

SPORTS

Monday, March 21, 1994

The Battalion

Page 5

A&M's sweet success

Lady Aggies' reach 'Sweet 16' with upset wins against San Diego State, Florida Gators



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

• above — Bambi Ferguson (right), Martha McClelland and Donyale Canada guard the University of Florida's Erica Jones on Wednesday.

• right — Lady Aggie guard Bambi Ferguson (right) hugs Andrea Williams after the Texas A&M women's team wins its first-ever NCAA tournament game. The Lady Aggies defeated the Gators, 78-76, on Wednesday at G. Rollier White Coliseum.

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Lisa Branch hit the go-ahead layup in the final seconds of overtime Sunday to lift Texas A&M to a 75-72 victory over San Diego State in a second-round NCAA West Regional game. The Aggies (23-7) advanced to a Regional semifinal Thursday in Palo Alto, Calif., where they'll play the West's top seed, Purdue (27-4), an 86-59 winner over Washington on Sunday.

Rachelle Johnson converted a pair of free throws to give San Diego State a 62-61 lead. Martha McClelland then sank a basket over Johnson to tie the game 65-65 and force the overtime. San Diego State (26-5) took an early lead in the five-minute extra

session on a 3-pointer by Tammy Blackburn, 70-67.

After Branch hit a pair of free throws, Falisha Wright kept San Diego State ahead 72-69 with a baseline jumper.

Andrea Williams started A&M's comeback with a basket, then Blackburn threw the ball away with 31 seconds left. Branch then hit a layup and A&M led 73-72.

On the ensuing possession, San Diego State's Sorii Epps missed a jumper and Christina Murguia fouled Marianne Miller, who hit both free throws with 2 seconds remaining for the final margin.

Epps led four Aztecs in double figures with 14. Johnson and Wright added 13 each and Michelle Suman 10.

McClelland added 16 points and 10 rebounds and Miller had 13 for A&M.



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion



Mary Macmanus/The Battalion
Texas A&M's David Minor slides safely into third during Sunday's 20-7 loss to UT.

Longhorns shellack Aggies in series sweep

By Stewart Doreen
The Battalion

The Texas Longhorns defeated Texas A&M 20-7 Sunday completing the first sweep of the Aggies since 1988.

The Longhorns (22-7) put the game out of reach early in the game scoring 18 runs in the first four innings.

Jerry Taylor's grand slam in the first and Roger Martinez's slam in the nine-run fourth led the 17-hit attack. Brannon Peters raised his record to 3-1 going the last three innings.

The Aggies, 17-12, were unable to find pitching support going through four pitchers in the 3.1 innings. John Codrington, 0-3, picked up the loss allowing five runs in the first inning.

"We have to stay positive," A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson said. "We have to check our mental toughness and fight hard to get back."

See Loss/ Page 6

Alamodome loses support, money

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Five years after giving the Alamodome some of the crucial support it needed to be built, the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce appears to be losing patience with the facility's continuing problems.

The chamber is working on an in-depth report targeting its displeasure with the depletion of a reserve fund to \$1.9 million from a planned \$25 million and with city officials' unwillingness to market the stadium with the city's convention center.

The report is to be delivered in late May to Mayor Nelson Wolff and the city council. The chamber also is study-

ing public transportation to dome events and economic development east of the dome.

An 18-member chamber task force is trying to find ways to improve the Alamodome by looking at successful steps taken at similar facilities across the country.

"Since we have gone on the line so much for the dome, we want to study it," said task force head Michael Burke, president of Tesoro Petroleum Corp.

Wolff said the city's immediate concern is to settle ownership of the dome and to replace former dome manager Carol Darby.

VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority, owner of the dome, has offered to deed the facility

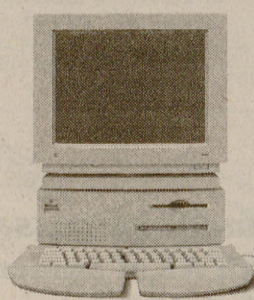
to the city, but the deal has stalled because of concern over lead-contaminated soil from the dome site that has been spread in other areas. Officials estimate cleanup costs could run as high as \$20 million.

A transfer of dome ownership would release the city from any obligation to pay into the renewal-and-improvement fund.

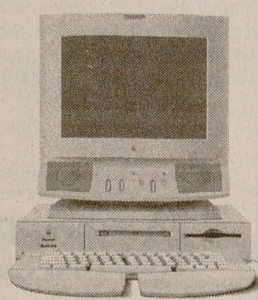
Wolff said the city will look at ways to beef up the reserve fund, but he firmly rejected the chamber's historic position that the dome should be marketed by the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"That was the way it was sold in the campaign, but it doesn't work," Wolff said.

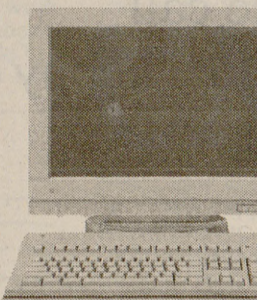
Finally, something for college that just got less expensive.



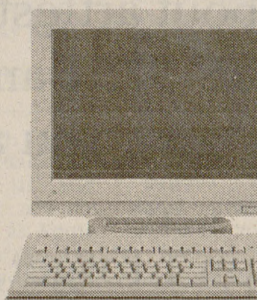
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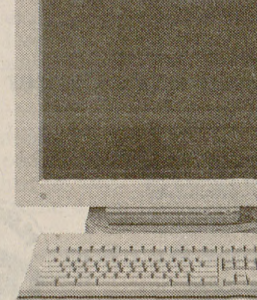
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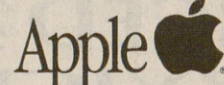
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