

At a
GLANCE

SPORTS BRIEFS

Aggieland Handball Tournament to be held this weekend

The largest handball tournament in Texas will be held this weekend at the Student Recreation Center and the Read Building.

The 19th Annual AggieLand Classic Handball Tournament will feature more than 300 entrants, including ranked professionals Sal Santa Ana from El Paso and Beth Rowley from Dallas.

Play will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday and the finals will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

A&M Softball signs California shortstop

Jamie Smith, a shortstop from Ceres, Ca., signed a national letter of intent to play for the Lady Aggie Softball team on Tuesday.

"We are excited about signing Jamie," A&M Head Coach Bob Brock said. "We anticipate that she will be an impact player for us and a great replacement for senior Kendall Richards."

At Johanson High School, in Modesto, Smith posted a .455 career batting average and a .985 fielding percentage.

Smith is a three-time unanimous all-conference first team selection from 1993-1995 and she received the conference's Outstanding Defensive Player award in 1994 and 1995.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

NBA

- Spurs 105, Timberwolves 96
- Rockets 96, Raptors 93
- Mavericks 97, Lakers 114
- Nuggets 137, Suns 127
- Bulls 113, Cavaliers 94
- Nets 90, Hornets 79
- Pacers 103, Heat 97
- Jazz 102, Celtics 90
- Pistons 94, SuperSonics 87
- Bullets 127, 76ers 95

NHL

- Sabres 2, Stars 1
- Whalers 3, Senators 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

A&M Volleyball

The Lady Aggies are seeded second in the SWC Tournament which will begin on Saturday in Houston. A&M has a bye in the first round and will face the winner of Texas Tech, Baylor match in the second round.

Aggie Soccer

The Lady Aggies will travel to Dallas Saturday to face Southern Methodist University in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Aggie Swimming

The A&M swimming team will host Louisiana State University at the Natatorium in the Student Recreation Center on Friday at 2 p.m.

Lady Aggie Basketball

The Lady Aggies will face Duke University in the second round of the Women's NIT on Friday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Aggie Basketball

The A&M men's basketball team will face the Conoco Oilers in their second exhibition game of the season, Monday at 7 p.m., at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Lady Ags start preseason off with a win

A&M sets a scoring record with their 111-83 win over Lamar.

By Tom Day
THE BATTALION

If there were any questions as to why the Lady Aggie Basketball Team is the defending Women's National Invitation Tournament champion, there aren't any now.

Based on their record-setting effort in the first round of the preseason WNIT Wednesday night, the Lady Aggies are in no hurry to relinquish their crown. In front of a raucous crowd of 2,534 in G. Rollie White Coliseum, A&M opened the 1995-96 season in style, destroying Lamar University 111-83.

A&M's point total not only broke the old school record of 110 points scored in a game, but the Aggies also established a new record for the two-year-old tournament.

But following the game, A&M Head Coach Candi Harvey said she was most impressed by her team's defense.

"The intensity level on the defensive end probably went up as high as I've ever seen this basketball team play for me," Harvey said.

One of the keys to A&M's solid team defensive effort was the

play of junior guard Lana Tucker. Assigned to guard Lamar's top offensive player, Lisa McMahon, Tucker came up big for the Aggies.

Tucker limited McMahon to just 11 points on 4-for-13 shooting.

"She went out and did what she was asked to do," Harvey said. "McMahon is left-handed and Lana made her use her right. When you take a strength away from a great player like that, that's usually the result."

"We had a great scouting report and we knew that she liked to (drive) to the left, so we influenced her to the right and it seemed to work," Tucker said. "We had good help from our post players and everyone else and we shut her down."

A&M had its problems in the first half adjusting to Lamar's physical style of play. Despite turning the ball over to the Aggies 16 times in the half, the Lady Cardinals used 15 offensive rebounds to setup several second-chance scoring opportunities.

"They are a very physical team and we remembered that from last year," senior guard Lisa Branch said. "But we're just as big as any other team, so we're going to bump and push and do whatever it takes to win."

After two straight baskets cut an 11 point A&M lead down to seven with 6:19 remaining in the

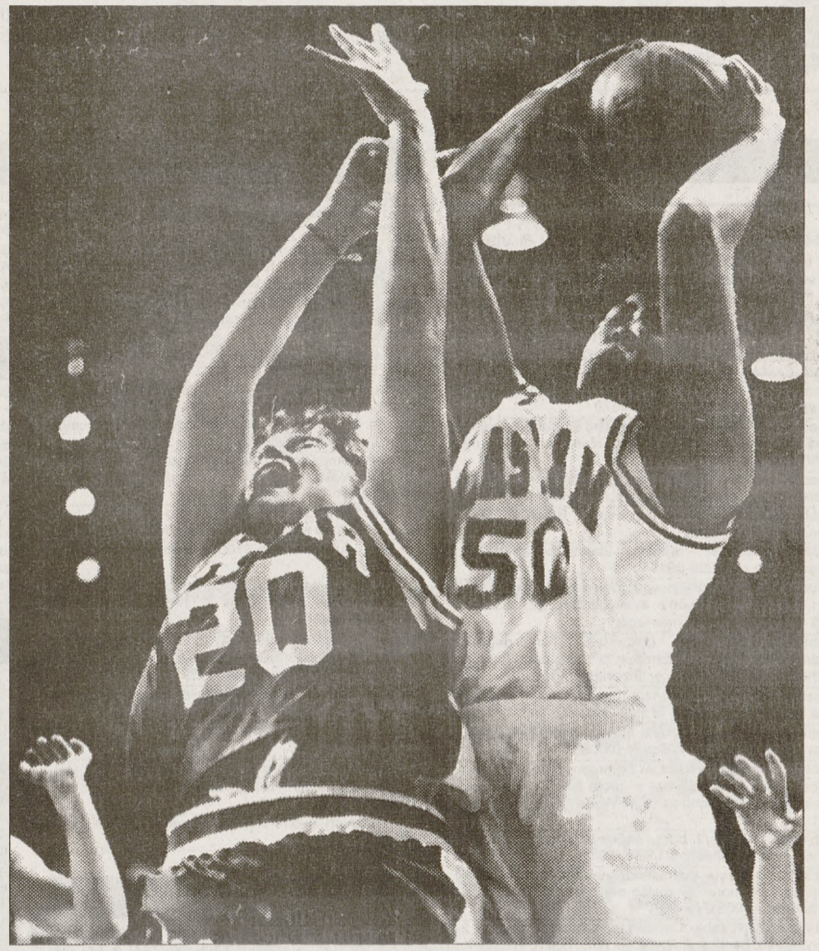
half, the Lady Aggies sprung on Lamar with an 11-0 spurt that brought the crowd to a frenzy.

The scoring run was capped-off when a pumped-up Bambi Ferguson scored on a gutsy drive to the hoop and was fouled hard. Her free-throw gave A&M a 42-24 lead with 4:07 left.

However, the Cardinals wouldn't lay down as they used a 17-7 run to close the half and

See LADY AGGIES, Page 16

Lady Ags 111, Cardinals 83				
	fg	fga	3pt	tp
Texas A&M	49	62	—	113
Lamar	41	42	—	83
Lamar				
Scally, D.	3-8	0-1	13	
McMahon, L.	4-13	1-4	11	
Jamnicky, V.	7-13	0-0	16	
Habermaier, P.	0-4	0-0	0	
Webb, L.	13-27	4-10	37	
Greenwood, T.	0-0	0-0	0	
Jones, M.	0-1	0-0	0	
Cooper, D.	1-3	0-0	2	
Finnie, D.	0-1	0-1	0	
Totals	30-75	5-18	83	
Texas A&M				
Rollerson, M.	5-8	0-0	10	
Sevin, M.	4-8	0-0	14	
Spinks, A.	11-17	1-1	29	
Tucker, L.	6-11	0-1	16	
Branch, L.	5-9	1-1	16	
Patterson, K.	0-1	0-0	1	
Linder, K.	1-2	0-0	8	
Ferguson, B.	4-6	1-2	10	
Cerry, K.	3-7	0-0	8	
Totals	31-63	14-33	111	
FG Percentage: A&M - .520	Lamar - .478			
3PT Percentage: A&M - .429	Lamar - .278			
Attendance: 2,534				



Senior center Angel Spinks goes up for a rebound against Lamar's Denise Scally in the first round of the WNIT at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M to face off against I-AA MTSU

Injured Aggies, McElroy, Holdman and Greer are expected to play.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

Usually a college football game between the No. 18 and No. 24 teams in the nation would be a pretty good matchup.

Such is unlikely to be the case Saturday when the Texas A&M Football Team hosts the Division I-AA Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders at Kyle Field at 1 p.m.

The Blue Raiders got on A&M's 1995 schedule during the off-season after the Aggies' three-year series with Louisville University ended. Forced to find a team with an off-week during the ninth week of the season, A&M's choices were narrow.

"It came down to between Central Florida and Middle Tennessee State," A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said. "Boots Donnelly (MTSU's head coach) is a class guy, very well-respected."

There is no betting line in this first-ever meeting between the two schools, and Slocum said he is more concerned with the performance of his team than the threat of MTSU's attack.

"We've got to get better," Slocum said. "We've got some dates with destiny down the road — playing teams like TCU and Texas. We have to play better than we have in the past few weeks."

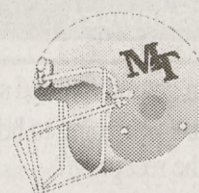
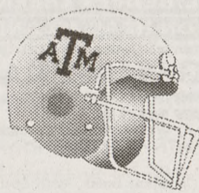
The best news out of the A&M camp this week is the continuing improvement of several injured players. Tailback Leeland McElroy, bothered by an ankle injury

since the Texas Tech game Oct. 7, has practiced every day this week, as has linebacker Warrick Holdman.

Slocum listed tight end Daniel Campbell, injured for nearly the entire season, as fit to play and expects corner Donovan Greer — injured in the Baylor game — to return to starting this weekend.

The Aggies' offensive woes have been the sharpest area of criticism for much of this season. Slocum said personnel changes have never been an issue, but performance on the field has been.

"I think we've got the best



personnel out there — Corey Pullig is the best quarterback we have by and Leeland McElroy is the best tailback," Slocum said. "We just have to get it functioning more effectively."

Most of A&M's players seemed to know little about Middle Tennessee State University (located in Murfreesboro), but are not underestimating any team on their schedule.

"No, we don't know much about them," junior offensive guard Calvin Collins said. "But they are a football team just like us, same number of players on the field, and we have to take them seriously."

Blue Raiders hoping for strong play against the Aggies

The Blue Raiders are 1-6 against Division I-A opponents.

By Lisa Nance
THE BATTALION

When the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders take the field Saturday against the 18th-ranked Texas A&M football team, they will be out to show Texans what "boot-scootin'" is all about. Well, Boots anyway.

MTSU Blue Raiders Head Coach Boots Donnelly said in a

press release earlier this week, that they are looking forward to this game so they can see how they will measure up against a Division I-A program.

"That's where we have said we want to be playing by 1998," Donnelly said. "We're going to find out early how we stack up. I think it's a tremendous opportunity for our kids to play against the kind of program, tradition and athletes that A&M will put on the field."

"Our kids will have to react one of two ways: they can be intimidated, or they'll step up and try to compete, just to find out for themselves what they're made of."

The players who compete, whether they get beat or not, are the ones we'll start trying to build around for next year and for seasons on down the road."

Donnelly, in his 17th season with the Blue Raiders, has compiled a 125-70-1 record. He is currently ranked sixth in winning percentage among all active Division I-AA coaches. This will be the first time the Blue Raiders and the Aggies have faced each other. Donnelly said that his team's game plan for the Aggies will go this way:

"We've told our kids that if we receive, they should concentrate on trying to recover the fumble," Donnelly said. "If we kick off, try to block the extra point."

The Aggie's defense seems to also be a source of concern for Donnelly. He said that MTSU will give the "Wrecking Crew" someone to concentrate on.

"They really come after people well," Donnelly said. "I don't know what (quarterback Jonathan) Quinn can do back there. At 6-feet, 6-inches and 230 pounds, he's an awfully big target. Maybe it would be better if he were just a little smaller."

Not only did the defense seem to be a source of concern for Donnelly, but Leeland McElroy is on his mind as well.

"He's playing with something of a bad ankle, and he still out ran everybody on Rice's defense last week," Donnelly said. "Now, Rice has a pretty good academic reputation, and their players ought to know about proper angles and things like that. But they still couldn't catch him. Our kids are just ordinary, academically. They won't know anything about angles, and I don't think

they'll catch him if he gets loose. He's one of the very best running backs anywhere."

The Blue Raiders come to AggieLand on a three-game winning streak after defeating arch-rival Tennessee Tech 31-6. In the game, the Blue Raiders racked up a season high 536 yards in total offense against the Eagles. MTSU's defense had shutout the Eagles until Tech blocked a punt and recovered it in the end zone for its only score with just one minute to play.

"I was really disappointed because I really didn't want those folks to score," Donnelly said. "Our defense had done a heckuva job. But A&M might not let us keep the ball long enough to punt. In fact, we might not have to worry much about the punting game at all. Judging from the way they look on the tapes we have, if we stop them, it'll probably be because they have a little trouble kicking field goals."

MTSU moved their traditional season finale against Tennessee Tech up a week in order to schedule the Aggies who needed to fill a gap in their schedule created when the Aggies contract with Louisville ended last season.

Saturday's game against the Aggies is the first Division I-A opponent for the Blue Raiders since they lost to Hawaii, 14-35, in the opening game of their 1993 season. A&M will be the eighth Division I-A school that Donnelly has faced during his coaching tenure at MTSU. The Blue Raiders have a 1-6 record in those seven previous games, most of which found the Raiders competitive in the first half, out-distanced in the second.

The good old days: when baseball cards were collected not sold

Last weekend, I went back to my hometown for the first time in months. My parents thought it was because I wanted to see them, but I had ulterior motives in mind.

When I first got out of the truck I played it cool, obliging them in the regulatory hugs and small talk. "Let's not talk about my grades. Let's talk about you guys." Then I excused myself and made my way to the back of my old closet.

There they were sitting on a filing cabinet.

No, not my older brother's stack of Playboy magazines, my baseball card albums. They are filled with such immortals as

Shoety Babbit, Razor Shines and George Bjorkman. My card collection is a part of me. And if I don't check ever so often, I'm afraid my mother will throw that part of me in the trash.

My friend's mother threw away his baseball card collection when he went off to college. In her words, they were "just kid's toys" and were "taking up a lot of space." When questioned during the trial he would only respond with one answer:

"She made me eat my vegetables and threw away eight Ricky Henderson cards. You tell me who the monster is. You tell me, sir!"

Growing up, baseball cards were my life. I would study the

backs of cards until my parents would make me watch television. "David, I don't care if Bert Campaneris did have eight triples in 1979, go watch 'Welcome Back Kotter.'"

But eventually I would find my way back to the stacks of cards I loved so much. I could learn a player's lifetime batting average and how many errors he made as a rookie. But my favorite part of the cards was at the bottom where you could learn a bit about each player.

DAVID WINDER

SPORTSWRITER



"Jerry missed most of last season because of bullet wounds suffered at the hands of a jealous husband. Considers his best game to be three years ago against Detroit when he played a

whole doubleheader full of whiskey. Once played a game with his jockstrap on the outside of his pants."

The cards were also great because you could learn what the players were like and what made them tick.

Favorite Movie: The one where the guy says he ain't lyin', but the man knows he lyin', so

he shoots him.

Favorite Song: I Can't Get Over You, Until You Get Out From Underneath Him.

Favorite Food: Anything my old lady cooks.

Wish: To end all the killing in the world.

Hobbies: Hunting and Fishing.

Remembering those glory days, I was saddened because I knew other generations of collectors were not experiencing the same thing. The kids today are only interested in the return on their investment, not the cardboard tasting gum. They aren't reading baseball cards for fun; they aren't even reading baseball cards. It's all about money

to those petty pre-teens.

But it was never about money to me. Back then all I needed was a Tito Landrum card, and I was happy. Throw in a Enrique Romo, and I was ecstatic. Add a Mike Cabbage and you couldn't knock the smile off my face with a sledgehammer.

As I left my parents Sunday I did the compulsory hugs and goodbyes. "I love you guys and remember I've never touched a drop of beer in my life." Then I grabbed my baseball card albums for a little light reading back at my apartment.

Of course, if the opportunity ever did present itself, me and the rookie Cal Ripken were never friends.