

Ags stave off firing rumors A&M whips Tech

By Richard Tijerina
The Battalion

DALLAS—Freddy Ricks is not ready to start his spring break vacation just yet.

Texas A&M's 57-46 win over Texas Tech Thursday night in the first round of the 1991 Southwest Conference Post-Season Classic merely extended its dismal season one more day. A&M plays fifth-ranked Arkansas tonight.

"I don't want to go on Spring break yet," Ricks said. "I don't want to travel. I want to stay here and play in this basketball tournament for a while."

The Aggies hotel stay in Dallas will last at least one more day.

The first halftime trivia question at Reunion Arena told it all: What was the first number 8 seed to win the SWC post season classic? The answer: Texas A&M in 1987.

That was four years and two head coaches ago.

The Aggies on Thursday seemed determined not to let that last statistic reach three.

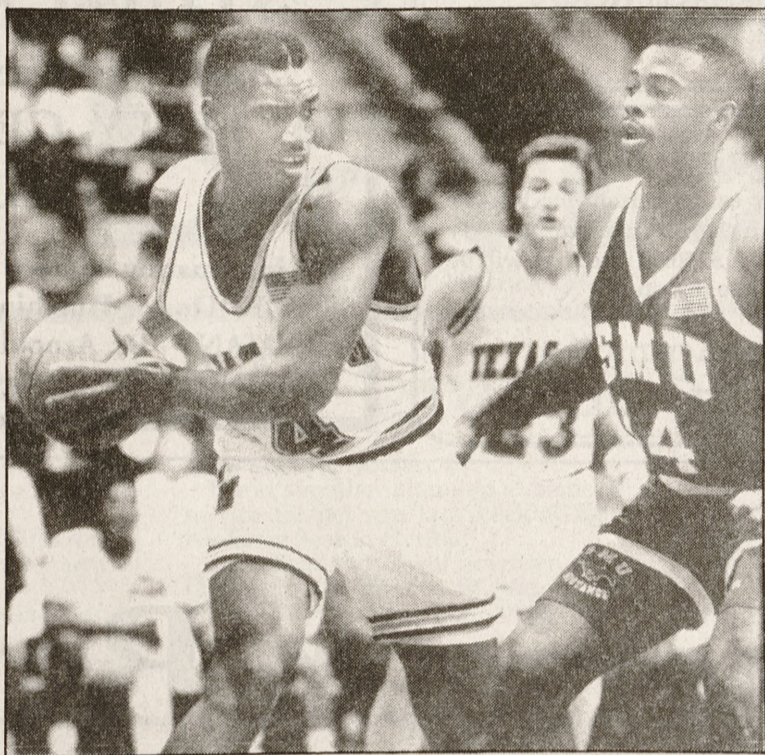
Burdened with press clippings forecasting their doom of A&M head coach.

Kermit Davis Jr. future at the school, the Aggies found themselves in a position strange to them during the 1990-91 season: leading a conference opponent late in the game.

But A&M players were not aware of media reports Thursday saying Davis was out as Aggie coach. Davis told the team moments after the game about the reports that he would be fired by next Tuesday at the latest, but he stressed that he was still their coach, and they would have at least one more game to play.

A&M earned its weekend date with Arkansas by holding onto a comfortable lead down the stretch. Timely free throws and pressure defense allowed thee Aggies to withstand Tech's late rally.

For once this season, the Aggies did not buckle.



MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

A&M's Rashone Lewis grabs a loose ball during a loss to SMU earlier in the season. The Aggies beat Texas Tech 57-46 Thursday night in the SWC tourney, and advance to play Arkansas tonight.

Big baseball weekend Aggies host tourney

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Aggies are coming off a crushing defeat Wednesday. Leading Sam Houston State 4-0 in the ninth inning, A&M fell apart and lost 7-4.

The game was the first one of a 17-game homestand.

A&M is ranked 16th in the nation by Baseball America and will attempt to hold that prominence this weekend.

Kansas State finished last season second in the Big Eight Conference and return 15 lettermen to this year's squad.

Illinois was picked to win the Big Ten Conference championship this season but is off to a slow start so far.

Washington is a member of the Pac-10 Conference and is off to a hot start this season.

The Aggies will play the University of Arizona in a three-game series beginning March 15 at Olsen Field. The teams will face off at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday before concluding the series Sunday at 2 p.m.

While most students head out of town this weekend, the Aggies will head out to Olsen Field.

The Texas A&M baseball team will try to get on track this weekend in the Aggie Continental Classic.

The Aggies will try to improve their 14-7 record in a four-day double-elimination tournament beginning Saturday at 1 p.m.

The tournament field will also include the University of Washington, Kansas State University, and the University of Illinois.

The Aggies' first game will be against Kansas State at 7 p.m. Saturday.

A&M will play a doubleheader on Sunday — against Washington at 5 p.m. and Illinois at 8 p.m.

The Aggies will play Washington again on Monday at 7 p.m. and finish the tournament with two games on Tuesday — against Illinois at 5 p.m. and Kansas State at 8 p.m.

A&M won the tourney in 1989 and 1990, both years it has been-

Schulte homing in on Lady Ags' first base job

By Michelle Bergeron
The Battalion

Brenham may be famous for Blue Bell, but it's also the hometown of Texas A&M first baseman Stephanie Schulte.

And the junior Community Health major is definitely making a name for herself on the Lady Aggie softball team.

Schulte's talent has landed her in the top five on two lists in the A&M



Schulte

all-time record books. Her seven triples ranks third for most in a season, and she is ranked fourth in career putouts with 615.

Not bad for someone who claims she hasn't always been this good. She said she was practically a walk-on when she came to A&M.

"I've been playing softball since I was eight years old," Schulte said. "It was always my dream to play college ball and I wanted it to be for A&M."

Although Schulte's high school (Brenham High) did not have a softball team, she played for the Centex Avengers, an ASA hit division out of Houston.

She said her Avenger coach and A&M Head Coach Bob Brock were

friends and he encouraged Brock to give her a shot.

"Coach Brock is a wonderful coach and he has pretty much made me the player that I am," she said. "When he picked me up, he told me he didn't know if I was going to be able to play, but at least he gave me a chance."

The Lady Ags' senior first baseman, Carrie Heightley, went down with an injury. Schulte, a freshman who had always played either shortstop or outfield, was called on to fill in.

"My sophomore year, after (Heightley) graduated, we didn't have a first baseman, so Coach Brock kept me there," Schulte said.

She said she initially was let down by first base.

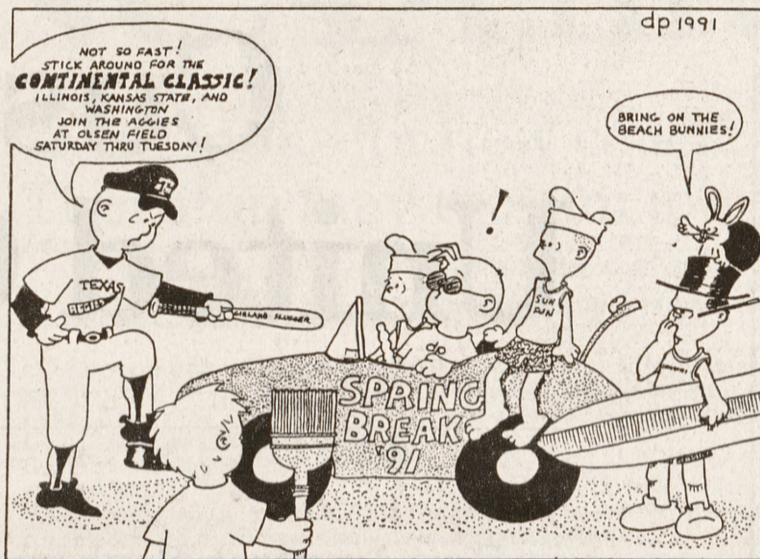
"I just thought that first base was going to be boring," she said. "I didn't realize that it saw so much action. I thought that you just put someone there who could catch the ball and who wasn't that quick."

"But, I found out really fast that I was all wrong. You do need someone really quick there, someone who can read the ball off the bat well."

On the flip side, batting is an area that Schulte said she could use improvement.

"I think that my stats have been pretty good except for my batting

See Schulte/Page 6



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