.

Tech's 6-foot-6 center Julia Koncak and 6-foot-1 forward Tricia Clay roamed freely under the basket, accounting for five of the first seven points of the game.

Meanwhile, it took the Lady Ags three minutes to score.

In fact, with seven minutes gone in the first half, Tech was coasting with a 19-8 lead. Nette Garrett accounted for all eight Aggie points.

"The start was the key," Hickey said. "We were tentative and lacked intensity. Garrett did a good job. She kept us in the game."

Guard Beth Young came in off the bench and gave the Lady Ags some life and Garrett some help.

Young's rebound jump shot, steal, save and assist gave the Lady Ags four straight points. And with Young chasing the ball all over the court, A&M began to cut off Tech's inside game.

"Beth did a really good job tonight," Hickey said. "That seemed to be when we got more intensity. We didn't have any more lapses after that."

"We stayed with our man (defense), but we switched up who was guarding who."

With 6:24 remaining in the half, the Lady Ags knotted the score at 24 and four minutes later had a one-point lead, 26-25.

At intermission, the Red Raiders held a 32-31 advantage.

In the second half, the Lady Ags went to an effective full-court press that seemed to have the Red Raiders confused and frustrated.

"That's been our thing all year," Hickey said. "We're not a great half-court team. We get a lot of our points off of steals and breaks."



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

A&M's Lisa Jordan (right) tries to strip the ball away from Tech's Tricia Clay (22) and Julia Koncak Tuesday night. A&M lost 74-70.

A&M had its last lead with 4:26 remaining in the game, as the Lady Ags failed to convert three crucial free throws down the stretch. Overall, the Lady Aggies hit only 9-of-19 free throws.

"Free throws," Hickey said. "Of all the nights to be cold..."

Guard Lisa Langston led the Ags with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Forward Paula Crutcher had 18 points and 10 rebounds. And Garrett was 8-of-10 from the field, ac-

counting for 17 points.

On the whole, Hickey was pleased. Her fourth-place Aggies, starting three freshmen, came close to upsetting the second-place Red Raiders (17-6, 11-2) who start three seniors and two juniors.

"The best thing is to be as positive as possible," she said. "We put a group of babies out there against a group of veterans. We played the second-best team in the conference, and we gave them a tough fight. And that was without any breaks."

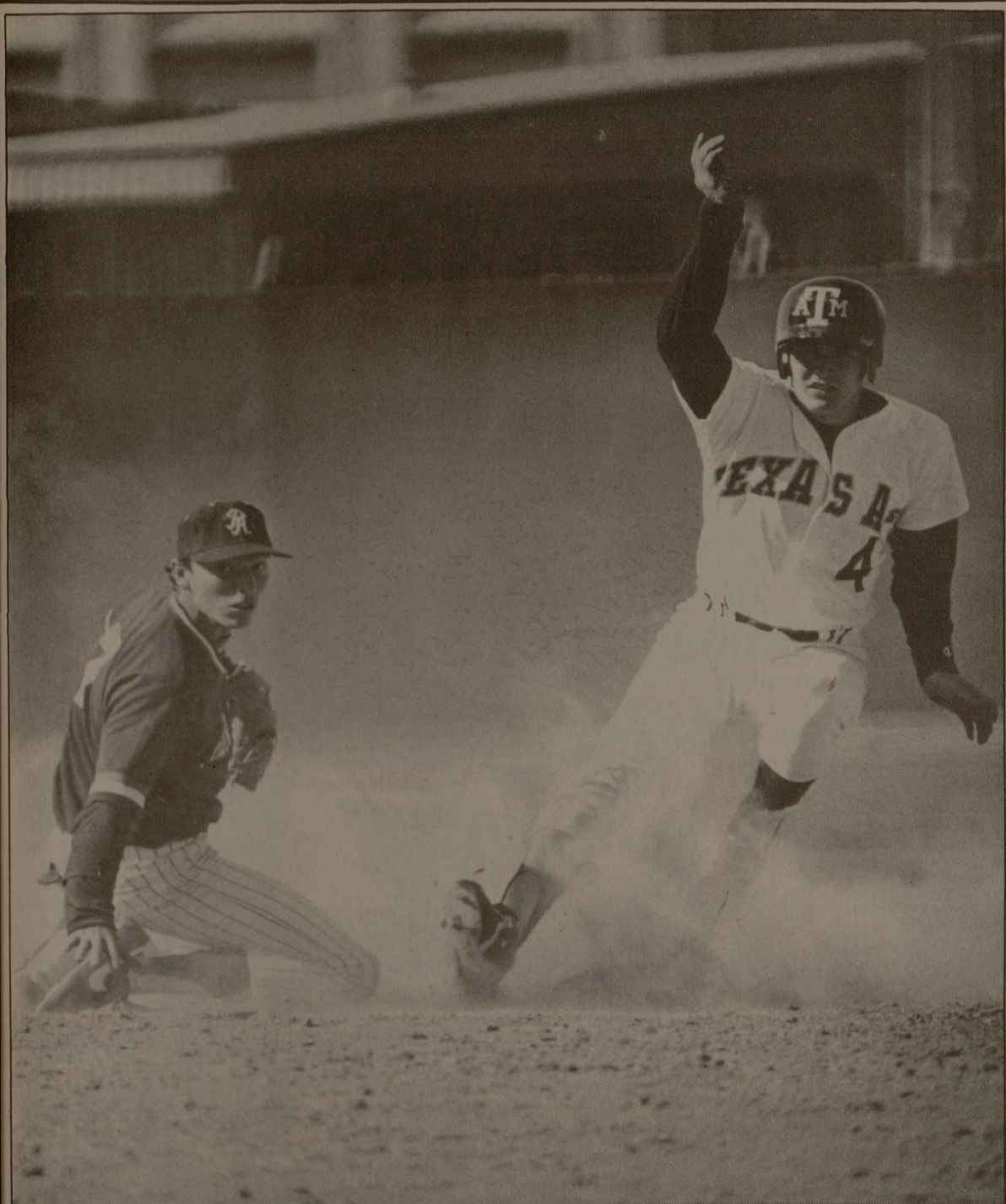


Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Baseball Ballet

A&M's Maury Martin (4) stands up going into a force out play at second base against Pan American last weekend. A&M, which lost all three games

of the Pan Am series, will go for its first win of the season today against St. Mary's of San Antonio. The double-header begins at 1 p.m. at Olsen Field.

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