

# Sports

## Lady Aggies fall in tournament final Missed free throws cause A&M downfall against Nebraska

By Doug Hall  
Sports Writer

It was a bad omen for the Texas A&M women's basketball team Saturday night when, during halftime, former player and A&M's all-time leading scorer Lisa Langston went to the free-throw line.

At stake were free prizes for making three consecutive shots.

Her first attempt had good rotation and a soft touch, but the ball never even hit the rim. Airball.

So it went for the Lady Aggies who shot only 47.8 percent from the line in losing to Nebraska 83-79 in the championship game of the first Converse-Hampton Inn Lady Aggie Classic.

"The free throws killed us," A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said. "You can't shoot 48 percent from the free-throw line and win close games. We missed 12 free throws and lost by four, so that's the key."

But the Lady Aggies made a valiant run at the

well-disciplined Cornhuskers in the second half, closing to within two points at the 1:15 mark after trailing by as many as seven with less than five minutes to go.

Leading the Aggie surge was Donna Roper, who led all scorers with 22 points, and Beth Young, who finished the night with 16 points.

The Aggies, however, could not match the balanced approach of the Cornhuskers who had six of their seven players in double figures. Leading the way for Nebraska was junior forward Maurice Ivy, who totaled 19 points and four rebounds. Ivy was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Nebraska Head Coach Angela Beck was obviously pleased with Ivy's performance, but was even happier with her team's play.

"Ivy is a great player," Beck said, "but this was a team effort. A&M kept coming at us and made us play to the last second, and we played hard."

Hickey also had kind words for the Nebraska team, which improved its record to 5-0 with its

wins over A&M Saturday and a 62-49 beating of Lamar on Friday night.

"They're a fine team," Hickey said. "They don't have great, awesome athletes except for Ivy, but they're basketball players. They know how to play the game; they're aware of what's on the floor."

"We have better athletic talent, but we're still at a point where we're trying to learn how to adjust to things."

One of the things the Aggies didn't adjust to was the inside play of Stephanie Bolli, who came down with five important second-half rebounds, and the left baseline shooting of Amy Stephens, who finished with 16 points.

On the defensive side, Bolli held A&M center Lisa Jordan to only one second-half point, after the 6-3 sophomore dropped in 13 in the first half.

"Stephanie Bolli was our unsung hero," Beck

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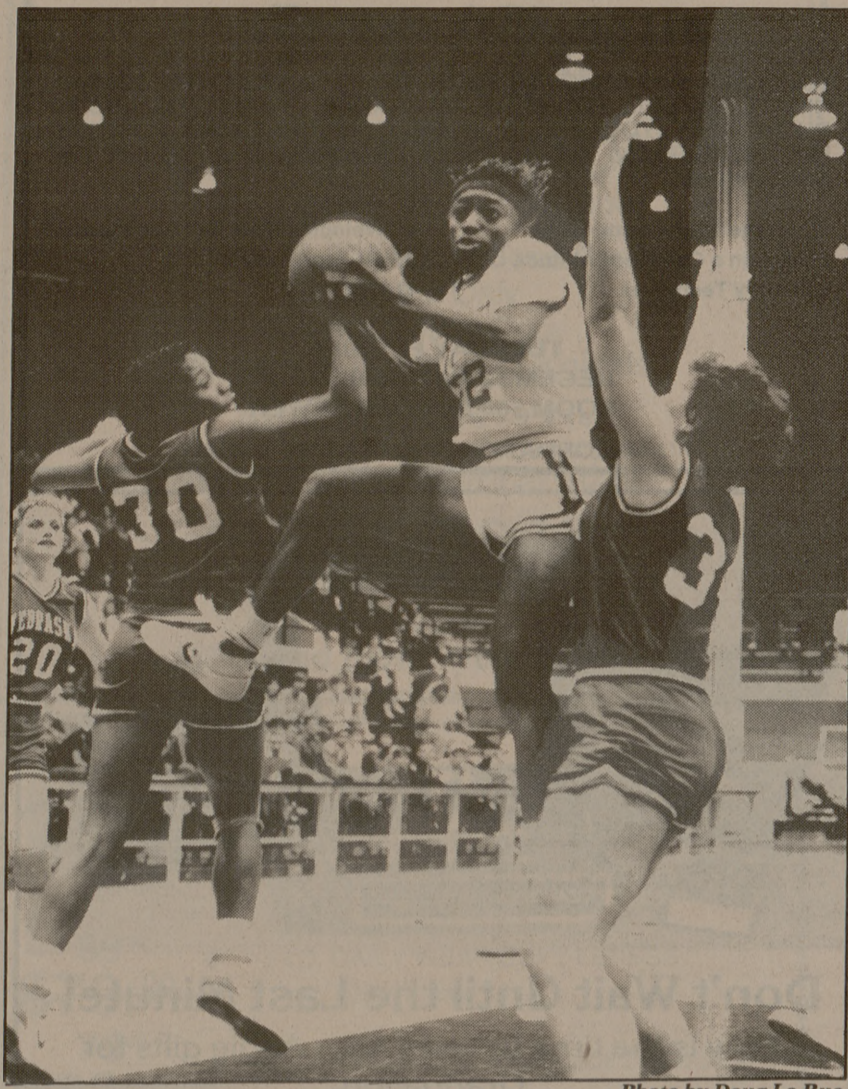


Photo by Doug La Rue

A&M's Paula Crutcher tries to get past two Nebraska players as she drives to the goal during Saturday night's game.

## Georgia closes season for Ag volleyballers

By Homer Jacobs  
Assistant Sports Editor

The University of Georgia eliminated Texas A&M in the opening round of the NCAA volleyball playoffs Friday night to finish the 1986 season for the Aggies.

A&M lost 15-5, 4-15, 10-15, 6-15, to give the Aggies a 23-14 final record. Georgia, 33-7, will face the University of Texas Saturday in Austin in the South regionals.

The Aggies were held to a .269

hitting percentage, and A&M Coach Al Givens pointed to lackluster passing as a key to the outcome.

"We came out and played extremely well the first game," Givens said. "In the second, third and fourth games, our passing broke down, which made our offense very predictable."

Individually, sophomore Cheri Steensma was a bright spot for the Aggies, recording 15 kills and a .448 hitting percentage. Senior Stacey Gildner led A&M in kills with 18,

while finishing with a .428 hitting percentage. Freshman Yvonne Van Brandt led the Aggies defensively with 14 digs.

Givens said Georgia's talent and a big home court advantage for the Bulldogs, who have won 18 straight matches at home and 27 out of their last 28, made them unstoppable.

"I think playing at home had a tremendous advantage (for Georgia)," Givens said.

Although the Aggies did not

make 16-team regional round, Givens was content in giving his squad a Top 20 ranking.

"Theoretically, we finished tied for 17th, which is not too shabby," Givens said. "I think we represented A&M to the best of our abilities."

Friday's match was the last outing for A&M All-Southwest Conference performers Margaret Spence and Gildner and for seniors Chris Zogata, Laura Hoppe and Stacey Smith.

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