### Lady Ags stumped Texas continues domination

By Doug Walker

SPORTS EDITOR

DALLAS - Two technical fouls ombined with turnovers keyed a 20-2 Texas run in the second half and the No. 6-ranked Lady Longorns downed the Texas A&M Lady Aggies 74-59 in a Southwest Confernce Tournament semifinal game Thursday night.

The Lady Aggies finished the sea-on with a 17-12 record and are hopng for an National Women's Invitaon Tournament bid. Texas (24-4) aces Arkansas, a 79-72 winner over Texas Tech, Saturday in the SWC fials at 2 p.m. in Reunion Arena.

With A&M leading 36-33 early in e second half Texas forward Vicky Hall keyed a six-point run to give the Lady 'Horns a 39-36 lead with 13:04 o go. A few seconds later A&M's ouise Madison fouled Hall and mmed the ball to the floor. She reeived a technical for the outburst.

Hall made the freethrow and exas ran off seven more points to ead 47-36 with 11:55 left.

At this point, A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey received a technical foul for leaving the coaches box. This was shortly after a clock malfunction ticked 17 seconds off.

Hall converted this technical freerow, and a jumper by Catarina Pollini gave Texas a 13 point lead

(49-36) with 11:30 to go. Texas eventually led by 15 (53-38) with under 10 minutes remaining and the game was virtually decided.

Hickey did not discount the importance of the technicals. However, she did not blame the loss solely on

To say that the two tecnhnicals hurt us wouldn't be fair," she said. "But it did hurt us.

LaTanya Irving had 19 points to lead A&M. Lisa Jordon added 10 points and 13 rebounds and Nette Garrett had eight points.

Donna Roper managed only seven points while hitting two of 11 shots from the field.

Hickey expressed her hopes for NWIT bid and felt that, if the NCAA chose them, A&M would be a good representative of the confer-

"I definitely think we would be a good team to represent the conference," she said. "We should have been a team that had 20 wins. We might get an NWIT bid, but I don't think our record will get us into the NCAA tournament.

"I had hoped for a cinderella finish for our seniors, but that didn't happen. Our seniors have laid a foundation for a big-time women's basketball program at Texas A&M."

A&M led by as much as four early on (9-5). But Texas went on a 10-0 run to lead 15-9 when Davis scored on a jumper with 10:45 left in the

Davis picked-up her second foul moments later and remained on the bench for the rest of the half.

A&M responded with a six-point run to tie at 15, but Texas, despite Davis' absence and poor shooting, managed to build a five-point lead

### Softball team falls to Tech in 10 innings

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

The ninth-ranked Texas A&M softball team lost an extra-inning game to fourth-ranked Louisiana Tech 3-1 at home Thursday.

The Lady Aggies were victims of their own mistakes as they committed five errors, two coming in the 10th. Four of the five errors led di-

rectly to Tech runs.
"Errors are killing us," A&M
Head Coach Bob Brock said. "Dana (Mitchell) pitched a great game. Every one of their runs came from er-

A&M (8-4) scored first in the second. Carrie Heightley, who went three for four, led off the inning with a single and then stole second. Catcher Erika Eriksson sacrificed Heightley to third before Erin Newflied out to left, allowing

Heightley to score.
"I thought Heightley played a great game along with Michelle Mayfield, who didn't even know at the start of the season that she would be

playing third," Brock said. Heightley and Mayfield combined for 15 of the 30 Tech outs.

A&M then let Tech back in the game by committing two errors in the top of the third. The errors coupled with a wild pitch by Dana Mitchell allowed Sue Stewart to score and tie the game.

The game then turned into a

pitcher's duel, as neither team could

get anything going.

Mitchell limited Tech to just one hit, but got into a jam in the seventh

turns a deaf ear. Instead, he won-

ders how his own players will react to

Perhaps lost in the Aggies' success of late, Metcalf reminded, is the fact

that A&M starts three players with no SWC tournament experience,

and the tournament experience of

the other two starters totals two

the pressure of tournament play.

Jennifer Smith walked with one out. After a sacrifice by Stewart, Mitchell got Timber Keys to ground out to

end the inning.

Mitchell (8-4) struck out threewalked four and failed to give up an earned run.

A&M scattered eight hits over nine innings and didn't mount an-other scoring threat until the bottom of the ninth.

With two outs in the ninth, Heightley singled to center and Eriksson singled to left. However, Tech pitcher Debbie Nichols got Erin Newkirk to ground out and the game went into extra innings.

Under international rules, softball games that go into extra innings start with a runner on second.

Tech took advantage of the rule and two A&M errors, taking a 3-1

'There were two brutal calls at the end of the game and this is a tough way to lose," Brock said.

Tech scored its first run of the inning on a throwing error by Rene Blaha that saw second baseman Barbara Kajs collide with the runner at

Tech's second run came when Stewart attempted to score from third on a grounder to the mound A throwing error to first by Mitchell allowed Stewart to advance, but right fielder Tory Parks threw home to Eriksson who had the plate cov-

The umpire called Stewart safe because of catcher interference.

In the bottom of the 10th, Brock was thrown out by the umpire, de-

spite never arguing the interference call. The umpire said he did.

"It's hard to coach from the stands," Brock said. "I was never told why I was ejected."

A&M went down in order to end

"We are still young, but we are maturing," Brock said. "We are not as concerned with the wins and losses right now. We are letting those fall as they may."

A&M's next game will be this

weekend when they host the second Aggie Invitational. Louisiana Tech is also playing in the tournament. The tournament will be held at Bee Creek Park.



A&M's Carrie Heightley slides home safely for the Lady Aggies against Louisiana Tech.

#### A&M women's tennis team defeated by 10th-ranked OSU

**By Steven Merritt** 

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie tennis team dropped to 8-2 on the year at home Thursday as they suffered a 7-2 loss to 10th-ranked Oklahoma

A&M top seed Lisa Keller won the first set of her match with OSU's Monika Waniek before dropping the next two en route to a 2-6 defeat. The match was well-played on both sides, as Keller consistently kept Waniek on the baseline with strong backhand returns, but wasn't able to overcome the consistent play of the OSU top seed.

Second-seeded Susan Williams lost a 6-2, 6-3 contest to OSU's Sally Goodman, while A&M third seed Lynn Staley had no problem in de-feating OSU's Danielle Jones, posting a 6-1, 6-2 victory. Staley used an impressive backhand to keep Jones off balance throughout the match.

Sophomore Cindy Churchwell was defeated 6-2, 7-5 by OSU's Caroline Delisle in the fourth-seeded match while A&M fifth-seed Robyn Mawdsley fought back from an early

set loss to take her match with OSU's Jackie Booth to the three-set limit before losing 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. Junior Jenifer Jones got the second win of the match for the Lady Aggies, posting a 6-3, 6-1 win over OSU's Wendy Par-

The doubles matches were not any kinder to the Lady Aggies, as the top-seeded pairing of Keller and Mawdsley was defeated 6-4, 6-3 by

OSU's Waniek and Parker while A&M's second-seeded team of Churchwell and Staley dropped a 6-1, 6-2 contest to OSU's Booth and

The third-seeded team of Derryn Haygarth and Williams suffered its first doubles loss of the season to OSU's Goodman and Delisle, 6-3, 6-

A&M Coach Bobby Kleinecke said the overall team effort was better in Thursday's match, and that playing top-10 teams like OSU will only help the Lady Aggies.

"You have to play the good teams to get any better," Kleinecke said.

## 'Hot' Ags no surprise to SWC

DALLAS (AP) — Texas A&M vept through the Southwest Conerence post-season tournament two ears ago, winning three games as he No. 8 seed by an average of 15 oints and securing the conference's utomatic NCAA tournament bid.

There will be no such surprises his weekend, however; the Aggies nter Friday night's bquarterfinal me against Houston as perhaps he SWC's hottest team.

They rebounded from a 1-7 start by winning seven of eight games in the second half. The fast finish aulted the Aggies from a tie for last place into a tie for fourth. Only reglar-season champion Arkansas had omparable success in the second half, but even in a head-to-head meeting A&M prevailed 82-71.

"They're hot and playing very well," Houston Coach Pat Foster said

natter-of-factly.
So, Coach Shelby Metcalf, how does it feel to be considered among he favorites for the tournament ti-

"I don't know how they're going

react," Metcalf said. "Deep down, hope we'll play like we've been playing, but I just don't know. "I think it really helps for a player

get excited and have a good tourament. A team has to be hot, but sually a player has to be hot. The Aggies' candidate this year

could be Donald Thompson, a 6-7 senior forward from Chicago. Thompson averaged 21.6 points wer the last five games and had 22 points and 11 rebounds in the reguar-season finale, a 106-89 victory

It was in the first meeting with exas — an 85-80 loss — that Metcalf first saw A&M turning the corner. A difficult non-conference

schedule had the Aggies playing Nevada-Las Vegas, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State away from College Station. Then they opened the conference season with a 58-51 loss at Texas Christian.

'We lost our confidence," Metcalf said. "We opened the conference at TCU, and we were bad."

In the six games that followed the loss to TCU, the Aggies struggled as they adjusted to the new system. 'We just didn't get proficient with

it," Metcalf said. The Aggies averaged 64 points in the first seven conference games, but in the nine that followed the average soared to more than 79 points

per game.
"We've laid the foundation for a good team," Metcalf said.

But their stumbling block during the regular season is the same one that awaits Friday night. Houston defeated Texas A&M twice during the regular season, handing A&M its only loss in the second half, and the meetings. And, if history means anything, the Cougars have won both tournament meetings between the two teams dating to 1977

"We bring out the best in Houston," said Metcalf, now in his 26th season at A&M. "Pat goes into a slump and he calls up and wants to schedule a practice game.

But Foster was in no joking mood about Friday's match-up. The Cougars' fortunes against Texas A&M hinge on the status of senior forward Richard Hollis, a senior forward who averages 17.3 points per game. Hollis, who scored 37 points in two four-point victories over A&M, is listed as questionable with cartilage

damage in his left knee. It's a report to which Metcalf

"I don't know about my team," Metcalf said. "I really don't." Baseball team

hosts tourney

Coach Mark Johnson will lead his top-ranked Texas Aggies into the Aggie Invitational as they host Iowa, Maine and Kentucky at Olsen Field. The round-robin tournament will

start tomorrow and end Tuesday. Play begins at 1 p.m. tomorrow when Kentucky meets Iowa. A&M

will play at 7 p.m. against Maine. The Aggies other games will be: Sunday at 5 p.m. against Kentucky and 8 p.m. against Iowa; Monday at 7 p.m. against Kentucky; Tuesday at p.m. against Iowa and 8 p.m. against Maine.

A&M will try to extend their school-record, 18-game winning

John Byington leads the Aggie regulars in several categories. He is hitting .480 with an .840 slugging percentage and has 26 runs batted

Johnson's team will travel to Shreveport, La. to participate in the Dixie Classic March 17-19





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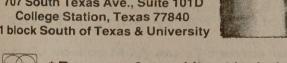
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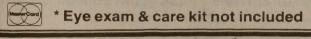
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