

Bosnia finish

Impeded movement and per-... Serb fighters... countries have... Bosnia.

Other sports also need 12th Man support

STEWART DOREEN



Did you ever hear the one about the Aggies that filled G. Rollie White to support their volleyball team...

Sadly enough, that was a joke and nobody is laughing. The reality is that Aggies aren't filling the bleachers to watch the Aggies.

I've already done a column saying A&M school spirit isn't all it is cracked up to be. However, after the disappointing attendance at Wednesday's NCAA volleyball tournament match...

Are Aggie students really that high on themselves that they can't go out and support all their teams. What's the deal? Texas A&M is the third largest university in the nation with around 43,000 students...

I figured instead of ridiculing you any further, I would maybe come up with some ideas that the A&M athletic department can use to bring those more-traditional A&M fans to those smaller athletic events...

1. Offer all you can "whoop" night at the softball field.

2. Start up a bonfire-like atmosphere at G. Rollie White Coliseum by pairing up students as "Barone Buddies."

3. Serve beer at A&M athletic events, so seniors can dunk their rings in a 16 ounce.

4. Get the band to make special appearances at the tennis complex.

5. Throw the yell leaders off the 10-meter platform after an Aggie win in swimming and diving.

6. Aggies get to kiss their date when an Aggie golfer makes a birdie.

7. The 10,000-meter elephant walk.

8. Tell Aggies it's football, just in a different location.

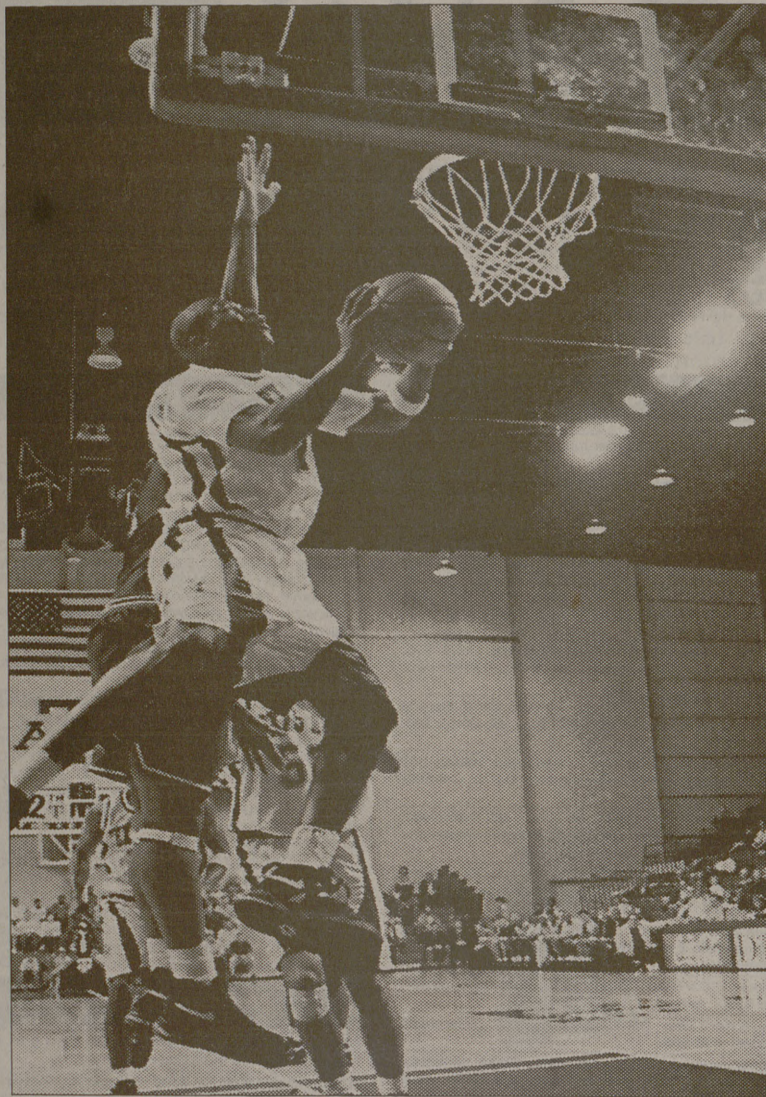
Seriously, the Aggies are trying to build one of the strongest athletic programs in the nation, but when you can't fill the stands the process gets slowed up.

The low turnout also makes the school look bad. Imagine watching a football game and seeing a stadium half empty.

That's something that many Aggies are used to seeing at many SWC stadiums around the state. The opposite is what the other A&M sports are seeing. The thought gets worse when you think that the basketball team will move to the special events center in a few years.

(Random thought: Somebody needs to call D.P. up and ask him why he didn't put volleyball in his little cartoon.)

Whatever the case, it is time for Aggies to start making an effort to improve the spirit at A&M. Hey, if all else fails, pretend you're stacking wood. That's something Aggies seem to put an effort into. That is not a joke.



Senior forward Joe Wilbert goes for a layup during a pre-season game against Fort Hood.

Aggies search for victory A&M basketball team focuses on Bank IV Classic

By Drew Diener THE BATTALION

Chemistry. At 1-3, Texas A&M's mens' basketball team is still searching for some. The Aggies' quest continues this weekend with a trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma...

"We're still trying to make value judgements," A&M head coach Tony Barone said. "We haven't found a team chemistry or a team identity."

Of the 17 players on the Aggies' roster, only three have been with the team for more than one year. Seven true freshmen and three sophomores make up a majority of the A&M squad.

"Our execution hasn't been good," Barone said. "Execution is based on anticipation, and our guys haven't been anticipating one another's moves."

In the first round of the tournament Friday night, A&M is scheduled to do battle with winless Oral Roberts. Last season, the Aggies beat ORU handily 79-66 in College Station.

Future Big 12 opponent Oklahoma State will play the Aggies in the second round. Barone said he wants his team to get a sneak preview of the competition they will be facing in two years.

"We know they have Bryant Reeves (a senior All-American center) and all that jazz," Barone said. "I want our guys to see what other good programs are like. At this point, I'd rather play OSU than some team you know you can beat."

Aside from a lack of chemistry, the Aggies' rough start also results from a tough schedule, Barone said.

A&M tipped off the season with a 103-73 loss to Arizona State in the first round of the Maui Invitational. In the second round, A&M fought hard against an upstart Tulane team, losing 76-74 before defeating host Chaminade 73-52 to close out the tournament.

Senior forward Damon Johnson said the tournament was very helpful for the team.

"Just look at the caliber of teams we played against," Johnson said. "They were good teams, and that helps prepare us for conference."

Barone said scheduling such a tournament for

"Execution is based on anticipation, and our guys haven't been anticipating one another's moves."

A&M head coach Tony Barone,

a young, growing team may not have been so wise, however, he does not regret it.

"It doesn't hurt them (the team) at all," Barone said. "We don't like being 1-3 but at least we learned. A season can be a success when you learn from your mistakes."

The Aggies suffered loss number three at the hands of St. Mary's, 80-68, on their return home from College Station.

Of their three losses this season, Barone said he was most disappointed with the St. Mary's game.

"We went into the game thinking we were going to go out and win easily," Barone said. "We base our program on pride and effort, and we didn't have that attitude in that game."

After this weekend's tournament, the Aggies will return to College Station to face Southwestern Louisiana Monday in their home opener at G. Rollie White.

"With three games in four days, we should come out with a much better attitude," Barone said. "This is a long season, and the race is a marathon."

"We absolutely have to come to play with tremendous enthusiasm at each game."

Lady Aggies host invitational

A&M's depth presents problems to opponents' defense

By Kristina Buffin THE BATTALION

The 22nd-ranked Texas A&M women's basketball team will be looking to continue their undefeated streak Saturday when they host the Lady Aggie Holiday Inn/Domino's Pizza Invitational at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Along with A&M (2-0), Central Michigan University (0-1), New Mexico State University (1-0) and Alcorn State (1-0) will compete for the tournament trophy. The Lady Aggies will play the Central Michigan Chippewas Saturday at 8 p.m.

CMU lost their season opener 80-45 to Xavier University, but the Lady Aggies are not taking the Chippewas lightly.

"They don't have any one star, they're just a decent overall team," head coach Candi Harvey said. "So we're going to have to come out ready to play. We can't look past Central Michigan worrying about New Mexico State or Alcorn State or we'll never get to that championship game."

Harvey said the Lady Aggies will have to play a good defensive game to defeat the Chippewas.

"We want to play hard nose man to man defense," Harvey said. "We felt like we got much better in the Arizona State game and we think we have some defense intensity and hopefully we can carry that over into the Michigan game."

A&M is led by junior guard Lisa Branch

who is averaging 17.5 points per game and junior center Martha McClelland who is averaging 13 points per game. McClelland leads the team with nine rebounds per game.

Coach Harvey believes that to stop the Lady Aggies, their opponents must attack their very versatile offensive game.

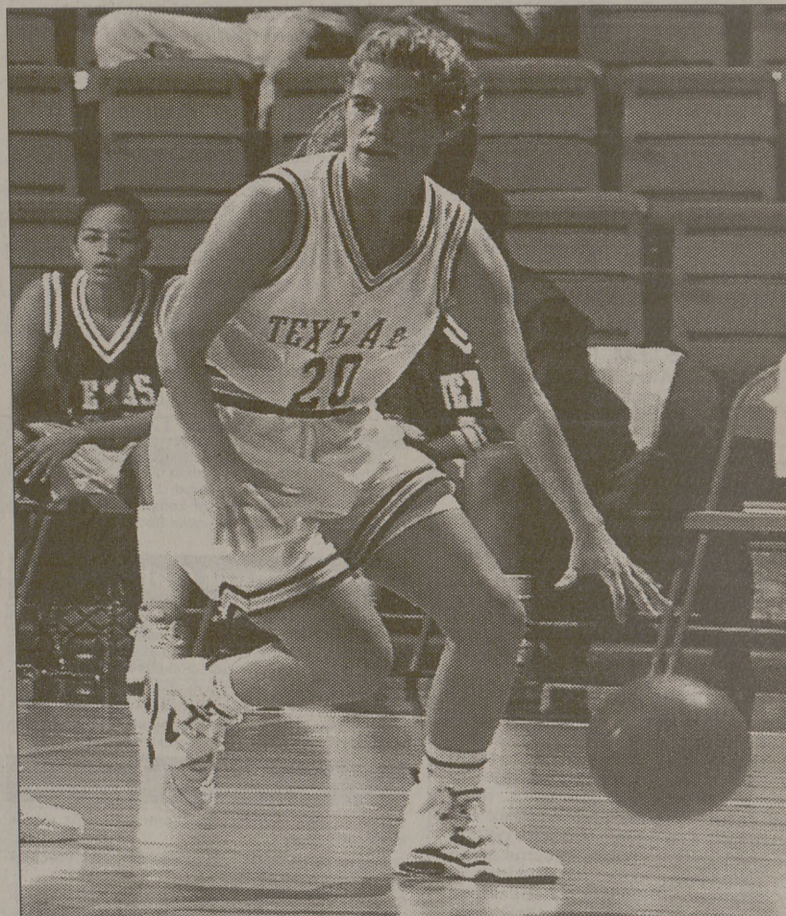
"We have great depth. Our perimeter kids are effective scorers and so are our post players," Harvey said. "We present them problems matching up-wise. If you've got size, we'll bury the outside shot and if you crowd us we're going to get the ball to the paint and we're going to hurt you there."

If the Lady Aggies stick to their defensive plan, they believe their offensive game will come naturally.

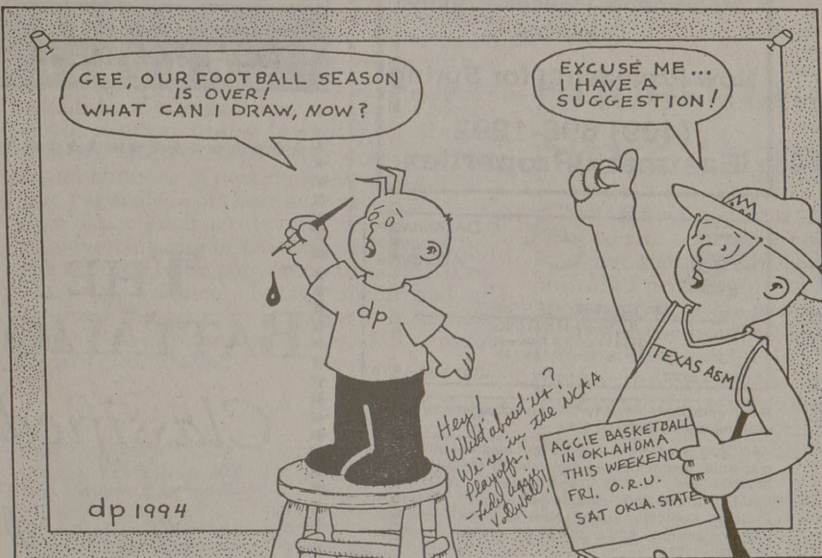
"The most important thing is defense," junior guard Lisa Branch said. "Once we get our defense going, we can get it going on our offense. Because if you play good enough defense, you don't have to set up an offense, you can just go down get a steal and score."

Harvey said the tournament competition will be the best the Lady Aggies have faced all year.

"New Mexico State and Alcorn State are probably very similar," Harvey said. "Both teams have a lot of returning players and that game should be a dogfight. It should be very exciting, real fast pace, a lot of scoring and if we can get past Michigan, we'll have our hands full. It'll be the best test that we've had this season."



Sophomore guard Lana Tucker dribbles down the court in the Arizona State game. A&M hosts an invitational this weekend.



Moon eclipses Bears in overtime win

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Cris Carter turned Warren Moon's short pass into a 65-yard touchdown in overtime Thursday night, giving the Minnesota Vikings a 33-27 victory over the Chicago Bears and a tie for the lead in the NFC Central.

Moon's second scoring pass to Carter, at 9:14 of the extra period, came two plays after Kevin Butler missed a 40-yard field goal that would have given the Bears (8-5) their second overtime win in two weeks and a two-game lead in the division.

Instead, the Vikings (8-5) took control of the division, thanks to their season sweep of the Bears.

After the Bears drove to the Minnesota 23, Butler was wide left on his kick.

Moon, throwing on second down, threw into the flat to Carter. He spun away from linebacker Joe Cain, straddled the sideline for a few steps and avoided a desperation tackle at-

tempt by Shaun Gayle at the 10. He went into the end zone standing.

"It was curl pattern trying to set up a field goal," Carter said. "Warren made a good throw."

Minnesota snapped a three-game losing streak, handing Chicago its first loss in five games and its first defeat in eight games this season with Steve Walsh as the starting quarterback.

Walsh, returning home on his 28th birthday, threw two touchdowns, but his first quarter interception was returned 54 yards by rookie Dewayne Washington to give the Vikings a score.

The Bears led 24-16 on Walsh's second TD pass, a 15-yarder to Greg McMurtry with 1:30 left in the third quarter. But the Vikings rallied with Fuad Reveziz's fourth field goal and Moon's 1-yard fourth-down TD pass to Carter, the NFL's leading receiver, and a 2-point conversion pass to Andrew Jordan for a 27-24 lead with 4:12 left in regulation.

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