

Sports

Lady Ags to host weekend tourney

By Doug Hall
Sports Writer



Nette Garrett

The Texas A&M women's basketball team will open its home season tonight against Mississippi College at 8 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum in the second game of the Converse Lady Aggies Tournament.

The four-team tourney, which pits Nebraska against Lamar in the 6 p.m. opener, gives the Lady Aggies a chance to improve their 1-2 record.

Coach Lynn Hickey, who's beginning her third season at A&M, said 3-0 Nebraska will be the team to beat this weekend.

"Nebraska upset Iowa last night (Tuesday) and Iowa was ranked in the Top 20," Hickey said. "We beat them last year on a last-minute shot, but they have everybody back off of that team."

Hickey also said Nebraska has one of the finest college ballplayers in the nation in Maurice Ivy, a 5-9 forward whom Hickey characterized as a "running, leaping machine."

The Aggies, however, are not about to throw in the towel. In fact, with the return of center Nette Garrett, who is coming off a stress fracture injury, the Aggie front line will be returned to full strength.

Hickey said Garrett, who averaged 7.1 points a game last year as a freshman, will take about two weeks to get back in to top form, but will give immediate help to starting center Lisa Jordan.

"Lisa has really improved over last year," Hickey said. "She finally got angry (in last weekend's Southern Invitational Tourney) and played with some intensity."

"I'm sure with Nette on the floor, that will give her more confidence. When they're both on the floor together they will be able to back each other up. With Lisa, this year is like night and day from last year."

Hickey attributed last week-

end's two losses, one of which came in double overtime after leading by 14 points at the half, to the team's youth and inexperience.

"I thought we should have come up with at least two wins," she said. "The first night was just terrible. The second night we had four people foul out and we still took them through two overtimes."

"I just think we are much younger and more inexperienced than I realized. We started off so well against the Yugoslavians (the Aggies winning their exhibition match 77-68) that I got really excited. I learned a lot this last weekend."

The winners of tonight's games will square off at 8 p.m. on Saturday, following the 6 p.m. consolation match.

Lady Aggie Notes . . . Neeley Hall, with the help of the Lady Aggies, is sponsoring a canned food drive for Saturday's games amongst the dorms on campus. Anyone who brings non-perishable food to the game will get in for \$1 and prizes will be given to the dorm that brings the most food.

Aggies pull off sloppy 86-78 win

By Homer Jacobs
Assistant Sports Editor

Ugly. Sloppy. Scary. Call it what you will, but Texas A&M's 86-78 victory over Southwest Texas State University Thursday night before 2,576 fans in G. Rollie White Coliseum was anything but pretty.

The Aggies led the Bobcats 68-51 with 11 minutes, 28 seconds left to play, and all seemed well. But seven minutes later, the Bobcats were within seven points at 70-63 after a three-point play by Patrick Williams, and a game that started out as a sleeper for the Aggies was soon turning into a rude awakening.

"We didn't do all the things we're capable of tonight," senior guard Todd Holloway said. "Mentally, we weren't ready to play."

A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said he was pleased with his team's play for about 10 minutes of the game.

"I thought we played pretty good defense for about 10 minutes starting the second half," Metcalf said. "But I was very unhappy the first half."

"I was disappointed in our rebounding, especially our offensive rebounding."

Although the Aggies were much bigger than the Bobcats, the Aggies were outrebounded 39-35. Mike Clifford did pull down 12 boards for A&M, however.

Holloway and senior Winston Crite were the Aggies' leading scorers with 18 apiece, while Bobcat sharpshooter Eliezar Gordon bombed the Aggies for 25 points to lead all scorers. A&M junior college transfer John Trezvant added 16 points for the Aggies.

A&M had leads of 9-2 and 37-22 in the first half, but sloppy A&M defense and three three-point shots by Gordon kept the Bobcats in the game with a 53-40 deficit at halftime.

"They go down there and they (SWTSU) can shoot the three-point basket," Metcalf said. "It didn't take long for the lead to dwindle when they shoot like that."

The lead also didn't take long to dwindle after a 21.3 percent performance in the second half at the free-throw line for the Aggies, and a poor rebounding performance in the first half from A&M's 6-8 forward Jules Moor and 6-10 center Jessie Spinner.

"We didn't play the big guys (Moor and Spinner) the second half, and I rotated them the first half, and they had one rebound between them," Metcalf said. "There's not much advantage in playing the big guys if they're not going to go in and take care of the boards for you."

Crite led the Aggies down the stretch in the second half with some key blocked shots and nine points, after a sub-par performance in the first half.

"Winston got going there a little at the last," Metcalf said. "He started relaxing and playing a little more like Winston."

The Aggies shot 51.5 percent for the game, but allowed the Bobcats a 57.1 shooting percentage, which points to the lack of defense on A&M's part. And Metcalf forewarned his players that they would definitely work on defense today in practice.

"I wouldn't come to practice unless you really loved the game," Metcalf said.



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Southwest Texas State players search for the ball after knocking it out of Aggie Paul Crawford's hands during the Aggies' home opener Thursday night.



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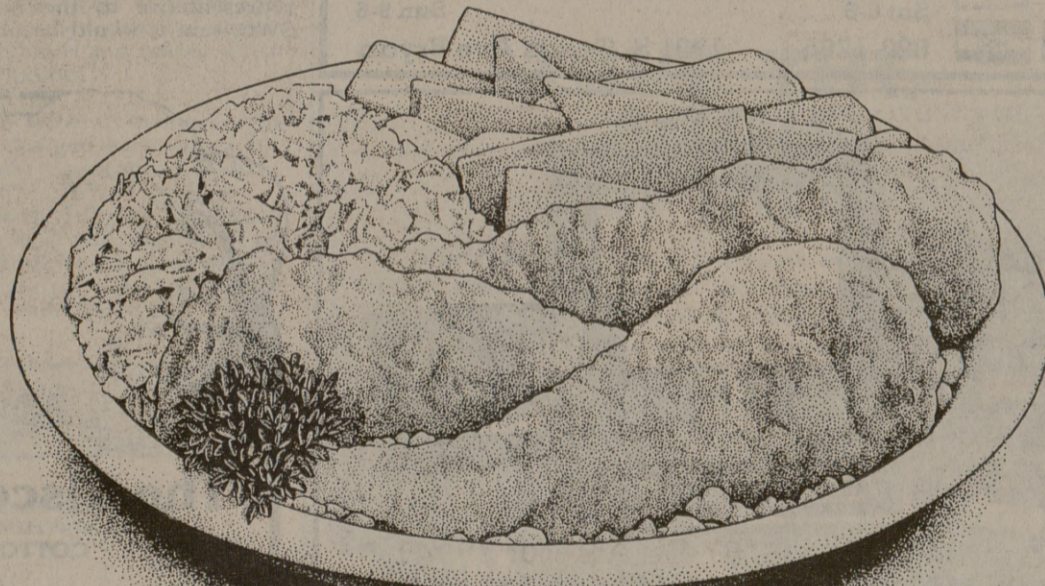
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