

# Sports

## Lady Ags look for win over Raiders tonight

The Texas A&M women's basketball team will try to rebound from a weekend loss at Houston when it plays struggling Texas Tech tonight at 7 in Lubbock.

The Lady Aggies, 9-5 over all and 3-2 in the Southwest Conference, lost to the Cougars 87-66 Sunday. The Red Raiders are 7-9 and 1-4 in conference play.

13.6 points a game, and center Lisa Jordan has a 10.4 scoring average and 8.9 rebounds a game.

Tech is led by sophomore forward Reena Lynch with 15.3 points per game and 8.8 rebounds, and guard Alexis Ware, who averages 11 points per game.

"The last thing we want to do is dwell on the loss to Houston," A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said. "We've only got one day to get ready for Texas Tech. They're a young team with good size."

Tech is coming off a 75-64 loss to Southern Methodist Saturday in Dallas. A&M hasn't beaten Tech since 1980, when the Lady Aggies won 66-64 in Lubbock.

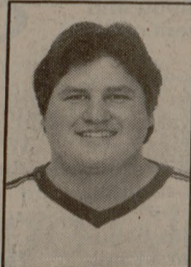
Guard Donna Roper, who had 14 points against Houston, all in the second half, is A&M's top scorer with an 18.1 average. Forward Evelyn Sanders is next with

The Lady Aggies will return home after tonight's game to face Texas Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum. A&M will then face Texas Christian here next Wednesday at 5 p.m.

## Home court is where the heart and the wins are for hoopsters

Ever wonder what the most powerful weapon in modern basketball is? The three-point shot? The fast break? 'Magic' Johnson?

Nope, it's the home court. Today, it's almost impossible to lose at home if you have a halfway decent team, especially in the pro ranks. On the other hand, you have to have an absolutely fabulous team like the Los Angeles Lakers to win consistently on the road.



Loyd Brumfield

Of all 23 teams in the NBA, only five have winning records on the road. They are: the Lakers (13-6), the Boston Celtics (12-8), the Dallas Mavericks (11-9), the Atlanta Hawks (12-10) and the Detroit Pistons (9-8).

All of the above are shoe-ins for playoff spots and one of them will most assuredly come away with the championship. Other teams considered to be in the title hunt include the Houston Rockets (8-13 on the road), the Chicago Bulls (8-9), the Seattle SuperSonics (6-14), and the Milwaukee Bucks (5-11).

Only the worst pro teams have losing records

at home and are located in cities where fan support has waned after years of frustration. Only four teams have losing records at home: the Los Angeles Clippers (8-11), Golden State (6-10), Sacramento (10-14), and New Jersey (8-14).

Teams that struggle on the road can be virtual powerhouses at home. Seattle has a home record of 18-2 and just had its home court winning streak snapped at 17 by, you guessed it, the Lakers.

The Portland Trailblazers have a 15-3 home record coupled with a 7-11 road slate. Atlanta has a 17-1 record at home. The Washington Bullets are 6-0 at home since Coach Wes Unseld took over.

The Celtics lost only one home game last year, but it didn't happen on the parquet floor of the Boston Garden; it happened in Hartford, Conn., in what was technically a home game for Boston. The 1985-86 Rockets only lost two home games, three if you count Game Four of the NBA Championship series against Boston.

But home success rarely is equaled on the road. The Nets have lost 17 straight road games and the Philadelphia 76ers have lost seven in a row.

The home court can help college teams, as well. Indiana won 17 home games in a row until

they were defeated by Michigan Sunday. Kansas currently owns the longest home court winning streak at 55, and several top 20 teams appear unbeatable at home.

Closer to home, Texas A&M is undefeated at home this year, and it's a safe bet the Aggies wouldn't have beaten Arkansas or Southern Methodist if they had played them on the road earlier in the year, and it's an equally safe assumption that A&M would have beaten Houston Sunday if the game had been played here at G. Rollie White Coliseum instead of in Houston's Hofheinz Pavilion.

Playing at home helps teams of many different sports, but its effect is more pronounced in sports events where the crowd is closer to the action, as in hockey or basketball, and it is least helpful in sports played in wide-open areas, like football and baseball.

Nevertheless, it clearly better to be the home team in any situation. The home crowd was probably the difference in the A&M football team's wins over both Arkansas and Texas, and teams like Louisiana State, Michigan and Arkansas are experts at using the home field to their advantage.

Loyd Brumfield is a senior journalism major and sports editor for The Battalion.

## Ags may nab another of the state's top backs

By Curtis L. Culberson  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M football team appears to have added another weapon to its offensive arsenal.

Houston Worthing High School fullback Robert Wilson passed up offers at Nebraska, Georgia, Colorado and USC and verbally committed to attend A&M to become the latest addition to an elite Aggie backfield.

Wilson said in a *Houston Chronicle* story that he wanted to play big-time college football and be close to home with his grandparents, Josephine and Roscoe Williams, who raised him.

Near the top of everyone's list of this year's best high school recruits, the 6-foot-1, 235-pound Worthing product will join the running back crew the Aggies acquired last year led by halfback Darren Lewis (5-11, 205) and fullback Randy Simmons (6-2, 215).

"They told me I would go behind Matt Gurley and Randy Simmons," Wilson told the *Chronicle*. "With all these top backs, it's really going to help A&M. Whoever is in the game

is going to produce. If he doesn't, then the guy behind him will because he is just as good or even better."

Wilson said the facilities and the offensive line attracted him to A&M. "That (offensive line) is the main thing that will attract any good back," he said in the *Chronicle* interview.

Houston Lee High School's Clarke Flowers (6-5, 252) will probably become the latest member of that attractive offensive line. Flowers committed to Houston weeks ago but changed his mind and committed to A&M Sunday.

Defensive back Derrick Frazier, from Houston Clements, also had a change of heart and broke his previous commitment with Nebraska to join the Aggies.

The 6-foot 175-pound Frazier is considered by many to be one of the nation's best.

All commitments are oral agreements and don't become final until the players sign national letters of intents on or after Feb. 10.

## Pitt's 'Ironhead' says he will skip last year

PITTSBURGH (AP) — All-American running back Craig "Ironhead" Heyward said Monday that he would skip his last year at the University of Pittsburgh to play in the NFL next season.

"I plan to petition the NFL," Heyward told Pittsburgh television stations Monday.

"My reasons for doing that (are) being a father and coming from a family of eight — you know, a low-income family — so I think the decision that I'm going to make is the decision for me," Heyward told WPXI-TV.

Heyward said he has not signed a contract with any agent, although he said he had met with agent Bruce Allen of Phoenix, and "a lot of other agents."

Heyward said Pitt Coach Mike Gottfried did not know of his decision despite a meeting with him only hours earlier.

"His decision was to persuade me to come back and to finish the educational part of it and I had my mind made up I wanted to turn pro and he had a somewhat hesitant reaction to it," Heyward said.

"I can't say I'm surprised, but I am disappointed," Gottfried said immediately after Heyward's announcement.

The 6-foot, 280-pound Heyward, a redshirt junior, cannot be selected in the regular NFL draft in April because he has college eligibility remaining and has not graduated, but could petition for a supplemental draft should he sign with an agent and forfeit his remaining eligibility.

Heyward said he was a "little frustrated" with the way the university handled a recent incident in which Heyward was involved in an altercation with a campus policeman.

"It all boiled down that I've had enough of Pittsburgh and it's time

for me to move on," Heyward said.

Heyward's decision came hours after Gottfried suspended him for failing to attend classes this semester.

"There are people on the team who haven't been to class, yet I'm the topic of everyone's stories," Heyward told KDKA-TV. He did not name the players.

Gottfried said Heyward denied during the meeting that he flew to Washington, D.C., last weekend to meet with Allen, but the Pitt coach accused Allen of actively recruiting the nation's second-leading rusher.

"I would have thought the son of (former NFL coach) George Allen would have had a bit more integrity," Gottfried said at a news conference, which Heyward did not attend. "These agents stalk players like vultures. . . . They are leeches and bloodsuckers who sell out the long-

term advantages of an education for the short-term gains of quick money," he said. "When they're done with the kids, they get rid of them."

Gottfried said he has notified the NCAA and the FBI that Heyward has had contact with an agent. A Chicago-based federal grand jury is probing the relationship between college athletes and pro agents and may return indictments.

Heyward, who rushed for 1,655 yards last fall, is on term to graduate after the 1988 season and has done well in school, Gottfried said, but has not attended winter semester classes that began Jan. 6.

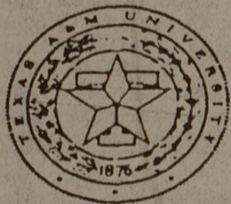
He will not be reinstated until he returns to school and resumes working on his degree, although he apparently has not violated NCAA eligibility rules, Gottfried said.

"It's all up to him," Gottfried said.

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### The Carl Stevens Selling Seminar Registration Form

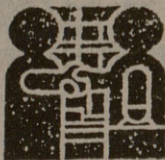
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