

Lady Aggies survive scare to up season record to 8-5



DARREN HILL/The Battalion

Lisa Branch drives in from the three-point line against an LSU defender in Wednesday nights 58-57 victory over the Tigers.

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ball with two seconds left. A&M coach Lynn Hickey admitted that the situation made her nervous.

"We were lucky that the foul wasn't a 1-and-1 situation. We knew that it would be a difficult shot for them to make but we couldn't take anything for granted."

Miriam Farr's desperation half-court heave at the buzzer was off the mark and A&M had salvaged the victory.

Burket and Branch agreed that the victory belonged to the whole team.

"I knew the game was under our belt," Burket said. "I knew we could win it and the win was a total team effort."

Branch added that the Aggies benefited by staying together as a unit. She also had a message for Burket.

"It was good rebound by her, Beth saved me," Branch said. "I was glad she was there to put the ball back in the hole."

"Tonight was a good tight win for us."

The first half provided an indication that the game would be close after A&M and LSU played to a 31-31 deadlock at intermission.

A&M was paced by Martha

McClelland's seven points in the first half while LSU was led by Cornelia Gayden's 11.

After the teams traded a couple of baskets to start the second stanza, the Aggies attempted to put the game away midway through the second half. Branch hit a three-pointer that ignited the Aggies on a 19-7 run which resulted in a 55-43 lead.

Hickey said she was happy to see Branch, a freshman, step up and make that shot.

"It was a beautiful shot," Hickey said. "We need that from her."

Branch said that she felt the opportunity to make a big play.

"It was time for me to make a play and that shot gave us the momentum that we needed at the moment," she said.

Hickey said she was disappointed, however, that her team almost blew a twelve-point lead.

"We made some mistakes," she said. "When you have a lead, you need a killer instinct."

Burket echoed her coach's comments.

"We are a young team but we have progressed," she said. "We need that killer instinct but we definitely know now that we can win in any circumstance."

"That will benefit us in future games."

Harrison

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reach a higher plane of consciousness.

They may start eating tofu, wonder if snails have feelings, or perhaps ponder traveling to Tibet to become a Shinto priest just like sensitive-guy Steven Seagal.

2. Change Teams. Many could become the flavor-of-the-month fan just like half the people on the Dallas Cowboy bandwagon.

There are quite a few who continually pledge their die-hard loyalty to the Pokes. However they find difficulty remembering when Steve Pelluer quarterbacked them through a 3-13 season.

When Jimmy Johnson arrived the next year with Troy Aikman,

the best thing since the Heimlich maneuver, Aikman was promptly booed through a 1-15 season, but is the subject of fan adulation today.

3. Take a pick axe to the entire team, so general manager Mike Holovak can draft a new squad.

This may seem irrational, but whoever does it will wind up with exclusive movie rights that would pay some sweet dividends by the time parole comes around in one or two years.

4. Stick with the Oilers. It's been said the true definition of a fanatic is one who redoubles his efforts while losing sight of his goal, and only a true fanatic that can look past a team's deficiencies the size of the Oilers'.

The Mets in their first season won 37 and lost 112 games as one of the worst baseball teams ever assembled, and the fans could only appreciate them with

laughter. People in Pittsburgh survived 42 years of the Steeler's ineptitude and were rewarded with four Super Bowls in the span of six years and, for a while, could bask in the glow of one of the best teams in NFL history.

But beforehand, the fans had to endure a team that year after year was regarded as the very worst in the league. Incompetent coaching and player management, such as the cutting loose of soon to be quarterback-of-his-era Johnny Unitas, kept the Steelers the butt of everybody's jokes, including the fans.

And it's this point the Oilers have reached.

The Oilers won the first two championships in the original American Football League back in 1960-61 and haven't won anything since except for a measly central division championship last season against meager competition — and they barely ac-

complished that. They have been to the playoffs six consecutive seasons, the longest streak in the NFL, and haven't even advanced to the championship game.

The team that inspired the phenomenal "Luv Ya Blue" civic pride in the '70s, gave their fans the worst team in the NFL in the '80s after the departure of Bum Phillips and Earl Campbell.

For the '90s, they have the best talent in the league, the worst reputation for their increasingly degrading and dumbfounding losses, and the hottest T-shirt in town featuring "Luv Ya Blue It" displayed proudly across the chest.

It really is getting funny watching how low they can go, and the only cold comfort for the fans is to sit back, endure, and try to laugh a little.

The Oilers certainly can win for losing, but it's the fans that deserve a trophy for it.

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