

Former basketball star Langston now concentrating on A&M track

By Andria P. Goldwire
Reporter

Few athletes can be successful in two collegiate events, but Lisa Langston has managed it.

"I'm proud to have contributed so much to Texas A&M's women's athletics," Langston said.

Langston is the all-time leading scorer in A&M women's basketball. Her career point total is 1,615, and she averaged 16.3 points per game in her senior season last year for the Lady Aggies.

She also holds the school record (7.82 seconds) in the 60-meter hurdles.

"My goal was to help establish a good, balanced foundation for women's athletics," she said. "I've represented A&M on the regional, national and international levels and accomplished my goal."

The 1986 track season was the first time Langston had participated in track events since high school. She had a good season, but she wants this year to be better.

"I'm much more serious about track this year," she said. "Last year, I ran to take my mind off of basketball. This year, I'm thinking competitively."

Langston is confident in her ability to compete with the leading hurdlers in the conference, especially Karen Nelson of the University of Texas.

Langston placed second in the 60-meter hurdles at the Southwest Conference Indoor Championships behind Nelson and has qualified for the NCAA Track and Field Indoor Championships March 13-14 in Oklahoma City.

Her best time this year is 7.82 seconds, and her goal is to become an All-American.

"Competing against the best is the only way to see how good you really are," she said. "Anyone can be defeated at any time. A person can only do the best that they can with the athletic ability that they have."

Langston demonstrated her team-oriented athletic ability in basketball, but she feels that track has given her a chance to really concentrate on herself.

"Basketball is a team sport, and you are only as good as the people around you," she said. "Track allows the selfish part of me to come out. The only person I can blame for anything is myself."

"I'm not expecting as much of myself in track as I did in basketball. There's not as much pressure, and no one is really depending on me."

The only weaknesses Langston feels she has are the lack of formal training in the hurdles and lack of form coming out of the starting blocks.

"I've had very little formal training in hurdle technique," she said. "Right now, it's just me and the God-given talents that I have."

She said the mental aspect of track is also very different from basketball.

"Basketball is so mental," she said. "Track is simpler for me because I concentrate on myself and not necessarily on the team's efforts."

However, the team's performance is important to Langston. She said she is excited about its fifth-place finish at the SWC Indoor Championships last month, and she is



Lisa Langston

looking forward to the outdoor track schedule.

She will be competing in the 100-meter hurdles, long jump and possibly the sprint relay.

"Our performance at Indoors was a confidence booster," she said. "No one thought we were going to do that well."

Langston is also concentrating on her education. She received her bachelor's degree in physical education, and she is taking graduate level courses.

"I'm not officially in graduate school, but I will get my master's," she said.

Meanwhile, Langston wants to go to Europe to play professional basketball with a club team or with Athletes in Action, a religious-oriented athletic club. She may also look for a professional track club if this season goes well. Eventually, she wants a coaching and teaching job at the secondary level.

A&M men's tennis team falls to Duke

The Texas A&M men's tennis team lost to Duke 5-2 in the first round of the Corpus Christi Team Tournament Wednesday.

The Aggies play their second match of the tournament at 3:30 this afternoon against Oklahoma State. The Aggies will be looking forward to avenging a 5-4 loss to OSU in the Cowboys' tournament earlier this year.

The final two doubles matches were called off in yesterday's match after Duke's victory in the No. 3 doubles match clinched a win. Scott McTeer and Mark Mance defeated A&M's Shaun O'Donovan and Steve Kennedy 6-2, 6-3.

Aggie Coach David Kent said, "They just outplayed us. We have no excuses."

The only Aggie victories came in the No. 2 and No. 3 singles matches. Dean Goldfine beat McTeer 6-4, 6-4 in No. 2 action; and Marcel Vos won his No. 3 match with Ken Bourian 6-1, 6-3.

Duke's Jeff Herst beat Dean Johnson 6-3, 6-4 in No. 1 singles. A&M's No. 4 player Brent Haygarth lost his match 7-6, 6-3. Kennedy lost his No. 6 match to Ricky Peck 6-7, 7-5, 6-0.

O'Donovan lost his first match as an Aggie in No. 5 singles, falling to Duke's Mark Nance 1-6, 7-5, 6-0.

Kent said he was going to make a lineup change, moving O'Donovan up to the No. 4 spot instead of Haygarth.

Mavs down Nuggets to extend division lead

DALLAS (AP) — Mark Aguirre scored 38 points to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 115-107 victory over the Denver Nuggets in National Basketball Association action Wednesday night.

The victory boosted Dallas to 26-5 at home and the third best record in the NBA. The Mavericks are now 39-20.

Denver, 24-36, lost its fourth consecutive game. The Nuggets, who are 5-25 on the road, have lost 11 out of their last 13.

The Mavericks trailed just once, 2-0 at the start of the game. Dallas led by 16 points, 72-56, midway through the third period, and by 13

points, 86-73, at the end of the period.

But Dallas had to hold off the Nuggets in the final quarter. Alex English, who scored 37 points, led the Nuggets on a 16-8 run, which cut Dallas' margin to five points, 94-89, with 7:35 remaining in the game.

Aguirre and Sam Perkins led Dallas on a 10-5 run to build the lead back to 10, 104-94, with 5:01 left before the Nuggets cut it to four points, 105-101, at the 2:55 mark. Dallas then outscored Denver, 10-6, to wrap up the victory.

Denver coach Doug Moe was ejected with six seconds left in the first period when he received back-

to-back technical fouls from referee Earl Strom.

Rolando Blackman scored 21 points for Dallas and Mike Evans had 19 for the Denver. Denver's Wayne Cooper and Dallas' James Donaldson each had 16 rebounds.

The Mavericks, who won for the seventh time in eight games, increased their Midwest Division lead to 6½ games over Utah, which lost in Boston. But they said the victory over the Nuggets didn't come easy.

"It felt more like a three or a four-point win," said guard Derek Harper, who scored only nine points but handed out 13 assists. "They just wouldn't die. The lead was never really safe because everytime we got

up by 10 or more points, English and the rest of them would come back to make it close."

English said, "We really played hard the whole game."

"We really worked from the beginning," he said. "A few less turnovers and a few more breaks and we could possibly have won. But I think the most important thing about tonight is that we kept ourselves in it."

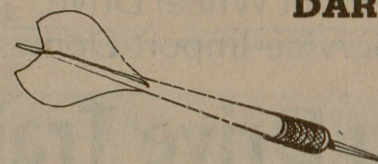
Moe said Aguirre was a big key in the game.

"We competed and did a good job, but we just couldn't stop Aguirre. They allow him to be so aggressive."

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