

Success starts and ends with fan support

Come on Ags, we're on the brink of attaining a first-class facility which will house our downtrodden but never boring basketball team and G. Rollie White Coliseum never fills up.



Douglas Pils
Asst. Sports Editor

Now I know these aren't the best of times, and watching A&M stay close only to run out of gas in the end may not be the best way to spend an evening or afternoon. But for this university to reach the level of say a Duke, Kentucky or a North Carolina, we've got to prove that we deserve a 14,000 seat coliseum.

G. Rollie will hold 7,500 people and the highest amount to grace its doors this season was the 4,657 who showed up for the Aggies' non-conference tilt against Oklahoma on Nov. 28. That was the first home game of the season and since then the average is only 2,085 — pitiful.

Now, I'm never one to turn off a football game (the supposed King sport around here), but *nothing* rivals a great college basketball game. Of all the negative things that have come from the basketball program this year, no one's ever mentioned that this team lacks talent. That talent makes each and every game just that, a great basketball game.

A&M's archival Texas provides a good example of fan support. Through nine games this year the Longhorns averaged 13,279 a game and their lowest attendance was 10,300. Incredible when you think that it took A&M FIVE games to total 11,374 — mindboggling.

This weekend the third-ranked team of these entire United States waltzes into College Station for an altercation with Brooks, Lynn and the boys.

To think that 7,500 people would show up to watch the Arkansas Razorbacks' last trip to G. Rollie would probably be expecting too much.

But think about this when you decide

See Pils/Page 8

Aggies enter Top Ranked weekend

Baseball at No. 1 LSU; No. 3 Hogs and No. 9 Lady Hogs invade G. Rollie White

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

The Texas A&M baseball team travels to unfriendly territory this weekend.

The 12th-ranked Aggies open a three-game series against the No. 1-ranked Louisiana State Tigers in Baton Rouge tonight.

Tonight's game is scheduled for 7 p.m. and Saturday's double-header starts at 4 p.m.

Mike Hickey's turn/Page 6

A&M (9-2) is coming off an eight-game home stand in which it went 7-1. The Ags faltered against Southwest Texas before sweeping Northeastern Louisiana and Westmont College.

The Tigers are 6-0 with a team ERA of 1.21, including three shutouts.

Last year A&M took two of three from LSU, avenging the 1989 NCAA regional tournament losses. The Tigers beat the Ags twice to eliminate A&M and advance to the College World Series.

A&M leads the series, which dates back to 1910, 14-5-1. The Aggies haven't played in Baton Rouge since 1978 when they opened the season with a three-game sweep.

Right-hander Ronnie Allen is the scheduled starter for A&M tonight. Allen boasts a 2-0 record with a 1.29 ERA.

LSU's scheduled starter tonight is right-hander Paul Byrd. Byrd is 2-0 and has a 1.64 ERA.

A&M head coach Mark Johnson is looking forward to the challenge.

"We need to play an LSU — that type of team — right now," Johnson said. "I think the guys are going to be excited about it."

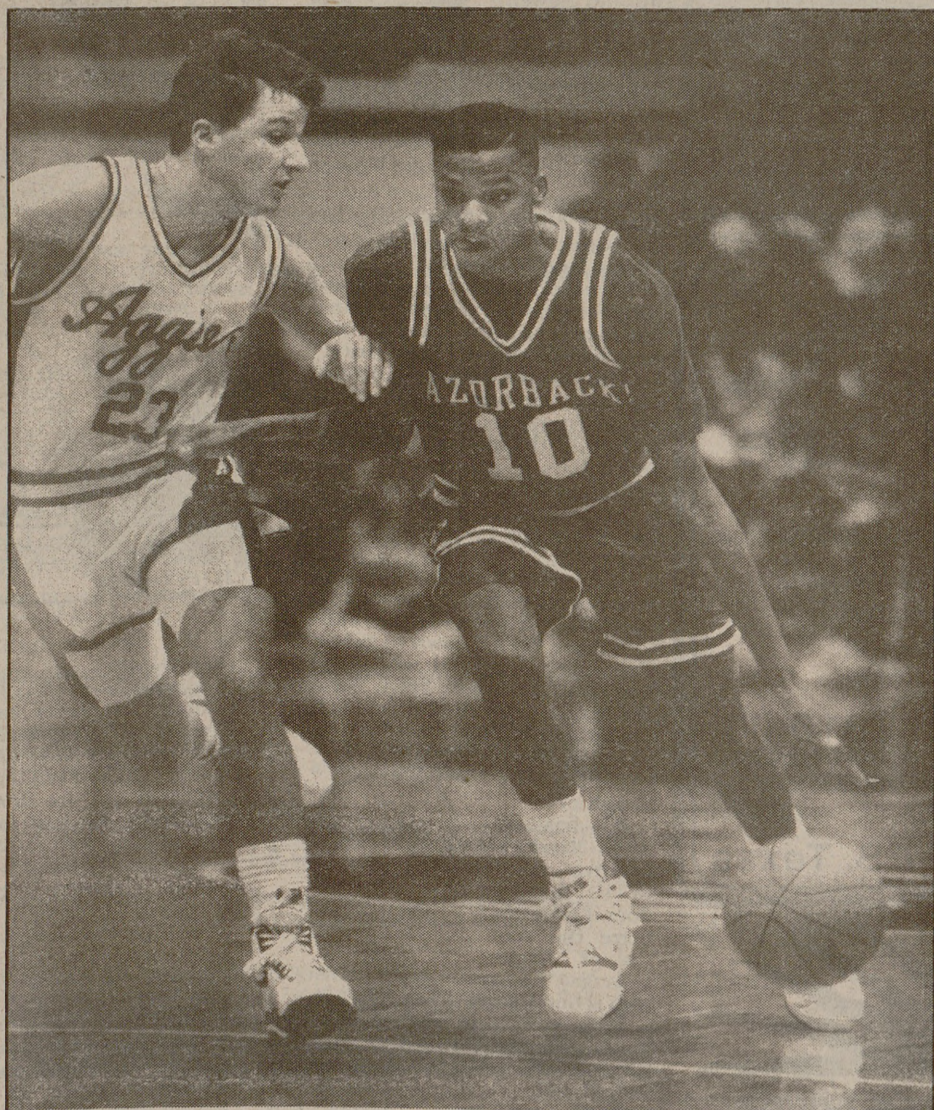
"It's a learning experience." Left fielder Mike Hickey leads the Aggies in hitting with a .471 average and is coming off a record setting performance against Westmont on Monday. Hickey was 6-for-7 with 10 RBIs, including two doubles and a pair of home runs.

His performance set a new A&M record and tied a Southwest Conference mark.

As a team, the Aggies are batting .311 with a .448 on base percentage.

A&M pitchers Jason Bullard (2-0) and Jason Hutchins (1-0) are slated to start in Saturday's twinbill.

Chad Ogea (2-0) and Mark LaRosa (1-0) are penciled in for the Tigers Saturday.



Battalion file photo

Arkansas' Todd Day drives against A&M's Brooks Thompson in last year's loss to the Razorbacks. The pair will face each other Saturday at noon as the Aggies square off against the No. 3 Hogs.

By Scott Wudel
The Battalion

The Aggies hope to keep third-ranked Arkansas from going hog-wild Saturday.

The Texas A&M basketball team will try to pin down the Razorbacks and grab its second straight Southwest Conference win.

The matchup will begin at noon in G. Rollie White Coliseum and will be televised regionally by Raycom.

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies will attempt to upset the ninth-ranked Arkansas women's team on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

The Aggie men, 7-17, shaved Baylor Wednesday night and improved their conference record to 2-11.

Arkansas is undefeated in 13 SWC games and 26-2 for the season. The Razorbacks are attempting to become the first team to go through the SWC slate unbeaten since 1983, when Houston drew a 16-0 record.

Arkansas defeated A&M earlier this season in Fayetteville, 100-84.

A&M coach Kermit Davis Jr. said the Aggies will approach this game with the same frame of mind they used against the Bears earlier this week.

"What are your individual goals, what are you trying to do," Davis said he asked his players before their victory.

"Those kind of things — just to redirect them to know there is still basketball to be played."

"And everytime you get a chance to play, you've got to take advantage of it."

He said he asked the team at that time to turn its remaining games into a five-game season.

Davis said the Aggies won't let the Razorbacks have a field day at the Coliseum. But the coach said Arkansas' depth and physical prowess may take a toll on the shorthanded A&M team.

Davis said the Aggies will have to cover the whole court against the Hogs.

"When you play Arkansas you've got to play every facet of the game as good as you can play," he said.

Davis said the Aggies need the support of the home crowd Saturday.

"That's probably one of the most critical things that can happen," Davis said. "If we could get a great crowd and a great student atmosphere in there."

See Aggies/Page 8

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—Anonymous corporate executive

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