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Sports Writer

A&M: on to Houston for weekend showdowns

Ags out to better 3-3 SWC record

By CLAY RASMUSSEN
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M and interim head coach John Thornton will be looking for their second consecutive win when they travel to Houston's Hofheinz Pavilion to take on the Cougars.

Tipoff is scheduled for 12:04 Saturday afternoon and the game will be televised by the Raycom Sports Network.

A&M is 10-10 overall, 3-3 in the Southwest Conference, while Houston is 12-6, 4-3 in the SWC. The Aggies remain in fifth place with the win over Rice.

The Aggies are coming off an emotional 89-82 victory over Rice University. Dedicating their game to former Coach Shelby Metcalf, A&M showed flashes of brilliance throughout the second half.

Junior guard Lynn Suber, who posted 22 points in the game against the Owls, shot three back-to-back three pointers to answer Rice fans' chants of, "Shelby." A trio of slam dunks by Milton, Harris and Rhea sparked the Aggie offense and whipped the crowd of 3,193 into a frenzy.

A&M's emotional level will have to peak Saturday if they are to shut down Houston's offense. The Cougars are armed with 6-8 forward Craig Upchurch.

Upchurch has a history of playing the Aggies tough. In games against A&M last year, Upchurch scored 34 points in College Station and another 20 when the teams met in Houston.

The Cougars have dropped two games to conference-leading Arkansas and one to Texas Christian. Houston is coming off a 64-47 romp of Southern Methodist.



A&M interim coach John Thornton talks to senior guard Tony Milton in Wednesday's 89-82 win over Rice. A&M travels to Houston Saturday.

Photo by Jay Janner

Lady Ags tangle with hot Cougars

By RICHARD TIJERINA
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M women's basketball team hopes to break above the .500 mark in conference play Saturday in Houston. There's just one thing in the way.

The Lady Cougars, 5-2 in the Southwest Conference.

Tipoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at Hofheinz Pavilion in Houston. The game will be broadcast on KTAM radio (1240).

A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said she knew the importance of Saturday's game against Houston.

"Houston has played well all season," Hickey said. "They're a hard-working team with fine athletes. They're a well-balanced team, and they do a lot offensively. The key for us will be rebounding and taking care of the ball. I think it will be a competitive game and a fun game to watch."

The Aggies will be led by guards Louise Madison (12.9 points) and Yvonne Hill (12.4 points). Madison was responsible for the Lady Aggies' first 10 points in their 76-44 thrashing of Rice last Tuesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

However, the Lady Cougars have offensive firepower of their own. The last time out, Houston fought from a 42-33 halftime deficit to down Southern Methodist 81-73.

Cougars' center Darla Simpson was instrumental in Houston's comeback, scoring 22 points and blocking five SMU shots. Senior guard Jana Crosby also poses a problem to defenders. Crosby has averaged over 12 points per game and her ability to crash the offensive boards has given the Cougars three and four shots at the basket.

Elway has the chance to make the winners' list

This week, The Battalion has devoted gallons of ink to the Shelby Metcalf-John David Crow Soap Opera. Every column this week has been about Aggie basketball. This column, however, will be about an event which has not received nearly enough hype.

Surely, the poor Super Bowl is feeling neglected.

John Elway, the Denver Broncos starting quarterback Sunday, is feeling insecure about his place in professional football history.

"For me to be the quarterback I want to be, I've got to win the big game," he said. "Not too many guys who are classified as great quarterbacks have not won the championship. I don't know how many more chances we'll have. I've missed two opportunities. Hopefully we won't miss the boat on this one."

Elway knows what the ticket to quarterback fame is. Here is the list of quarterbacks who have won at least one Super Bowl:

- Bart Starr
- Joe Namath
- Len Dawson
- Johnny Unitas
- Roger Staubach
- Bob Griese
- Terry Bradshaw
- Ken Stabler
- Jim Plunkett
- Joe Montana
- Joe Theisman
- Jim McMahon
- Phil Simms
- Doug Williams

The top of this list reads like roll call at Canton. You have to go all the way down to McMahon to get a quarterback that would have to buy a ticket to get in the Hall of Fame. The last three are aberrations on this list, having barely better-than-average talent. But overall, this is a list of the greatest quarterbacks of our lifetime.

To illustrate Elway's fate if he doesn't win a Super Bowl, here are the names of quarterbacks who started Super Bowls but never won:

- Daryle LaMonica
- Joe Kapp
- Craig Morton
- Billy Kilmer

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Montana denies drug rumors

QBs tiring of pre-Super Bowl hype as Elway, Montana answer daily questions

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Joe Montana, who had shared the Super Bowl quarterback spotlight with John Elway this week, became the center of attention on Thursday, but not for the reasons he had hoped.

No sooner had the San Francisco star settled in for his daily news briefing than he was asked about a Washington TV station's report that three NFL quarterbacks, all of them white, had tested positive for drugs but had not been sent for counseling by their teams.

"I don't have a reaction, I know it's not me," replied Montana, who on Nov. 12, 1985 took the unusual step of calling a news conference to deny rumors that he had been involved with drugs. "In today's day and age, they're looking for a guy on top to take down. I don't believe it."

Earlier, Montana said: "I don't know anything about it. It doesn't concern me."

"I don't believe the story. Where's the proof?" asked Joe Browne, the league's director of communication. "If there are no names, there's no story."

If it hadn't been for the drug report, aired Wednesday, it would have been a slow Thursday in New Orleans as both players and reporters, more than familiar with the Super Bowl routine, clearly grew tired of one another.

His orange jacket glistening, Elway leaned back during a morning media session and looked at the reporters arrayed in front of him.

"No questions?" he asked. "You're questioned out? I can't believe it!"

With the Broncos making their third Super Bowl appearance in four years and the 49ers their second straight, there was a sameness about the players, the questions and the answers.

"All the talking doesn't mean anything

on Sunday," said linebacker Simon Fletcher. "If we say we're going to win the game and we come out on Sunday and don't, then all this talking is for nothing anyway."

The 49ers, with some players bothered by stomach flu, had a half-dozen empty tables where players were supposed to be at the supposedly mandatory media hours on Wednesday and Thursday. Few of the media seemed concerned.

"If we win this game by talking, then I'll go out and hire the Rev. Jesse Jackson or someone like that," said wide receiver Jerry Rice, the MVP of last year's game.

A San Francisco victory would equal the 4-0 Super Bowl mark of the Pittsburgh Steelers and would tie the Broncos with the Minnesota Vikings, who lost four times in the 1970s.

While the 49ers were working out Wednesday at the New Orleans Saints'

training site, Saints coach Jim Mora wandered out on the field and asked 49ers coach George Seifert if he could watch.

Seifert replied that he'd be more comfortable if Mora stayed in his office.

Earlier, Mora had asked to watch Denver work out and had also been rebuffed by Coach Dan Reeves.

A group of 49ers encountered some Broncos in the French Quarter earlier this week and offered to buy them a beer. The Broncos declined, barely exchanging greetings even though the group included two sets of college teammates — Spencer Tillman (49ers) and Steve Sewell (Broncos), who played at Oklahoma, and Larry Roberts (49ers) and Bobby Humphrey (Broncos), teammates at Alabama.

"I think they brainwashed Steve Sewell," Tillman said. "He's the nicest guy in the world but he didn't say anything to me. Not one word."

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