

Women's team sets high hopes for season

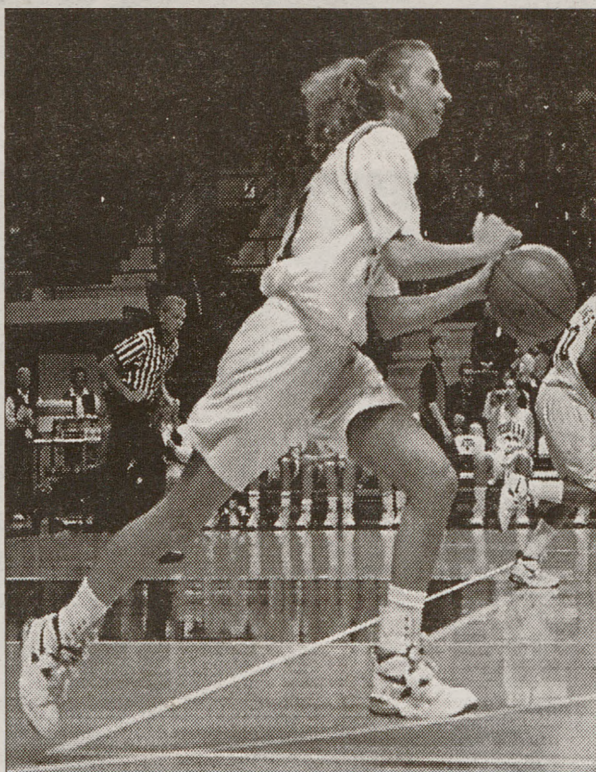
□ The Lady Aggies look to top last year's Sweet 16 appearance.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team galloped into the semester break in December with a perfect 4-0 record, still riding high on their miraculous Sweet 16 run last season. The road to the spring term was a bumpy one for the Lady Aggies, but the team is pointing to experience gained over the break as their springboard to success in the future.

"We still need to put things together," junior post player Angel Spinks said. "We have not played as well in games as we do in practice. At this point, it's all mental, we just need to be more confident."

That confidence was displayed in style Saturday as the Lady Aggies cruised by the University of Texas 75-61 at G. Rollie White Coliseum. A Lady Aggie record crowd of 4,103 saw A&M defeat the Lady Longhorns by the largest margin ever in an A&M win in the series.



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Sophomore guard, **Christy Lake** dribbles upcourt.

"This team met a big challenge today," A&M head coach Candi Harvey said after the Texas game. "These players just would not be denied. This was a nice statement to make at this point in the season."

The win moved A&M's overall record to 10-4 and evened their Southwest Conference mark at 1-1. Conference play opened up on a sour note January 11 as A&M traveled to Lubbock and was beaten soundly by the Texas Tech Lady Red Raiders, 100-76. Early in the season, Harvey said A&M was the team to beat in the conference. Despite the loss to Tech, Harvey did not back down from her previous statement.

"We believe we can still win the SWC championship," Harvey said. "If we don't believe that, why should we go out and play at all? We have the talent to win it."

Unlike most A&M students, the Lady Aggies were seldom "at home for the holidays" playing six of nine games on the road before Saturday's win against Texas. Despite the rough schedule, A&M managed a 5-4 mark over the nine games. Harvey said although the team's record has not shown it, the players have made great strides towards playing better since the beginning of the season.

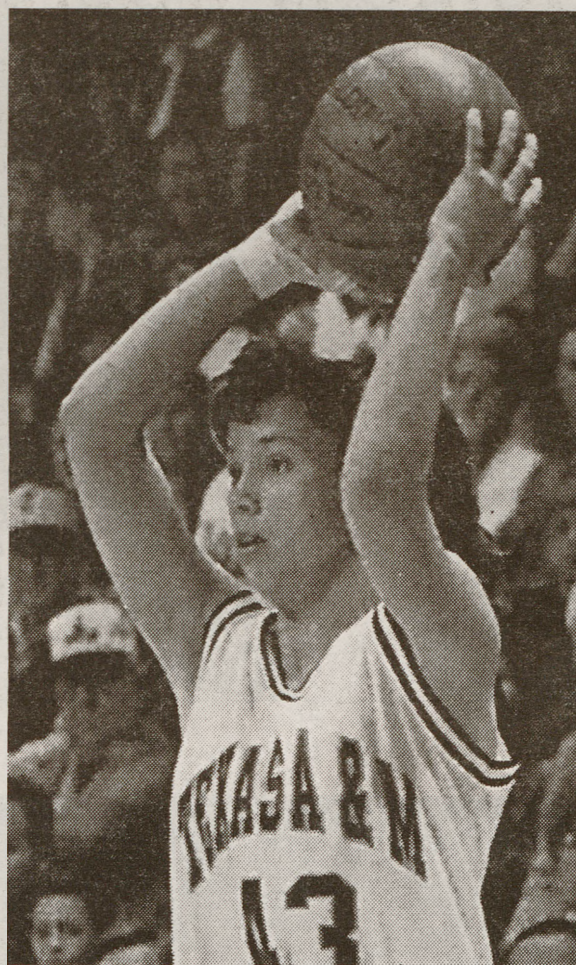
"We've improved greatly, the players have adapted well to a new system," Harvey said. "They're still thinking a little too much, but it will reach a point where my system is a habit."

The Lady Aggies' first game of the break was also their first loss of the season, a 77-54 blowout at the hands of the University of Minnesota. Two days later however, A&M rebounded and gave future Big 12 opponent Oklahoma a preview of what to expect in 1996 with a 88-74 rout of the Sooners in Norman.

At the end of 1994, the Lady Aggies competed in the SunBank Holiday Classic in Orlando. A&M compiled a 2-1 record in the tournament, knocking off both Appalachian State and Central Florida.

Like last season, junior point guard Lisa Branch continues to lead the attack for A&M. Branch is currently leading the team in scoring at 14.7 points per game, and leads both the team and the conference in assists with 7.0 per game.

Also averaging in double digit points for the Lady Aggies are junior transfer post Angel Spinks at 10.2 per game and junior post Martha McClelland at 10.6. McClelland is picking up right where she left off in last year's breakthrough season, leading the Lady Aggies in rebounding and field goal percentage this year.



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Bambi Ferguson looks to pass the ball during a game against The University of Texas.

SPORTS INJURIES

- For operative and non-operative conditions of the extremities.
- Therapeutic exercise to restore range of motion and restore strength in the upper and lower extremity musculature.
- Therapeutic massage for pain control and muscle relaxation.

SPORTS & BACK CLINIC

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No.	Player	Position	Classification	Hometown
10	Donyale Canada	G	Junior	Austin, Texas
20	Lana Tucker	G	Sophomore	Duncanville, Texas
21	Christy Lake	G	Sophomore	Duncanville, Texas
22	Lisa Branch	G	Junior	DeSoto, Texas
23	Kelly Cerny	C	Junior	Corpus Christi, Texas
24	Shanae Ford	F	Sophomore	Corpus Christi, Texas
31	Kim Linder	C	Freshman	Amarillo, Texas
32	Carey Owens	G	Freshman	Corpus Christi, Texas
41	Debbie Biermann	C	Senior	Covington, La.
42	Sutton Helvey	C	Freshman	Eules, Texas
43	Bambi Ferguson	G	Junior	Jayton, Texas
50	Angel Spinks	C	Junior	League City, Texas
51	Marianne Miller	F	Sophomore	Stratford, Okla.
54	Martha McClelland	C	Junior	Duncanville, Texas