

Longhorns trip up stubborn Lady Aggies

5th-ranked UT hands A&M 3rd loss in a row

By Loyd Brumfield
Sports Editor

In a valiant yet futile effort, the Texas A&M women's basketball team played one of its better games of the season in losing to 5th-ranked Texas 89-61 Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The game drew a crowd of 2,933, a Coliseum record for women's athletics. At least half the crowd was made up of boisterous UT fans who but nullified the home court advantage for the Lady Aggies.

A&M's record fell to 9-7 overall and 3-4 in Southwest Conference play, while UT raised its record to 22-2 on the year and 7-0 in the SWC. The Lady Aggies came out fired up, and the A&M crowd was on its feet when center Lisa Jordan won the opening tip and quickly made two free throws to give the Lady Aggies their only lead of the game at 10-0.

After that the Lady Aggies could only manage a 4-4 tie, although they stayed within range of the Lady Longhorns until late in the second half, when greater UT experience and depth wore A&M down.

After the tie, UT's offense picked up and ran off a 21-8 lead, with most of the points coming off free throws. The Lady Longhorns got off to a 10-point lead with 4:20 in the first half on a layup by guard Amy Claiborne, but then A&M matched the Longhorns basket-for-basket and trailed at the half 45-31.

UT applied suffocating pressure throughout the game, causing the Lady Aggies to commit 17 turnovers.

The Longhorns also benefited from a strong inside game and out-bounced A&M 50-32. UT was able to consistently dominate inside and get three or four shots almost every time down the court to A&M's one.

The second half was much the same, as UT quickly lengthened its lead to 48-31 before the Lady Aggies could get off a shot. A&M's Donna Cooper finally canned an 18-foot jump shot to give the Lady Aggies their first points of the half.

Roper, A&M's leading scorer and coming into the game with an 18.3 scoring average, was held to just 2 points in the first half, but she came out in the second half to lead all scorers (along with UT's Susan Anderson) with 19.

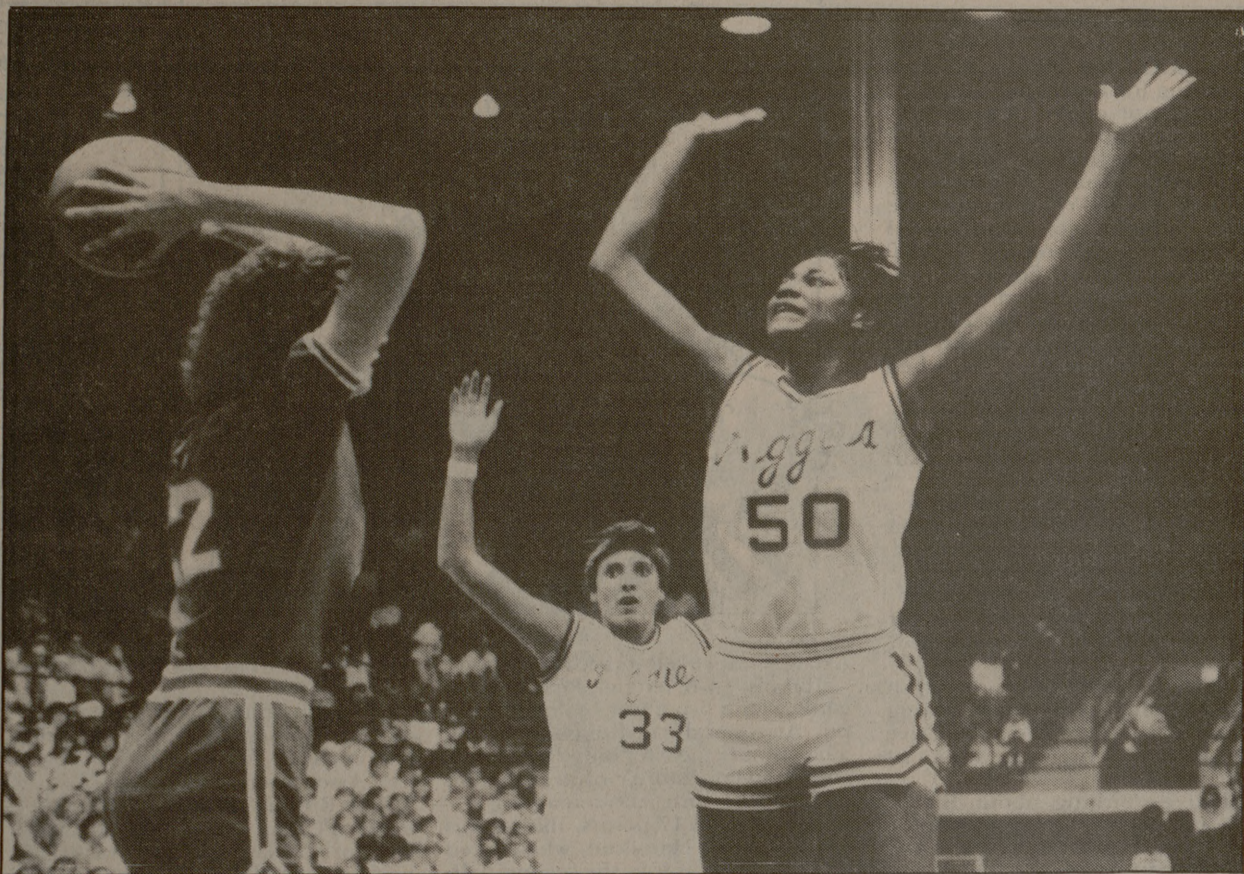


Photo by Jay Janner

UT's Ellen Bayer attempts to put up a shot against A&M's Nette Garret (50) and Lisa Jordan (33). The Lady Longhorns defeated the Lady Aggies 89-61 Saturday night before a record crowd at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A key point in the second half came with A&M forward Evelyn Sanders went down with a leg injury after chasing Claiborne, who was gunning for an easy layup.

The extent of Sanders' injury was still unknown as of Sunday evening. After the injury to Sanders, the game began to take its toll on A&M. The Lady Longhorns' lead reached 20 for the first time when guard Lyssa McBride hit a 17-foot jumper to make the score 64-44.

A&M was the beneficiary of the play of the game, however, when Roper stole the ball in the backcourt from Anderson and dribbled the length of the court to sink an incredibly easy layup against 6-8 backup center Ellen Bayer, who just watched

as Roper somehow shot over her and drew the foul.

Despite the loss, A&M Coach Lynn Hickey was pleased with her team's effort.

"We got beat, but I though we played very, very hard," she said. "The last 10 minutes took it's toll, but we have definitely made progress. As far as being competitive goes, we are 200 percent above where we were last year."

UT Coach Jody Conradt was also surprised at A&M's tenacity.

"A&M played very well," Conradt said. "If they play like this all the time I don't see how they can get beat. They played a great game and have a lot of great personnel."

Conradt also credited the crowd in helping the Lady Longhorns.

"The crowd was a big part of it," she said. "Our fans are so supportive that you want to play well for them."

Hickey said, "We learned yesterday that they (Texas) were bringing in a lot of people, but we weren't sure if the Aggies would respond, and they did. I hope they saw something that would make them want to come back. . . . I hope they came away thinking we could be competitive."

A&M's next game is Wednesday afternoon at 5 against Texas Christian here at G. Rollie White.

Aggies' Johnson falls in finals of tournament

CLEMSON, S.C. — Dean Johnson placed second in No. 1 singles to pace the Texas A&M men's tennis team at the Clemson University Showcase in Clemson, S.C.

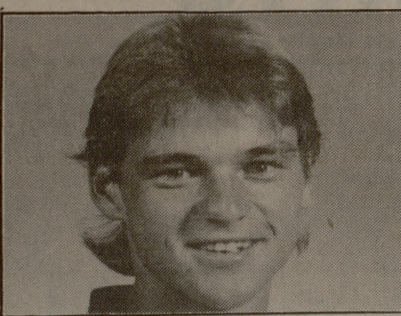
Johnson defeated No. 1 seeded Brett Garrett of Southwest Louisiana 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals before falling 6-4, 6-2 to No. 2 seed Steve Langley of South Carolina.

Aggies Mike Chambers, Steve Kennedy and Wayne Green were held out of the competition by Coach David Kent for violating team rules. No specific violations were mentioned.

The action forced A&M to forfeit its No. 2, No. 5 and No. 7 singles matches, along with the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles matches.

Johnson teamed up with Jeff Livshitz in No. 1 doubles to beat Tawn Harden and Brad Huff of Furman 6-3, 6-4 for third place.

Craig Whitteker beat Brian Ouellette of Furman 6-4, 6-4 in



Dean Johnson

the No. 4 consolation match. Livshitz beat Tom Givonne of Columbia 6-4, 6-4 for third place in No. 6 singles.

Host team Clemson is ranked No. 9 in the nation. South Carolina is ranked seventh, while Southwest Louisiana is ranked 14th. A&M is unranked.

The Aggies' next action is Friday in their spring home opener against Pan American.

Rodriguez dominates in Senior Skins Game

HONOLULU (AP) — Chi Chi Rodriguez, the dominant player on the senior golf tour, also dominated the first Senior Skins Game that ended Sunday, winning \$300,000 of the \$360,000 total purse.

The 52-year-old Rodriguez won three holes and \$260,000 on the final day of the two-day event.

He concluded his lucrative payday by winning a sixth playoff hole, worth \$90,000, in a sudden-death showdown that dwindled down to him and Arnold Palmer.

Rodriguez also won another hole worth \$90,000 Sunday, as well as one worth \$80,000.

The \$300,000 for two days is almost a third of what Rodriguez earned in 26 years on the regular PGA tour.

Rodriguez, who won seven tournaments and \$500,000 on the senior (50 and older) tour in 1987, had finished the first day of the Senior Skins as the top money-winner, winning three holes and \$40,000.

Palmer won one hole and \$20,000 on the first day and was winless the second, losing out on the sixth playoff hole when he bogeyed and Rodriguez won with a par.

Sam Snead and Gary Player had bowed out earlier in the sudden-death playoff.

Player won the only other hole not captured by Rodriguez Sunday, for \$40,000 on No. 12.

Snead, 75, did not win a single hole during the competition. Rodriguez had birdies to win the first hole Sunday, No. 10, worth \$80,000, and No. 15, worth \$90,000.

In the match-play format of the Skins, the low score on each hole wins the "skin," or prize money. If the hole is tied, the money carries over to the next hole, with all four golfers still in contention — except during the sudden death.

The Senior Skins, with nine holes each day, had prize money of \$10,000 for each of the first six holes, \$20,000 for the next six, and \$30,000 each for the final six holes.

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