

Cotton's choice of Notre Dame not a mystery

Some things have always been a complete and arcane mystery to me, such as how someone can set their clock forward 20 minutes and then pretend they didn't do it and that the time on the clock is then the correct time.



K. LEE DAVIS
Sports Writer

I wonder how weird slugs like Axl Rose get to be around supermodels all the time.

One thing I didn't spend more than ten seconds on before I had solved it is why Notre Dame is coming to the Cotton Bowl, and not Florida State.

Cold hard cash, Aggies. And nothing but.

So you think that you and your Aggies were sold out by ol' "Hoss" Brock and the rest of his Cotton Bowl cronies on Sunday, don't you?

Well, get a life. Wake up and smell the coffee. Catch a clue.

If you think that big-time college football is played for any reason besides money than you are fooling yourself.

Division I college football is not played for the valiant young men that play the games on Saturday afternoons. They are only pawns in the game that universities play with their lives.

College football is not played for the coaches that coach the players who bring so much money into the university.

No, college football is played for the edification of the alumni who donate millions to their respective schools, particularly if they are winning, and the television networks that are willing to pay millions for the

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Lady Aggies overpower Tulane, 84-67

First-half surge propels A&M to second consecutive victory

By J. DOUGLAS FOSTER

Sports Editor of THE BATTALION

After fighting through a scrappy Tulane press and a sluggish first ten minutes, the Texas A&M Lady Aggies used a 16-2 run in the middle of the first half to take a lead that they would never relinquish on the way to an 84-67 win at G. Rollie White Coliseum on Tuesday.

The Lady Aggies moved to 2-2 on the season with the win while the Lady Wave dropped their first game of the season, falling to 2-1.

A&M opened the season with two losses, but after winning the last two games, head coach Lynn Hickey said she can see some of her younger players starting to come around and said the team is working together now.

"This win was a total team effort tonight," Hickey said. "We did a better job of working together tonight than we have in all our previous games, and I think when our players get even more comfortable with each other, we are going to have a lot of weapons that will be tough to stop."

The Lady Aggies took a 38-23 lead to the locker room at the end of the first half, and Hickey said coming out strong to open the second half was important against a Tulane team that had come from behind in a win over Boise State last week.

"We had to see how much character we had in our young group to come back and keep the intensity going after a 12 minute break," Hickey said. "It was a good sign that our concentration was better tonight than it has been in earlier games this year."

Keeping the intensity on the Lady Wave was exactly what the Lady Aggies did early in the second half. A&M expanded the 15-point halftime lead to 21 points with 10:02 remaining on a jumper by freshman Donyale Canada.

The second-half run was sparked by junior Beth Burket and freshman Lisa

Branch, who both overcame slow first-half performances to tie for team high-scoring honors with 15 total points. Branch scored 14 of her 15 in the final stanza, and Burket scored 11 in the second half.

Senior Yolanda Brown and sophomore Twylana Harrison also finished in double figures as Brown scored 10 and Harrison tossed in 12.

Burket said she and her squad clamped down on the Lady Wave midway through the first half and early in the second, and that they made no major adjustments to counter Tulane's game plan.

"We mainly just got down and played," Burket said. "We weren't doing what we needed to be doing to get in the game early. We started playing defense and pressuring them and causing turnovers, which helped us get the ball down the court and score."

Burket also said her second-half scoring surge resulted from seeing her teammates get out to a lead toward the end of the first half.

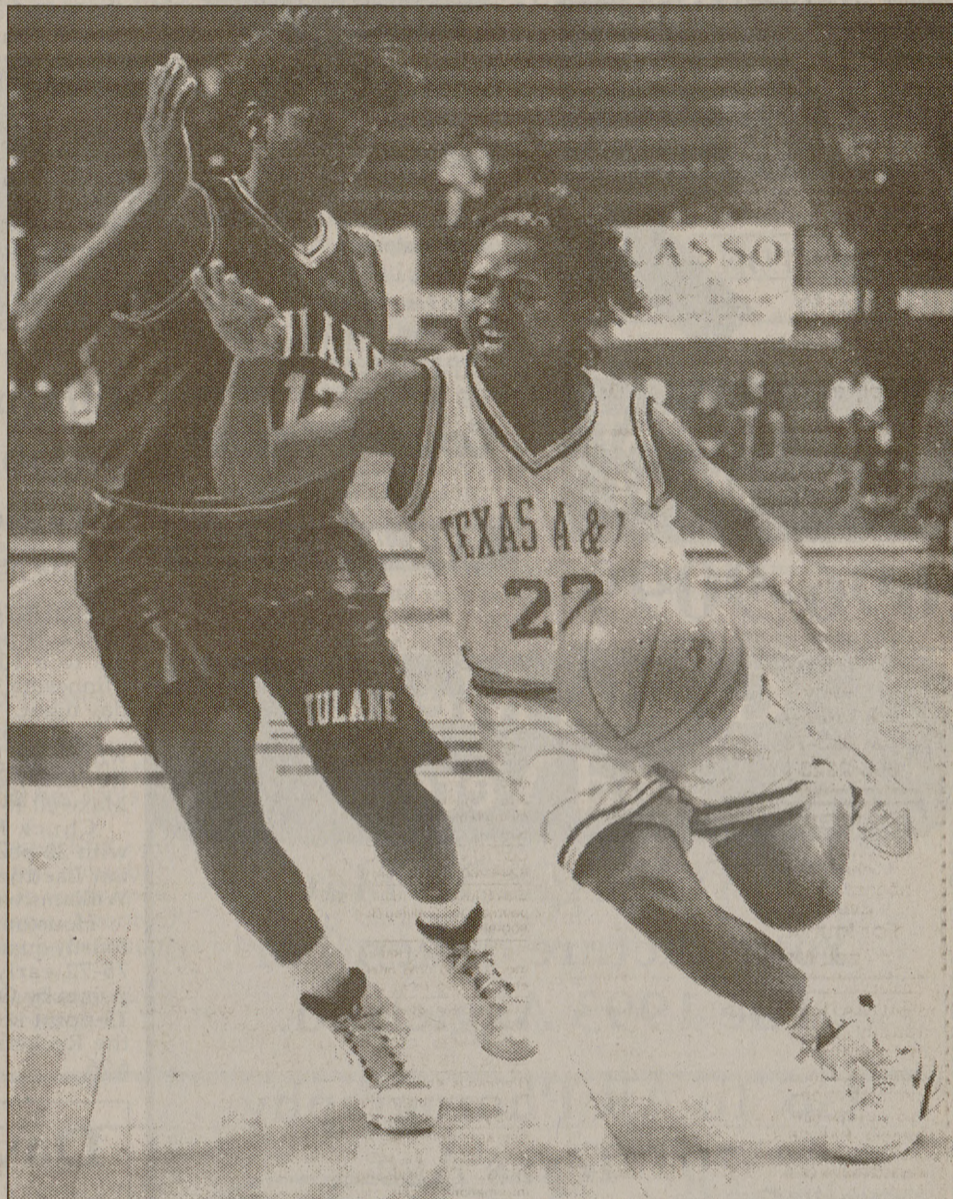
"Just sitting there watching my teammates play made me realize what I needed to get done, and I hadn't been doing it," Burket said. "You get fired up watching them because you really want to be out there."

One of the Lady Aggies' main objectives coming into this game was to stop Tulane forward Keisha Johnson, who was averaging nearly 20 points per game. Johnson managed to score 17, but many of those came in the second half when A&M had the game well in hand.

Burket said Johnson's early foul trouble helped keep her away from the basket.

"She got into foul trouble and started playing more timid than she usually would have been," Burket said. "Also, our outside people kept the ball-handlers from getting the ball into her on the inside so easily."

"I felt, at times, I was focused and other times I wasn't," Johnson said. "A&M was very physical, and they pounded the



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Lady Aggie guard Lisa Branch drives toward the basket against Tulane's Roma Coleman during A&M's 84-67 win over the Lady Wave on Tuesday night.

ball inside very hard." A size advantage was something A&M took advantage of in opening up the lead, using 6-foot-5 center Kelly Cerny and her 6-foot-4 counterpart Martha McClelland

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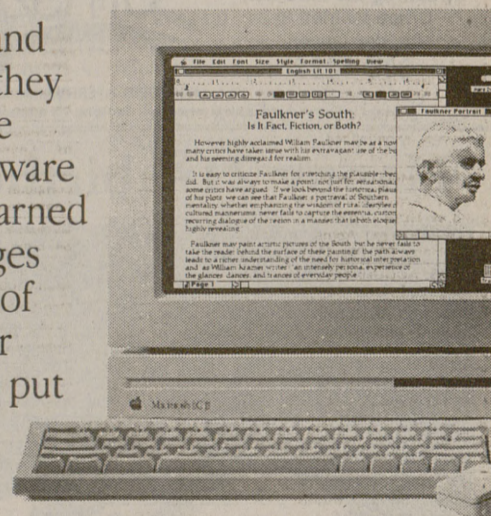


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