

Thursday, March 2, 1989

Lady Aggies take pair from SWT

A&M wins seventh straight

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

The ninth-ranked Lady Aggie softball team swept a doubleheader with Southwest Texas State Wednesday night. A&M won the first game 2-0 and the second game 2-1 when it was called due to rain in the bottom of the seventh, despite the fact that

Mitchell (7-2) dominated the SWT hitters in the first game as she pitched a one-hit shutout. Mitchell faced just 24 batters, three over the minimum, and retired 16 in a row at one point.

She struck out eight batters. SWT was only able to hit the ball out of the infield three times in the game. They had just three base runners all night.

Mitchell walked the first batter she faced and then retired 16 in a row. SWT did not get another base-runner until the sixth when Mitchell again walked a batter.

Mitchell lost her bid for her second no-hitter in three games when freshman Susan Elza singled in the sixth. Mitchell retired the final four batters for the win, her sixth of the season.

A&M (7-2) scored its first run in the third when Renee Blaha scored on a fielder's choice. A&M added an insurance run in the sixth when Michelle Mayfield singled to center

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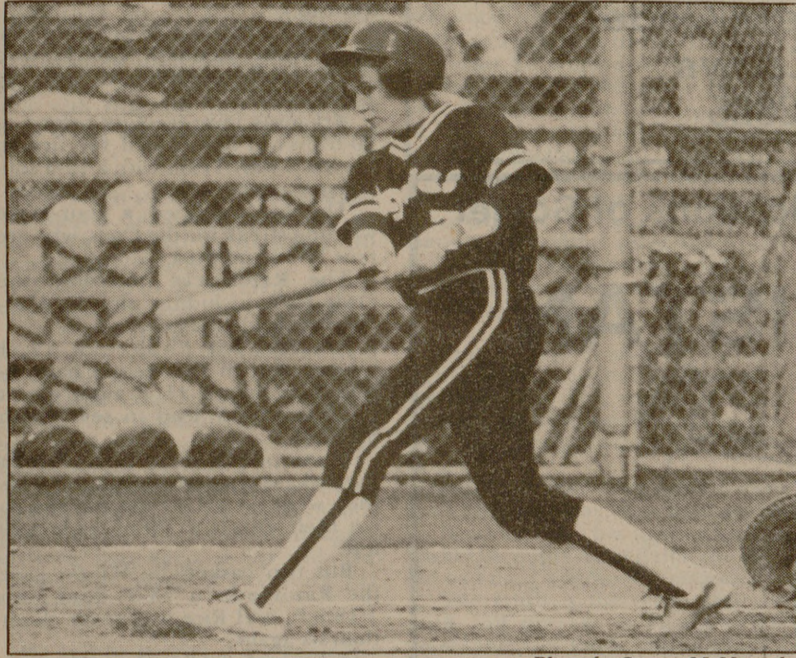


Photo by Steven M. Noreyko

A&M's Renee Blaha takes a swing during the Lady Aggs' 2-0 win in game one of a twinbill sweep of Southwest Texas.

Thompson-led Ags beat Tech, 71-60

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

LUBBOCK — Donald Thompson scored 25 points to lead Texas A&M to a 71-60 comeback victory over Texas Tech last night at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

The Aggies improved to 7-8 in the Southwest Conference and 14-13 overall, while Texas Tech fell to 7-8 and 12-13.

Aggie Update

- Score: A&M 71, Texas Tech 60.
- Record: 14-13; 7-8 in the SWC.
- Standing: Tied for sixth.
- Next game: Saturday vs. Texas

After trailing throughout the first half, A&M tied the game with 9:40 remaining on a basket by Tony Milton, who finished with 16 points.

The game stayed close until the Aggies began pulling away in the final three minutes. Texas A&M strung together seven unanswered

points in a two-minute span to make it 63-56 with 1:20 remaining.

"A&M just came out in the last 10 minutes and dominated the game," Texas Tech Coach Gerald Myers said.

A basket by Sean Gay, who led Tech with 15 points, with 1:12 remaining wasn't enough to close the gap in the waning seconds.

Doug Dennis came off the bench to score 12 points for the Aggies, who are back in the middle of the logjammed conference race.

Todd Duncan scored 11 points for Tech and J.D. Sanders added 12.

The Red Raiders had the Aggies on the run early, assembling a 14-2 run late in the first period to lead 29-17.

But Dennis and Thompson combined for three unanswered baskets to close the gap to 29-26 at the end of the half. Thompson scored 12 first-half points.

"This is a tough place to play,"

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State lawmakers going overboard with recruiting legislation

Leave it to the Texas Legislature to suddenly develop an Eddie Chiles-like attitude toward illegal recruiting in the state.

The 6-0 vote by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee on Tuesday made it perfectly clear that many legislators were willing to drop the ax on illegal recruiting and weren't going to waste any time doing it.

The bill, which would make it a felony crime to offer illegal inducements, is the first of its kind in the United States. What better place to originate it than in Texas, where many legislators probably fell over each other trying to be the first to introduce the proposal.

But it seems that these crusading lawmakers are moving too fast in their efforts to rid the state of recruiting violations and are looking for a stop-them-in-their-tracks remedy which will solve the



Steven Merritt
Assistant Sports Editor

problem overnight.

Under the bill, any athlete convicted of accepting a gift from a booster could face up to one year in jail. Anyone convicted of offering an illegal inducement to an athlete in exchange for a commitment to a particular school could receive up to 10 years in prison.

Former Texas Head Coach Darrell Royal

predicted that the first conviction would end cheating in college athletics, an attitude which lawmakers have apparently adopted.

But it is a belief that is far from reality. Stephenville representative Bob Glasgow sponsored the bill, saying it is needed because the only sanction the NCAA has is to place the guilty school on probation, thus penalizing honest athletes as well as the school for the acts of a few.

Even though the bill may single out those committing recruiting violations, what school wouldn't have its reputation tarnished in a drawn-out court proceeding.

Granted, the school might not lose television revenue or the number of scholarships offered, but the sight of a well-known alumnus or coach as well as the state's top athlete fielding questions from reporters after another day in court can't help in attracting other athletes as well as potential students and faculty.

NCAA enforcement chief David Berst is

against the bill, saying it might interfere with NCAA investigations. Berst feels people would not volunteer any information because of fear of prosecution.

Berst also noted the introduction of new issues, such as the involvement of legal counsel and Fifth Amendment rights, which could interfere with NCAA proceedings.

Texas lawmakers need to take more time in considering the issues which could arise from bringing the law into college athletics. They need to look at what the appeals process is going to be like for these penalties as well as what infringements on Fifth Amendment rights might occur.

The NCAA has become a visible force over the past three years, especially in Texas, and its presence has caused some athletic departments to think twice before considering recruiting violations. True, many schools have totally ignored possible violations and there is no question that

something has to be done, but the NCAA has made marked progress in revealing a system that has been around as long as college athletics.

But time, as well as money and manpower, is not on the side of the NCAA. A possible solution could be to give the NCAA the power of subpoena, which would allow it to gain more than voluntary information.

The hasty actions of the Texas Legislature will only add problems to a situation that could get extremely messy if this bill is passed. Bringing a law of this magnitude into major college athletics is not a decision which should be made quickly in frustration over the recent sanctions imposed on many Texas schools.

Levying a sentence of up to 10 years on a person for violating a recruiting law is a bit steep, and sending the first conviction up the river will not take care of the problem overnight.

Dear Aggie Fans,

I want to thank you for the tremendous support you have given me and my players this season. We are proud to represent Texas A&M and are working hard to bring national prestige to Aggieland in the same tradition as our football and baseball teams.

I believe we're making progress. But we need your help now. We face a major obstacle and yet it's a rare opportunity.

On Saturday, March 4th at 2 p.m., we will play defending Southwest Conference champion and conference leader Texas. If we could defeat them, it would be the first time in 11 years that a SWC team has defeated them. In addition, the last SWC team they lost to was Texas A&M on January 23, 1978!

Last year against Texas, we set a school attendance record of 2,933 for a single women's basketball game. And Texas even brought nine busloads of fans! In short, it is my dream to fill up G. Rollie White Coliseum for the first time in history for a Lady Aggie game. So far, the word is out that Texas is bringing 15 buses or more of Longhorn fans.

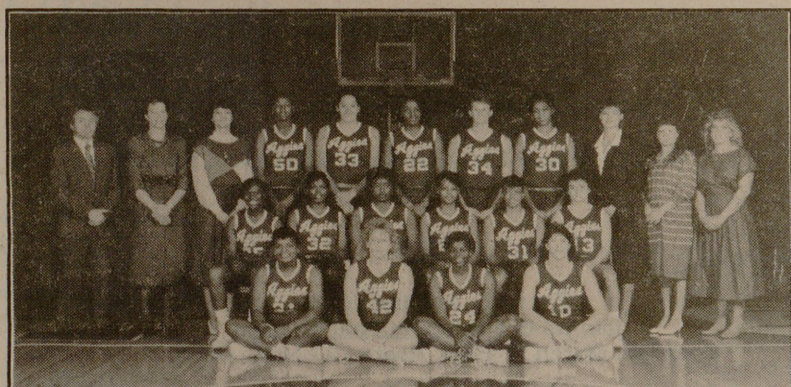
Now I have travelled throughout the country and I know from experience that your loyalty, enthusiasm and love for the Aggies is unmatched - anywhere. I believe that there are no greater fans in America!

But we need your help. I'm counting on you. Our players are counting on you. It will also be our final game of the regular season. I don't know if we can beat Texas, but I do know that a record crowd would give our team great inspiration to give their best.

When we come down that ramp on Saturday, I hope it's a day we'll all remember.



Your Friend,
Lynn Hickey
Lynn Hickey
Head Women's Basketball Coach



1988-89 LADY AGGIES

Lady Aggie Special: The first 1000 fans purchasing a ticket at the door to the game will receive a FREE coupon for a Chick-fil-A sandwich (a \$1.99 value!)

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