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Monday, November 28, 1988

A&M takes Lady Aggie Classic

By Stan Golaboff Sports Writer

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The Battalion

The Texas A&M Women's basketball team won the Lady Aggie Classic 81-48 over the McNeese State Cowgirls Saturday at G. Rollie White Coliseum

A&M (2-0) was led by senior cen-ter Lisa Jordon, who had 15 points and a career-high 19 rebounds, and sophomore center Louise Madison who chipped in nine rebounds and

A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said, "Lisa played a great game. If can play like that all year, and we get the effort we got from the other girls, we will win a lot of ballgames."

Whenever Jordon wasn't in the game, Madison picked up the slack. Madison had 18 points, 14 re-bounds and one blocked shot in the tournament. She was a terror on the offensive boards as 12 of her 14 rebounds were offensive.

The University of Texas-Arlington and Oral Roberts University were the other two teams in the tournament.

A&M opened the championship game playing excellent defense. They raced to a 12-0 lead behind the inside play of Jordon and senior guard Donna Roper who had team bigh 17 points for the game

high 17 points for the game. A&M's defense was so good that the Cowgirls didn't score until almost eight minutes into the game. The Cowgirls shot only 23 percent from the field and didn't go to the free throw line until there were four minutes left in the half.

A&M led 38-21 at the half. A&M continued to play tough defense, and the Cowgirls never got closer than 22 points. The Cowgirls' 48 points was a tournament record low.

It may be the Lady Ags' year """" aid the difference from apital about 13 to dethrone the Lady Horns

Women's basketball is here and it's time to pick who is going to win the Southwest Conference

For what seems like an eternity the SWC has been ruled by the women from Austin. In fact, the Lady Longhorns' last defeat to a SWC team was back on Jan. 9,1978 (52-50 to A&M). Because of this many

SWC again. Well, move over teasips. There is a new team on the horizon, and they just happen to be the last SWC

team to beat you. The 18th-ranked Texas A&M Lady Aggies appear to be in an excellent position to dethrone the teasips. A&M returns all five of last year's starters and have an influx of new talent that should give the Lady Aggies that extra edge they will need. Texas is returning only two starters from last year's team.

Texas is led by the best center in women'

Texas is led by the best center in women's basketball, Clarissa Davis. A&M, though, is led by a preseaon All-America pick themselves. Senior guard Donna Roper will be the spark that will keep A&M's title hopes alive. Roper has been tabbed as a preseason All-America and enters her senior year on the verge of rewriting A&M's record book. She ranks in the top 10 in eight categories. Roper is A&M's court general, and the Ags will need her experience and talent to lead them to the top. Roper, however, is not A&M's only weapon. Senior center Lisa Jordon will lead the inside attack. Jordon, who averaged 10.1 rebounds a game last

Jordon, who averaged 10.1 rebounds a game last year, will give A&M a strong rebounding game as she demonostrated in the Lady Aggie Classic over

Thanksgiving. Coach Hickey said, "If Lisa plays like that (19 rebounds in the championship game) all year, we will win a lot of ball games."

Stan Gobaloff Sports Writer

49 out of 96 three-point attempts her senior yearing

high school. Last year Wendy Jennings was A&M's only seno three-point shooting threat. This year Russo will help Jennings and give Coach Hickey more of an outside game. The best news to come out of the exhibition wi

the Canadians was the play of freshman LaTany Irving. She showed that she could run the offens and bring the Ags up the court even against the

This is important because last year when Rope was not in the game and the other team pressed, A&M would fall apart as the Houston game in Houston showed.

Seniors Nette Garrett and Lisa Jordon will be getting help from sophomore Diane DeCree. DeCree, a Proposition 48 casualty last year, prom to help A&M get physical down inside under the basket. Against the Canadians she bullied her wa for several rebounds and appeared to intimidate

A&M also has two sisters who will give the team depth at guard. Junior Lori Dillard, a transfer athlete, helped lead Temple Junior College to a conference championship last year. Lori showcas her talent in the Lady Aggie Classic scoring 16 p and giving both Herner and Roper some needed

rest Lori's sister, freshman Sheri Dillard, was the No

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Roper was named the tournament MVP. She scored 50 points and nine assists for the weekend. Jordon was named to the all-tournament team.

Completing the all-tournament team was UTA's Tracy Tilghman, Oral Roberts' Vivian Herron and McNeese State's Kim Turner and Chandra Davis.

A & M advanced to the championship by beating UTA 86-67 Friday night.

A&M's next game is Wednesday against North Texas in Denton before heading to Minneapolis, Minn. to play Kansas State in the Dial Classic. A&M's next home game is Dec. 8 against Pan American.

A&M's other three returning starters — Traci Thomas, Lisa Herner and Nette Garrett — will help round out a starting five that has learned and played together for a year. This experience will help to make A&M's game more fluent and effective.

A&M's strongest asset this year may not be their starters, but their bench. For the first time in Coach Lynn Hickey's career at A&M, she has a bench.

Hickey went out and recruited what she needed to bring the level of talent at A&M up to that of Texas.

Coach Hickey said, "We recruited what we set out to recruit — good basketball players who are also quality people. They are not borderline players. They are all pure athletes." Two of these players showcased their talent early in the arbibition group against the Canadian patient

in the exhibition game against the Canadian national team. Freshman Dena Russo displayed an outside shot that will make her a headache for A&M's oppenents. Russo scored 10 points and established herself as a legimate three-point shooter. She made

3 prospect in the state on the Houston Chronic list of top high school players. She averaged 18 points a game her senior year and plays excellent defense as many of the McNeese State Cowgirls will tell you.

Hickey's most promising recruit could end upon the bench because of all the talent ahead of her. Freshman Vanessa Edwards, at 6-2, gives the Age talent and height. She could be called on to give Jordon a rest, but because of her lack of experience it may be a while before she sees some playing time. Edwards has played well when given the chance, but she is usually the last one off the bench.

The main reason why this team should win the SWC is because of its coach. Hickey has always bee a winner. Before coming to A&M she coached Ka State. She never had less than 23 wins in the five years that she was there and turned the program

into a Big Eight powerhouse. Mark my words — A&M will win the SWC or at least beat Texas once.

Suspending players not new to Holtz

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Notre Dame as-sistant coach Pete Cordelli learned that Lou Holtz had suspended the team's leading rusher and top receiver-punt returner on the eve of Saturday's game against Southern Cal, it was, to

quote Yogi Berra, deja vu all over again. Cordelli was a member of Holtz's staff at Ar-kansas. Before the 1978 Orange Bowl, Holtz sus-pended three of the Razorbacks' key players for violating team rules.

Great, just great, grumbled some alumni and fans. The win-at-all-cost crowd complained that the disciplinary action sabotaged whatever chance Arkansas had of upsetting favored Oklahoma. If Holtz wanted to penalize the players, couldn't he at least wait until after the bowl.

But Holtz stood firm, and what transpired that night under a festive Miami moon has since become a part of Arkansas football lore. Before Arkansas went onto the field, Holtz gave the team the greatest pep talk Cordelli said he has ever heard

Despite being 23-point underdogs, the Hogs were wild-eyed with enthusiasm. They were re-ady to hit the field running. But just as the Ra-zorbacks started to charge out of the dressing room, word came that the Rose Bowl was run-ing late and that NBC uses deluging the Orange ning late and that NBC was delaying the Orange

Bowl kickoff for 15 minutes. Inside the head of the Hogs' bookish-looking coach, wheels began to turn. What could Holtz do to prevent an emotional letdown? Cordelli picks up the story.

"He called the players together and said, 'I'll

tell you what we're going to do. I travel around and speak a lot, and I'm always looking for new material. You guys tell me some jokes and I'll use them in my speeches.

"Dan Hampton looks at me, like, 'Is he see rious?' Finally, one guy told a joke, and then Coach told one, and it got going and by the time the TV official came back, everyone was laughing. On the third play, we recovered a fumble, and it was 14-0 in the first quarter."

Arkansas won, 31-6. Now, Cordelli thought, here we are again, another place another time, but a similar situation, this time the stakes are higher. Much higher. No. 1 Notre Dame vs. No. 2 Southern Cal was the showcase of the college football season. The battle of the unbeatens. A sellout at the LA Coliseum.

Although Holtz tried to downplay the signifi-cance of the contest, his counterpart, USC coach Larry Smith regarded the showdown as a national championship match. "The winner will be the odds-on favorite to

win it all," Smith said, and added the proclamation, "It's truly America's game." On paper, it looked as if Notre Dame would

need all its weapons to beat Southern Cal, which was favored and playing at home. But the Irish didn't have them

Friday night, Holtz met with his team and informed the players that he had suspended tailback Tony Brooks and flanker-punt returner **Ricky Watters**.

Brooks and Watters arrived 40 minutes late

for a Friday evening team meeting. The players said they had borrowed a friend's ar

gone to a shopping mall and, after leaving mall, couldn't locate the car in the parkingly Brooks and Watters spent Friday night team's hotel and returned to South Bend Saturday morning flight.

So Notre Dame went into the game again nation's top-ranked rushing defense with their tailback, Brooks, who had averaged yards per carry. Gone, too, was Wa year had returned punts of 81 and 66 yards touchdowns

Before kickoff, Roger Valdiserri, Dame's associate athletic director, contemp

the weight of the suspensions. "It's tough. You ask yourself, 'If I was (Holtz's) place, what would I do? Under the cumstances, do I maybe bend the rules al

Valdiserri turned palms up. "You can't." Had Notre Dame lost, Holtz would have ready-made excuse had he chosen to use though, knowing him, he wouldn't have. Bu Irish didn't miss the suspended players any than Holtz's Arkansas club did in that 0 Bowl

Afterward, Holtz said his decision to sus two key players could have divided the Irish his players backed their coach. "You've g have integrity. Integrity is Notre Dame,³ safety George Streeter. Would other college head coaches have lo

the other way given what was at stake?

845 "I'm sure some would," Grunhard said.



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