

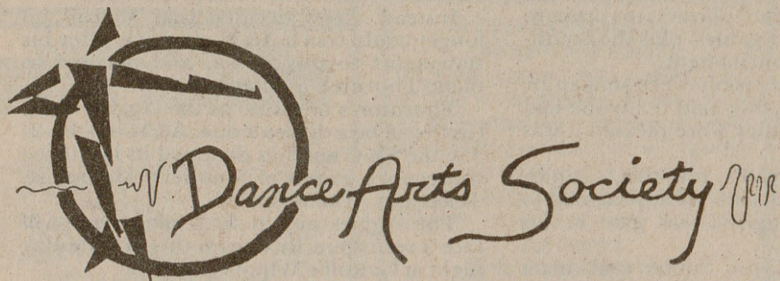
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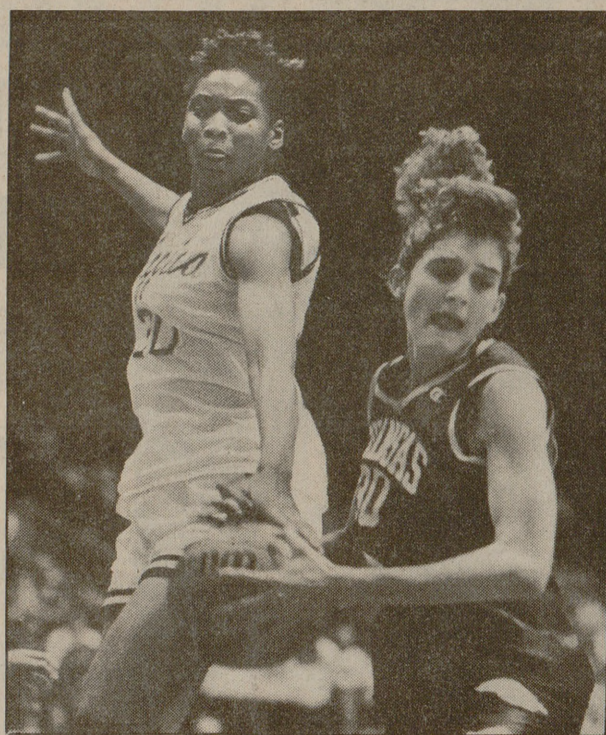
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25th

7:30 p.m. ROOM 267

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Lady Ags hope to ground Lady Owls



A&M center Louise Madison knocks the ball away from Arkansas' Blair Savage in Saturday's 70-64 loss.

By VINCE SNYDER
 Of The Battalion Staff

The Lady Aggies will be hoping to rebound from back-to-back conference losses to Texas and Arkansas, when they host the Rice Owls Tuesday in a Southwest Conference basketball matchup at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m. The Lady Aggies lost a close game Saturday against the Lady Razorbacks, 70-64, while struggling to find a victory.

The team also traveled to Austin last Tuesday, and a gallant second-half effort fell short in a loss to the Lady Longhorns.

Lady Aggies Coach Lynn Hickey said, "Overall, I thought we did some really good things (in the Arkansas game). It was a disappointing loss, but there were still a lot of positive factors to come out of it."

Hickey also said the team has to work on the basics of defense and offense, along with a lot of practice on its shooting.

A&M is 10-6 on the year while Rice stands 5-10 overall.

However, both the Lady Aggies and the Owls are 2-3 in league play, placing them in a three-way tie for fifth place in the SWC standing with

the Texas Tech Red Raiders. The last time these two teams proved to be fatal for the Aggies, Rice won that contest by a 75-50 margin despite trailing, 34-30, at halftime.

"They stuck it to us last year," Hickey said. "Even though they've had a lot of change in their staff and personnel, our players know how important this game is."

The Lady Aggies need a win even their conference record, and can't afford to drop many more games if they hope to finish high in SWC standings.

Owls' Coach Mike Dunavant said their main concern for Tuesday's game is stopping Yvonne Hill.

"Hill is having a great season in conference play and on the year well," Dunavant said. "I also think A&M will finish high in the conference when it's all over with."

Junior Yvonne Hill leads the Lady Aggies with 12.8 points per game. Junior Louise Madison is scoring 12.7 points for the Aggies, and leading the team in rebounds with 7.6 a game.

The Lady Aggies will travel to the University of Houston Saturday, and then to Lubbock next Tuesday in hopes for two SWC wins. Tipoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in Saturday's game.

Becker defends McEnroe's tirade

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Boris Becker came to the defense of John McEnroe on Monday, saying the misconduct rules are wrong and warning tennis officials against trying to turn players into robots.

"Tennis has to be careful," Becker said at the Australian Open while McEnroe was flying home to Malibu, Calif., after being thrown out of the tournament for smashing his racket and cursing.

"Not everybody is like a computer. Tennis is more than just hitting a few balls. It is very good to have a John McEnroe, and I hope we have a couple more."

"Sure, you can't say what he said to the umpire, but there should be a different penalty than just taking him out of the match."

Becker took some of the attention off the McEnroe affair with a slick escape from two sets down Monday night, a trick reminiscent of his route to the U.S. Open title last fall.

Down a break in the third set to 1989 Australian finalist Miloslav Mecir, Becker stormed back to win 4-6, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 and reach the quarterfinals against three-time champion Mats Wilander.

"I was quite astonished I got out of it," Becker said.

Becker turned up the level of his game midway through the second set after one fan called out, "Hey, Boris, you want to be No. 1?" and another fan yelled, "Remember Davis Cup in America."

Becker's first serve was off in the opening set, when he seemed distracted by cawing crows on the rim of the stadium and frustrated by the passing shots of Mecir, who broke Becker three times.

Becker blew a 4-0 lead in the second-set tiebreaker, double-faulting to 4-4 and losing it on a lunging forehand he hit long.

But after Mecir broke him in the third set for a 3-1 lead, the match suddenly changed.

Mecir won only three more games the rest of the match as Becker picked up the pace on his groundstrokes, attacked the net more confidently and unleashed eight aces or service winners.

McEnroe's tantrum and departure were the talk of the Open most of the day. It wasn't his worst display of court behavior, but it cost him a shot at \$200,000 and put into question his future in tennis.

The \$6,500 fine he was slapped with was minor, though it cut a big chunk out of the \$14,000 he won for reaching the fourth round.

Thornton

(Continued from page 7)

Thornton's future with A&M basketball will be decided at the end of the season when Crow evaluates the program.

Although Thornton is a newcomer to major college head coaching, his ties with A&M run deep.

Thornton transferred to A&M from San Antonio Junior College in 1973. The following year he was named the Aggies' most valuable player and earned SWC Newcomer of the Year honors after averaging 13 points and 7 rebounds per game.

As a senior, Thornton led the Aggies to a 20-7 record and the SWC championship.

He graduated in 1975, and remained at A&M as a graduate assistant coach while finishing his master's degree in education.

In 1977, he moved to Athens High School, coaching the school's basketball team to a 23-7 record, then returned to his hometown of San Antonio as intramural coordinator at the University of Texas-San Antonio for a year.

Thornton spent the next two years as athletic director and basketball coach at Hill Junior College in Hillsboro, where he amassed a 32-27 overall record.

He returned to A&M as Metcalf's assistant coach in 1981.

Rockets blow Nuggets away 116-104

HOUSTON (AP) — Mitchell Wiggins scored 13 of his 21 points in a one-sided first quarter as the Houston Rockets won for the ninth straight time at home, beating the Denver Nuggets 116-104 Monday night.

Houston never trailed in the game and led by as many as 16 points three times in the first quarter behind the hot-shooting Wiggins, who tied a career high with 10 rebounds. The Rockets led 34-20 entering the second period.

The home winning streak is Houston's longest since 1985-86 when the Rockets won a club record 20 straight.

Akeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 24 points and 14 rebounds. Buck Johnson added 22 points. It was the first time in Johnson's career he has scored 20 or more points in four consecutive games.

Fat Lever led Denver with 24 points, followed by Blair Rasmussen with 20 and Todd Licht with 16.

Denver hit 21 of 21 shots from the free throw line for the second-best free-throw-shooting performance ever by a Houston opponent.

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