

Fishing

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water throughout the lake, warming it along its way.

The water temperatures near the discharge area rarely fall below 70 degrees, which allows bass to stay active during months that a normal lake would be considered dormant.

These power plant lakes are known to frequently produce trophy size fish during the cold months and many more bass in the 4 pound to 8 pound range.

March and April are the standard spawning seasons in lakes like Conroe, Fork, Somerville and Toledo Bend because the lake is dependent on the air temperature to warm the lake enough to induce spawning.

However, in a power plant lake spawning season can come as early as February and, in some cases, even late January.

The warmer water temperatures in these lakes allow bass to move to shallow water for pre-spawn feeding and then onto their beds for spawning.

To fish for these power plant lunkers, use the same tactics used at any other lake during spawning time.

In preparing for spawning,

bass will move onto grassy flats, humps and points that lead to spawning grounds. Most pre-spawn fish are caught in six to 10 feet of water, using various types of lures. These lures include Carolina-rigged worms, Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits and soft jerkbaits.

In the mornings and evenings try using buzzbaits and soft jerkbaits over the grassy flats. In the afternoon, work the points and humps with a Carolina-rigged worm and a crankbait. Later, when the bass move onto their beds, try annoying a big sow into hitting with a small, attractive bait like a tube jig or a four-inch Slug-O. The large sows are easily spooked, so a good pair of polarized glasses and slow, deliberate movements are a must.

There are numerous power plant lakes around the Bryan-College Station area that are accessible for a fee of about \$7.50. Some local power plant lakes include Gibbons Creek (25 minutes), Fayette County Lake (90 minutes) and our very own Lake Bryan (15 minutes).

Fishing reports for the past two weeks at Gibbons Creek have been very encouraging with a dozen or more fish weighed in at 13 pounds, 6 ounces. Fayette County has

also reported numerous good catches this past week and is expected to improve within the weeks ahead.

Lake Bryan, though it may not produce many big bass, has had several reports of good pre-spawn fishing on the discharge side of the lake.

Keep in mind when fishing these lakes that it is illegal to fish past the marker buoys at the discharge.

Each lake has different rules that you need to know about before fishing them and always try to practice catch-and-release fishing so the next fisherman may enjoy a good day's fishing, too.

Remember, the month of February can produce some pretty dynamic weather conditions.

Expect to encounter some cold and rainy weather at times. A pair of gloves, some thermals and a good rainsuit will prove to be worth while.

If you have been sitting around waiting for spring time bass fishing to come, then get your rods out and try one of the many power plant lakes in the area.

You will find that catching one of these lunkers will warm you up to some great February fishing.

Lady Aggies fall to Longhorns to tie for first in SWC

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Danielle Viglione, the nation's leading 3-point shooter, scored 23 points as Texas knocked off No. 25 Texas A&M 81-69 Wednesday night, giving the Lady Longhorns a share of first place in the Southwest Conference with the Lady Aggies.

Texas A&M (15-4, 7-1 in the SWC) was coming off a 67-64 upset of No. 7 Texas Tech Saturday, but the Lady Longhorns (15-5, 7-1) took control of the game from the tip and Viglione dominated down the stretch.

The 5-10 freshman scored 13 points — including two 3-pointers — in a crucial 19-9 run by the Lady Longhorns that broke the game open 64-52 with 6:43 left.

The crowd surged and A&M sank with every Viglione shot in the final minutes. She finished with four 3-pointers, matching her top-ranked national average.

The 11,646 orange-clad fans regularly held up cards reading "3" handed out to them before the game and were deafening in one of college sports' most-heated rivalries.

Texas A&M was led by Lisa Branch with 20 points. Marianne Miller and Martha McClelland each added 11 points for the Lady Aggies.

Amie Smith added 16 points and 12 rebounds for Texas. Erica Rount added 13 points for the Lady Horns.

The Lady Aggies narrowed a 17-point first-half deficit to eight points (38-30) behind two 3-pointers by Branch and the steady inside scoring of Kelly Cerny, who had 9 points at the break.

A&M ripped off a 13-2 run and pulled within 45-43 with 15:03 to play as Branch hit for five points, the last point coming on a free throw from a technical foul on Texas coach Jody Conradt.

But Viglione helped keep the Lady Aggies from getting any closer than 12 in the final four minutes.

Mavericks

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I was in the school choir and I couldn't count on my voice. One day I was a bass. The next day I was a soprano.

I couldn't count on being able to stand up in front of the class to give a presentation. You never know who might decide to wake up. Guys you know what I mean.

Hell, I just couldn't count on a lot of things.

But never fail, I could always count on the Dallas Mavericks. They never let me down. They were always good to me.

Lots of things put a frown on my face, but the Mavericks nev-

er did. Chicks didn't dig me. Some things never change I guess.

I couldn't go to a meal without getting food stuck in my braces. I cried about my acne, I cried about my dandruff and I cried about my body odor. But I never thought I'd cry about the Mavericks.

With my mind and body going through so many changes, the Mavericks were the one constant in my life.

Then smack, a cold-hearted slap in the face greeted me near the end of my tenth grade year. The Mavericks made a couple of stupid trades, let a couple of stars go and poof, four straight lottery picks later, the Mavericks are a pathetic 5-42 or something. What's even worse is that one

could make an all-star team of current NBA players that once called Reunion Arena home . . .

The Guards: Mark Price, Cleveland; Michael Williams, Minnesota; Dale Ellis, San Antonio; Derek Harper and Ro Blackman, New York.

The Big Guys: Sam Perkins and Detlef Schrempf, Seattle; Mark Aguirre, L.A. Clippers.

I guess there is no use crying over spilled milk. What's done is done.

I'm still in love with the Mavs. When they are ready to hire a good coach, a good general manager, and some good players, they can have me back.

Right now, I'm dating other people, trying to get over my heartbreak, and still looking for my first kiss.

Softball

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Calif.. will fill in the need behind the plate. Mya Truelove, a freshman from Pasadena, is the Aggies' first baseman and an outstanding power hitter from the left

side. The Aggies have also brought in two pitchers to help take some of the pressure off Gonzalez who pitched 49 of the Aggies 52 games. Christy Bunting, a freshman from Pasadena, and Kassie Wilcox, a freshman from LaPorte, will give the Aggies much needed pitching depth.

Aggies

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Texas. Senior forward Brett Murry said he believes the team cannot afford a performance similar to Wednesday night's game when they face the Longhorns.

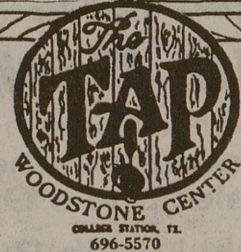
"We're not happy with the way we played tonight," Murry said. "If we play like that against Texas, we won't have a prayer. We'll get blown out."

After this Saturday's trip to Austin, the Aggies will return home on Wednesday, February 16, to host the University of Houston.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Carrie Beyer for being elected Panhellenic President and Jennifer Magee for Panhellenic Scholarship Officer.

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