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Lady Ags suffer 1st loss of season

By Cray Pixley
Assistant Sports Editor

The University of North Texas Lady Eagles took advantage of a slow start by the Lady Aggie basketball team to defeat them 60-53 in Denton.

A&M trailed by as much as 15 points before rallying to within four with less than two minutes in the game.

A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said, "We lost. They didn't win. We made their year."

The Lady Aggies fall to 2-1 and head off to Minnesota for the Dial Classic and a game against Kansas State.

A&M slipped to 16-10 with 8:56 to go in the first half, and it spelled doom for the rest of the night.

Hickey said the team was not mentally prepared for the game and needed to shake off the problem.

"It takes 20 minutes to get ready to play the game, and we can't afford that," she said. "We've got to play the first 30 minutes of the game like we play the last 10 minutes."

The Lady Aggies fell behind 33-23 at the half and inserted a young bench — three freshmen, a junior-college transfer and a sophomore — to open the final period.

They picked up the tempo for the Lady Aggies, who were then able to put points on the board and close the gap.

The Lady Aggies outrebounded the Lady Eagles 57-48 but couldn't halt North Texas.

A&M senior Donna Roper scored 13 points, while Diane Decree and LaTanya Irving came off the bench to chip in 10 and eight points respectively.

Three North Texas players scored in double figures.

Nelda Loy, Ramona Black and Nicole Jackson had 17, 14 and 13 points for the Lady Eagles.

Hickey said she was very proud of her younger players for the spirit they infused in the team to rally back.

"We have to give them a lot of credit," she said. "They came off the bench and led a fire force."

Hogs

(Continued from page 9)

Arkansas team in a row Hatfield has led to a bowl game.

Playing UCLA for the cotton could be as tough a match as the Orange Bowl two years ago when Oklahoma demolished the Razorbacks 42-8. But after Arkansas' performance against Miami last week, this year's Cotton Bowl is looking to me like it might be a better game than most suspect.

The Bruins are surely expecting to blow out the Hogs but there's no question in my mind the Razorbacks could beat the Bruins.

The thing is, with Arkansas, it's just hard to tell what will happen. It's easy to credit their 10-1 record to an easy schedule. But that seems unjust to me now.

Some wins are bigger than others, but at the end of the season, a win is

a win. And Arkansas has won — something the rest of the SWC has had a difficult time doing this season.

When I try to think of the talented spots for the Razorbacks, very little comes to mind. Of course Kendall Trainor has one of the most talented feet in the country, but kickers don't make a team. They have decent-to-good quarterbacks and running backs, a good defense — but nothing stands out.

When trying to get a vision of who Arkansas really is, it's easy for me to see only a big blob of cardinal red. But they can't be ignored anymore by the Texas portion of the SWC.

The Hogs are, for now, keeping the conference on the national map. And I have decided to get off of the Texas sports bandwagon and say that Arkansas deserves to be in the Cotton Bowl, whether the Aggies are on probation or not.

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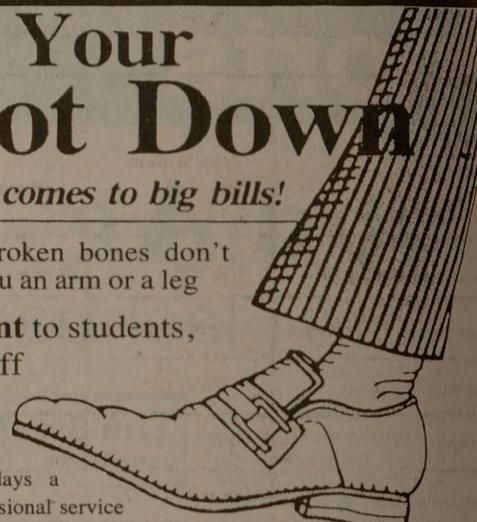
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