

Spinks adds brawn to A&M's KO punch

□ JUCO transfer has found a home in Lady Aggie post.

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

After losing senior center Nikki Littles last season, the Texas A&M women's basketball team hoped to fill the void left at the post position by recruiting a similarly styled player to produce at that position. This season, the Lady Aggies responded to the situation by recruiting one of the top junior college recruit in Texas, junior center Angel Spinks.

Although Spinks did not begin playing basketball until she was twelve, she has gained both experience and success in high school and at Howard College before transfer-

ring to play with the Lady Aggies. While playing for Clear Creek High School, Spinks was named to the Texas all-state second team as a senior and was a 4A-5A North all-star team pick.

After high school, Spinks opted to go to Howard College before playing for a Division I-A school.

"I'm glad that I went to JUCO (junior college)," Spinks said. "It was a different level than high school, I was able to experience something different. I'm still trying to become a Division I player."

As a freshman at Howard College, Spinks averaged 13.7 points and 10 rebounds per game. She posted a 66.5 field goal percentage, a Western Junior College Athletic Conference all-time season record.

Spinks started all 37 games as a sophomore. While leading her team to a 33-4 record and a first place finish in the WJCAC, she averaged 16.3 points, 9.7 rebounds, 2.3 steals and

2.0 blocks. She also led the conference with a 38.3 three-point field goal percentage.

"I want to be able to go in and give it all I can," Spinks said. "Whether I score or play individual defense well is irrelevant."

Spinks has become the "sixth woman" for the Lady Aggies this season, playing in all of A&M's games without starting. She has been able to fill the post position void left by Littles and even expand upon that role.

"My play is kind of similar to Nikki's," Spinks said. "But I can fill more spots inside or outside. Other teams don't expect a post player to shoot the three, and (that has) let us open up other shots."

Spinks' versatility has enabled her to average 10.2 points and 4.7 rebounds per game, which are third and fourth on the team respectively. Spinks is shooting 52.6 percent from the floor and 37.5 percent from behind the three-point arc.

"Angel gives us good depth at the post position, and we are much more consistent there now," head coach Candi Harvey said. "She has been able to feed her game effort into practice ef-

fort. When she comes in, she has the ability to take over a game."

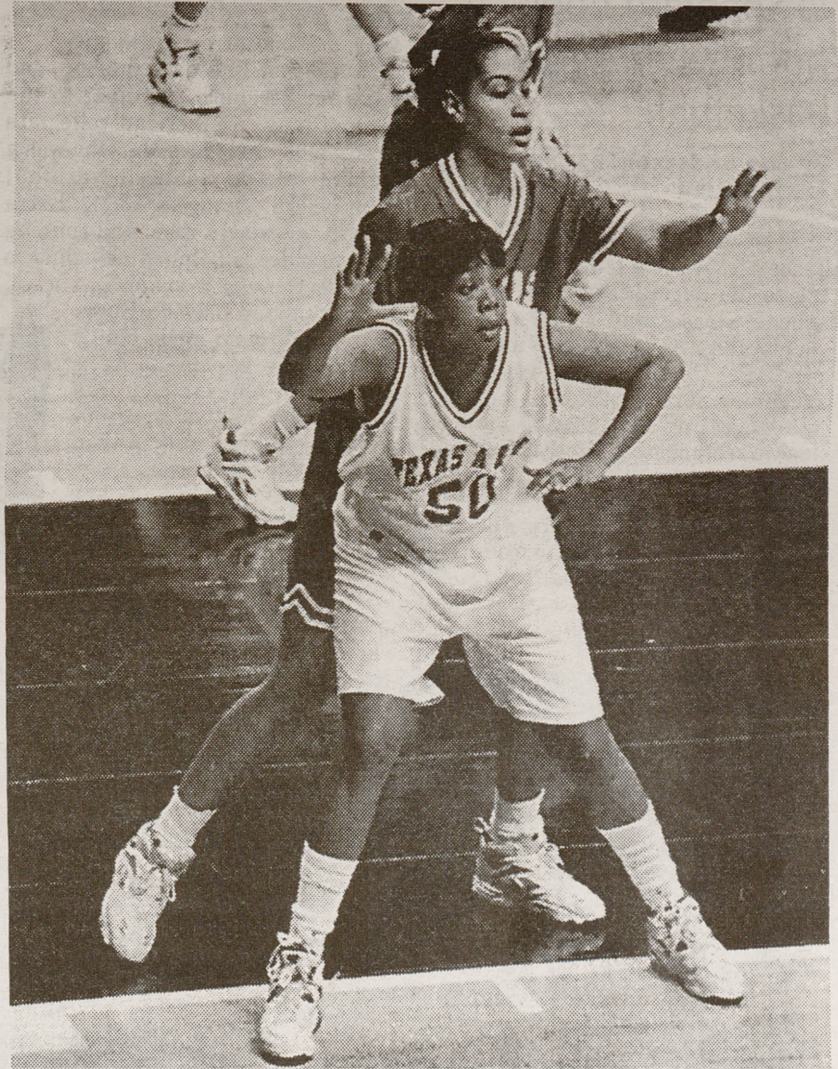
"She has the potential to be one of the better post players in the SWC."

Spinks' efforts led her to score a career-high 20 points in the Lady Aggies' first game against Lamar University. She has led the team in scoring twice and in rebounds twice. She was also named to the Holiday Inn/Domino's Pizza Lady Aggie Invitational All-tournament team.

As for her plans after college, Spinks, a biomedical sciences major, hopes to become a pharmacist. As for basketball, Spinks said, "When it's over, it'll be over."

Spinks is confident about the rest of the season for the Lady Aggies. She believes that there is only more success ahead for the team.

"It is all mental, we need to be more confident," Spinks said. "The team is full of talent. We are good at home, we need to take that home atmosphere on the road."



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Angel Spinks #50 moves inside to receive a pass during the game against the UT Lady Longhorns last Saturday.

"I want to be able to go in and give it all I can. Whether I score or play individual defense well is irrelevant."

- Angel Spinks

Lady Aggies 100-Point Games

Date	Opponent	Score
January 8, 1983	Rice	105 - 81
December 17, 1984	St. Mary's (4 OT)	101 - 95
November 30, 1987	Pan American	110 - 50
December 8, 1988	Pan American	100 - 39
December 5, 1990	Oklahoma	101 - 80
February 26, 1994	SMU	103 - 85

• Lady Aggies' Top 12 • BIGGEST WINS IN HISTORY

Margin	Date	Team	Score
83	January 21, 1975	Rice	99 - 16
61	December 8, 1988	Pan American	100 - 39
60	November 30, 1987	Pan American	110 - 50
58	January 5, 1978	Friends University	97 - 39
53	January 22, 1980	Sam Houston State	94 - 41
48	January 10, 1990	SMU	93 - 45
47	January 14, 1989	Baylor	94 - 47
47	January 8, 1993	Oral Roberts	96 - 49
46	February 14, 1975	SMU	70 - 24
46	November 30, 1978	Wharton Junior College	88 - 42
44	November 18, 1978	Texas A&I	81 - 37
44	December 6, 1991	Chicago State	82 - 38