

Thursday, February 16, 1989

## A&M dominates Baylor in Waco

### Ricks, Ags blaze past Baylor

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

WACO — Tony Milton and Freddie Ricks led a 10-1 scoring run in the final 2:02 that lifted Texas A&M to a 76-65 victory over Baylor Wednesday night, all but ending the Bears' hopes for a spot in the Southwest Conference post-season tournament.

#### Aggie Update

- **Score:** Texas A&M 76, Baylor 65
- **Record:** 11-12; 4-7 in the SWC.
- **Next game:** Saturday v. Arkansas
- **Standing:** Seventh place.
- **Other SWC scores:** Arkansas 81, SMU 68; Houston 105, Texas 96; Rice 70, TCU 67.

The league's last-place team doesn't play in the tournament, and the loss dropped Baylor to 1-11 in league play with only four SWC games remaining.

Every other league team has won at least four games. Baylor is 5-18 for the season.

Ricks scored 15 points, Milton added 12 and Ray Little chipped in

12 for the Aggies, who boosted their conference record to 4-7 in league play and 11-12 overall.

The victory was A&M's third in a row.

Ricks added a team-high eight rebounds and four assists while Little and Donald Thompson, who was held to only nine points, chipped in with six boards apiece.

Just over eight minutes into the second half, A&M held a 55-41 advantage and appeared to be in control of the contest.

However, the Bears went on a 10-2 scoring skid that sliced the Aggies' lead to 57-51 with 7:34 remaining in the game.

A&M stretched its advantage to 66-61 with 2:02 left.

Milton and Ricks scored five and three points respectively during the Aggies' 10-1 spurt that staved off Baylor's comeback attempt.

Junior guard Julius Denton paced Baylor's attack with 22 points and

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## Lady Ags back on track, breeze by Lady Bears

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M's Lady Aggies beat Baylor 81-68 Wednesday to make it 2-0 against the Lady Bears in Southwest Conference action this season.

#### Lady Ag Update

- **Score:** Texas A&M 81, Baylor 68
- **Record:** 15-7; 7-4 in the SWC.
- **Next game:** Saturday v. Arkansas
- **Standing:** Third place.
- **Other SWC score:** Arkansas 87, SMU 72.

A&M improved its record to 15-7 for the season and 7-4 in league play. Baylor fell to 3-18 and 1-10.

After leading by only two points at the half, A&M pulled away behind the scoring of LaTanya Irving and Louise Madison.

The Lady Aggies were slow getting started. Baylor took a 5-0 lead before A&M got their first points, by

Lori Dillard, about five minutes into the game.

The game remained close the entire half and A&M led 38-36 at half-time. A&M took the lead when Baylor's Crystal Crenshaw intercepted an inbound-pass attempt by the Aggies and put in a layup at the wrong end of the floor.

A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said her team's play was somewhat up and down.

"There were some bright spots but we played kind of draggy sometimes," Hickey said. "This was a big win. If you look at the score, it seems like we won by a bigger margin, but they played us very close."

Irving led the Lady Aggies in scoring with 17.

Although Hickey credited sophomore Diane DeCree with good defense on Baylor's high-scoring Maggie Stinnett, she still led all scorers with 22 points.

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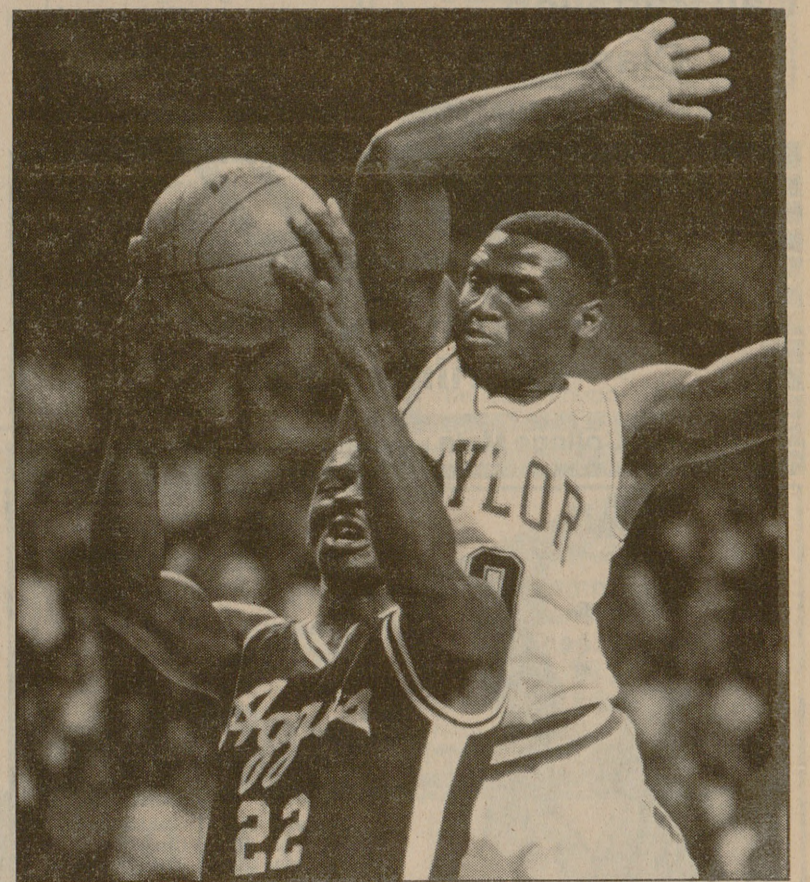


Photo by Dean Saito

Baylor's Ivan Jones (20) crowds A&M's Ray Williams (22).

## Soccer can't make it in America because of low exposure

On Monday, the Dallas Sidekicks filed for protection under Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy law, a move that will allow them to finish the season.

Thus, the end is near for an organization that has been relatively successful in winning games, but hasn't been able to overcome the battle of the ticket booth.

Now the creditors are calling in their markers.

The money problems of the organization have been a skeleton in the closet for the 37 partners who make up Sidekicks I, who purchased the floundering club from Mavericks owner Donald Carter in 1986.

Carter was previously burned for losses of \$5 million during a two year ownership of the club.



Steven Merritt Assistant Sports Editor

Don is now concerned with collecting on a debt of \$560,000 owed by the Sidekicks which was due in full on July 17, 1988.

The organization has overall debts in excess of \$1 million.

This incident couldn't come at a worse time for the club or the Major Indoor Soccer League, which is currently

considering expansion of the league.

The number of teams in the MISL dropped from 11 to seven this summer.

League officials have said that the Dallas situation would not affect the expansion effort, but what investor would sink his million dollar inheritance into a club that will probably go belly-up in three years or less?

Poor attendance will be singled out by many as the number one cause for many of the financial problems that teams face.

To a certain extent that is true.

An unusual fact, however, is that the Sidekicks have led the league in attendance so far this year.

They won the MISL championship in 1987 and the city of Dallas was beginning to recognize the team and the game as more

than just sandlot kickball.

The Sidekicks organization just couldn't get out from under the debt incurred from the early days.

Nationwide acceptance of professional soccer has been slow to catch on primarily because most people cannot identify with the sport.

Most children aren't exposed to soccer at an early age like they are to football or baseball.

The largest majority of these kids are from small schools that don't have the funding for a team or the ability to play a solid schedule with other schools that also have teams.

My only exposure to the sport in rural Northeast Texas was when the high school football coach would reach way back into

the equipment closet and pull out an ancient, dusty soccer ball to be used for a play day in spring football practice.

It's a shame that many aspiring athletes in this country don't get the opportunity to be exposed to the sport.

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world and one of the oldest in European countries as well as in Mexico, and many of the star athletes in those countries come from the game.

Many of the larger schools have established soccer programs while numerous communities have organized leagues for younger children.

Hopefully, these programs will continue to grow, giving more kids the opportunity to be exposed to a sport that is terribly underrated.

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