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Lady Ags come from behind for win

By Craig Wilson *The Battalion*

The Texas A&M women's basketball team played the role of teaser Saturday night.

The Lady Ags waited until late in the second half to take the lead and eventually defeat the Southeastern Louisiana Lady Lions, 66-63, at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Lady Lions (13-10) used a formidable inside attack and solid hustle to lead the Lady Ags (12-11, 6-6) at intermission, 35-30.

But a comeback led by red-hot junior guard Shawn Medlock enabled A&M to overcome the SLU lead.

Lady Aggie head coach Lynn Hickey said the outcome was nice, but the officials let the game be played without many fouls called.

"It wasn't a great ball game but it was a big win," Hickey said. "They had a very nice team. The way that the game was allowed to be run played very much into their hands."

"It was a physical game with no-calls. I'm just glad we had four free throws to shoot at the end. We just never got in sink offensively."

Both teams had a balanced scoring attack. The Lady Lions were led by junior center Michelle Foster's 15 points. She added five rebounds.

Senior guard Kenya Teal added 14 points and team-highs of eight assists and six rebounds.

Junior forward Crystal Turner scored 14 points and grabbed five rebounds, while forward Alice Brown added 10 points and six boards.

After a lackluster first stanza, the defense showed signs of life as the Lady Aggie press helped the team take the lead for the first time at about the seven-minute mark of the second half.

"At the end we worked very hard

defensively," Hickey said. "We were doing a lot of things."

"We went full court the whole second half. Vanessa Edwards finally came in at the end and really shut down No. 44 (Foster). She fronted her and did some good things."

Being out of rhythm offensively threw the Lady Aggies off their game.

"We were just out of rhythm all night on our offense and could never get going," Hickey said, "and we panicked on a couple of steals instead of setting the ball up."

"We got tougher the longer the game went. We got tougher physically, we got a little bit more alert and we had a sense of 'Hey, we're not going to lose this one.' This is one we didn't want to drop."

Medlock again led the Lady Ags in scoring with her second straight 16-point outing and her sixth consecutive double-figure performance.

"Her attitude is different now," Hickey said. "She's saying now, 'Give me the ball,' and she's looking for her shot."

"Thank goodness she's getting into double-figures now because that's taking up the slack of what Dena (Russo) had given us."

Junior guard Sheri Dillard added 14 points. She also had five assists, a team-high she shared with senior forward Yvonne Hill, who added 11 points to the cause.

Yolanda Brown and Teri Jo Bartlett each had seven rebounds, also Lady Aggie highs.

Hickey had praise for Bartlett, who has not seen that much action this season.

"That's the most responsibility I've given Teri all year," Hickey said, "and she came in and did some good things for us. Yolanda Brown saved us once again."



HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

A&M guard Sheri Dillard pulls down a pass in the Lady Ags' 66-63 victory over SLU Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

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Cougars maul Longhorns 82-73 SWC basketball roundup

HOUSTON (AP) — Until Sunday, Houston coach Pat Foster said his team's best game of the season was a loss to the Texas Longhorns. Now their best game is a victory over the Longhorns.

Byron Smith found his shooting touch to score 29 points and lead the Cougars to an 82-73 victory over No. 24 Texas, snapping the Longhorns' 10-game winning streak.

"Today we played with great intensity for 40 minutes," Foster said. "At Texas (a 90-84 loss Jan. 17), we played hard for 30 minutes. We weren't as high emotionally today as we were up there. But front to back this is our best game."

Smith, 2-for-18 in his previous two games against Arkansas and Rice, said he had to redeem himself.

"I let the team down against Arkansas and I had to come out and set the tone today," Smith said. "They set some great screens for me and got me the ball. I was open and made some shots."

Foster was happy to see Smith's turnaround. "We have to have him scoring to win," Foster said. "I thought he worked a lot harder today without the ball. We set some good screens for him and he got some good shots."

The Longhorns, who fell to 17-6 for the season and 11-2 in SWC games, took their biggest lead of the game, 61-56 with 9:50 to play but the Cougars regained the lead for good at 63-62 on a 3-point basket by Smith with 7:30 to play.

"The long winning streak finally caught up with us," Texas coach Tom Penders said. "But don't forget, Houston is a very fine basketball team. They play very well against us every time we match up. We got beat by a team that played better than we did today."

Teheran scored 22 points for Houston, including 10 consecutive free throws in the second half, as the Cougars boosted their record to 15-8, 7-5.

The Cougars hit 23 of 28 free throws, including 20 of 23 in the second half.

"Free throws were a big key to the game," Teheran said. "I've been shooting a lot of free throws after practice. After the Rice game we got together and decided to do things a lot better."

Locksley Collie led the Longhorns with 24 points and Joey Wright added 2 points, but had to sit out part of the second half with four fouls.

Razorbacks looking unstoppable

Who's going to stop the Arkansas Razorbacks?

There aren't many shots left at the defending Southwest Conference basketball champions.

Southern Methodist, which had played well at home until it shot 31 percent from the field to lose to Baylor

70-64 on Saturday, will get a chance at the Hogs on Wednesday night in Moody Coliseum.

SMU doesn't have the depth to stay with the Hogs and the Mustangs only chance would be to catch them looking ahead to a March 3 game at Texas.

The Longhorns, who lost to Ar-

kansas in Fayetteville in January, have improved throughout the season like they did last year. Texas upset Georgia and Purdue in the NCAA tournament, before losing to the Hogs in the NCAA Midwest regional championship game.

Texas (11-2) was trailing Arkansas by two games after losing to Houston 82-73 on Sunday.

Arkansas is 12-0 in SWC play with games left at SMU, at Texas A&M, at home against Baylor on Feb. 26, and on the road at Texas in a nationally televised (ABC) game.

The Hogs will play the eighth place team in the opening game of the conference tournament in Reunion Arena on March 8.

In games on Saturday, Arkansas blasted Texas Christian 97-61, Rice followed Brent Scott's 25 points to a

75-72 victory over Texas Tech, and Baylor beat SMU.

While Texas has second place all but clinched, there's a big battle for third place.

Houston was 7-5 after beating Texas Sunday.

TCU 6-6, SMU 6-7, Rice 5-7 are all in the thick of the third place battle.

Baylor 4-9, Texas Tech 4-9 and Texas A&M 1-11 bring up the back of the pack.

Rice broke a string of 11 consecutive SWC road losses by defeating Tech.

Arkansas used a "platoon" system to beat TCU.

"It's getting close to tournament time and I have to get more guys ready to play," said Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson.

Ag netters have stormy weekend

By Alan Lehmann *The Battalion*

The weather wrecked Texas A&M tennis this weekend.

While the men's team was beaten 5-2 by Auburn Saturday in Lafayette Louisiana, the women's match against Louisiana State was rained out.

The 23rd ranked Lady Aggie trounced Northeast Louisiana 8-0 Friday afternoon to provide a bright spot for the weekend.

In the men's match, Auburn won the first four single matches. Matt Zissette lost to Auburn's Matt Hewitt 6-3, 6-0. Clayton Johnson fell to Martin Persson 6-4, 6-0. Mike Hegarty defeated A&M's Mark Weaver 7, 6-3, 7-6. Vaidas Cikotas outlasted Ags' Steve Kennedy 4-6, 3, 6-4.

A&M managed to salvage some respect as Doug Brown beat Kline Sack 6-3, 6-2 and Scott Phillips overpowered John Jones 6-3, 6-3.

In the only doubles match that was played, Persson/Jones beat Brown/Kennedy 6-4, 6-4. The other two doubles matches were suspended.

Men's coach David Kent said the elements were a big factor in the loss.

"We played a great match," Kent said, "but just could not overcome the weather conditions and the opportunities that were available."

"We played some fine double matches but lost our edge in the singles competition."

The Lady Ags' match with LSU was pushed back to Sunday by Saturday's inclement weather, but was postponed when the weather did not clear. The match has been rescheduled for April 1 at 5 p.m.

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