

sports
GLANCE

Groff reveals changes to 1996 schedule

Texas A&M Athletic Director Wally Groff announced an updated 1996 football schedule complete with times for home games.

"As of today, our schedule is firm as far as dates are concerned," Groff said. "The times are still subject to change to accommodate television, but our dates will not change."

Aug. 24 at BYU	11 a.m.
Sep. 14 at USL	TBA
Sep. 21 NORTH TEXAS	4 p.m.
Sep. 28 COLORADO	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 5 LA. TECH	4 p.m.
Oct. 12 at Iowa State	TBA
Oct. 19 KANSAS STATE	1 p.m.
Oct. 26 TEXAS TECH	1 p.m.
Nov. 2 at Oklahoma State	TBA
Nov. 9 at Baylor	TBA
Nov. 16 OKLAHOMA	1 p.m.
Nov. 29 at Texas	10 a.m.

Mavericks' Kidd best in NBA for the week

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Kidd of the Dallas Mavericks, who averaged a triple double in three games, was selected Tuesday as NBA player of the week.

Kidd led the Mavericks to a 2-1 showing last week by averaging 27.7 points, 10.7 rebounds and 10.7 assists. He also shot .517, making 30 of 58 attempts — including 14 of 24 from 3-point range — and averaged 3.3 steals.

The Dallas guard ranked third in steals, fourth in scoring and assists and 19th in rebounding for the week.

Hill drops out of All-Star Dunk Contest

NEW YORK (AP) — Grant Hill of the Detroit Pistons withdrew Tuesday from the Slam-Dunk competition, part of the NBA's All-Star weekend in San Antonio.

Hill has a sore right wrist as the result of an injury in game Jan. 29, the league said.

He will start in Sunday's All-Star game, however, according to the league.

Hill led all players in fan balloting, which determined the starting teams.

Tagliabue faces skeptics in Congress talk

WASHINGTON (AP) — NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue faced a skeptical, sometimes hostile House Judiciary Committee today and asked for a change in federal law that would make his job more powerful.

Court interpretations of antitrust law, and the \$50 million pricetag of losing the court case filed by Raiders owner Al Davis, have made football owners reluctant to fight teams that want to change cities, Tagliabue said.

"Right now we are powerless in this area because of the antitrust uncertainties," he testified.

The committee, which includes some lawmakers opposed to any changes in the law and some that want to make more dramatic changes than Tagliabue favors, stacked the hearing to give priority to cities that have lost or fear losing their professional football teams.

It also made Tagliabue take his turn after the committee heard an emotional, heartfelt plea from an orange-shoed, bone-bearing fan from Cleveland's "dawg pound."

SCORES ROUNDUP

NBA

Magic 112, Kings 102
Spurs 109, Hornets 102
Cavaliers 91, Celtics 73
Suns 106, Bulls 96
Bucks 114, Mavericks 111
Lakers 99, Nuggets 78
Rockets and Sonics

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Basketball
The Aggies will host Texas Tech Saturday at G. Rollie White Coliseum in Southwest Conference action.

Women's Basketball
The Lady Aggies travel to Waco tonight to play the Lady Bears of Baylor University.

Women's Tennis
The Lady Aggies begin the spring season today at 1:30 p.m. when they host the North Texas Eagles.

Red-hot Lady Aggs seek redemption in Waco

□ The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team is riding a three-game winning streak.

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team (13-7, 4-3) has become a runaway freight train over the last three games and looks like it is not slowing down anytime soon.

The Lady Aggies hope to continue extend their win streak against the Baylor Bears at the Ferrell Center, tonight at 7 p.m.

"We are playing there, so it will be tough," junior guard Lana Tucker said. "Last year, we lost there and it hurt our season. We need to play our game and not get caught up in their game. Baylor likes to push the ball, so we have to stop their transition game and have to be ready."

Defense has been the reason that the Lady Aggies were able to recover from their uncharacteristic three-game slump. In the Lady Aggies' 63-55 win over

Southern Methodist University Sunday, A&M held the Mustangs to a .282 field-goal percentage. Senior guard Bambi Ferguson had a career-high nine rebounds.

"I try to be consistent," Ferguson said. "I'm working on little things like blocking out. I'm focusing on rebounding and areas where I can help the team out."

The win against SMU was a confidence boost for the Lady Aggies because the Mustangs swept A&M last year. The win also helped the team get things back on track.

"I think our confidence has been boosted," A&M Women's Head Coach Candi Harvey said. "SMU gave us a huge standings and emotional boost. We got that monkey off our back when we beat them."

Now that the monkey has been lifted, the Lady Aggies say they are ready to pull it together for the last six Southwest Con-

ference games of the season.

"After the three-game losing streak, we didn't have half of the confidence we needed to win," Tucker said. "Now we want to keep it going. We are fired up to get into the SWC Tournament and win."

Last year, the Lady Aggies lost to the Bears 83-67 mainly because of rebounding. A&M has

"We realize that it is important to take it one game at a time. We need to focus. Defense wins."

— Candi Harvey
Head Women's Basketball Coach



Cory Willis, THE BATTALION
Texas A&M senior point guard Lisa Branch drives to the basket during Sunday's win over SMU at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Defense Never Rests

□ Lana Tucker was the Lady Aggies' 1995 Defender of the Year.

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

What does junior Lady Aggie guard Lana Tucker have in common with Elvis Presley? Well, she does not look, sing or dress anything like "The King", but in her three seasons at Texas A&M, Tucker has gained a reputation for "takin' care of business in a flash." Just ask her back-court teammate.

"Night in and night out, you can count on Lana Tucker to hustle her tail off and take care of her business on both sides of the court," senior guard Lisa Branch said. "She's not what you'd call a standout or flashy type of player, but she does all the intangibles. She does all the little things. That's why she is so successful on and off the court."

Success is nothing new for Tucker. During her three seasons as a starter at Duncanville High School, Tucker helped lead the Pantherettes to an unbelievable 109-4 record. As a senior, she averaged 13.3 points and 3.7 steals per game on her way to being named to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' All-State second team.

But according to Tucker, her fondest memory of playing basketball at Duncanville was being coached by the legendary Sandra Meadows. Meadows, who passed away two years ago after a long fight with cancer, is Texas' all-time winningest girls' high school basketball coach.

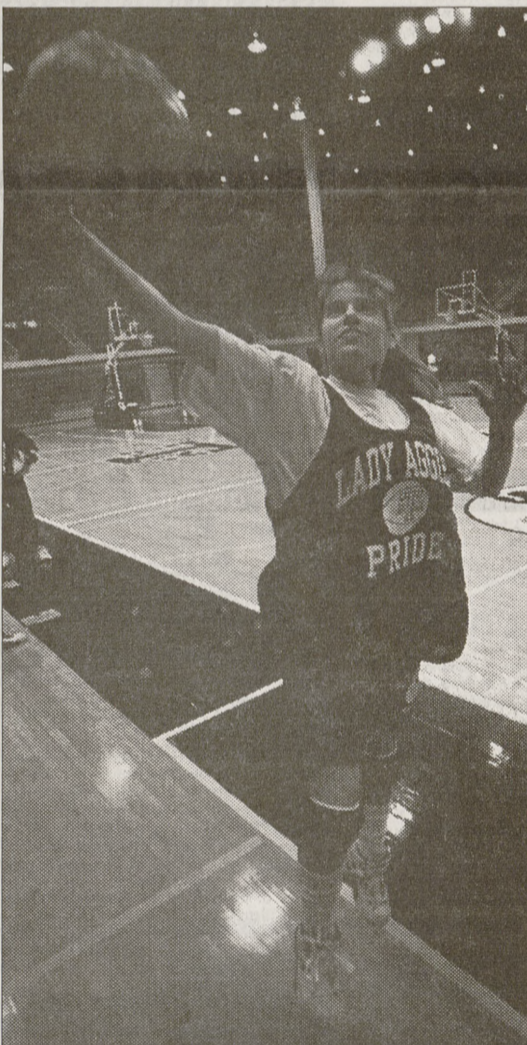
"Coach Meadows was everything that I want to be," Tucker said. "She worked hard, she loved what she was doing and she had such a great way with people. The main reason we were so successful at Duncanville was that the team didn't ever want to let her down. She was that kind of lady."

It did not take long for Tucker's winning ways to make an impression

at A&M. She received immediate playing time as a freshman, playing in all but one of the Lady Aggies' 31 games that season.

As a full-time starter in 1994-95, Tucker's tenacity as a sophomore helped her grab 38 steals and earned her the team's Best Defensive Player Award at the end of season.

See Tucker, Page 10



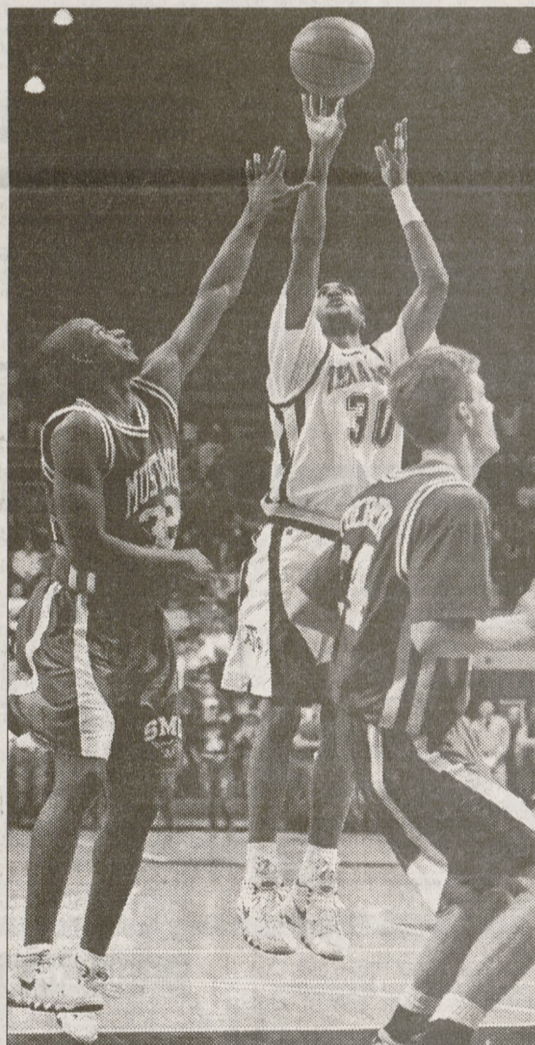
Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Junior guard Lana Tucker competes in a layup drill during practice last week.

□ Calvin Davis is fifth in the SWC in blocked shots.

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

After four of the five starters in Tony



Cory Willis, THE BATTALION

Freshman forward Calvin Davis goes up for a shot during Saturday's win over SMU.

Barone's starting lineup graduated last year, the Texas A&M Men's Basketball coaching staff was looking for a good defensive player to fill the void left by the departure of Tony McGinnis.

Luckily for the Aggies, they found a gem just down the road in Killeen in freshman forward Calvin Davis.

Unlike many athletes, Davis does not have an inflated ego. His actions are based on whatever helps the team as a whole. He is not looking for personal success, only team awards.

"I have been happy with my play," Davis said. "I have one goal: to contribute anything to the team, whether I start or come off the bench."

At Killeen High School, Davis earned first-team, all-state honors after averaging 22.8 points, 13.3 rebounds and 3.3 blocked shots.

"His shot blocks equal easier baskets on the other end," A&M Head Coach Tony Barone said. "Although he is not that big, he is intimidating because of his long, skinny arms and his great jumping ability. He has a nice package."

In addition to A&M, Davis was also recruited by the University of Arizona, Oklahoma State University, the University of Colorado and the University of Texas.

"I liked the coaching staff, and that was the main reason I chose A&M," Davis said. "I also wanted to stay close to home, but the decision was mostly based on the staff."

"I knew last year that a lot of people would be graduating and that new players would have a chance for playing time."

So far this season, Davis has shown why he was so highly recruited. He started his first game against McNeese State on Dec. 20 and had a career-high 22 points. Davis is shooting 52 percent from the field and 69.6 percent from the free-throw line.

"Calvin, for the minutes he plays

See Davis, Page 10

Tennis team kicks off '96 season

□ The Lady Aggies will begin play against North Texas today at 1:30 p.m.

By Stephanie Christopher
THE BATTALION

Although the cold weather would beg to differ, the Lady Aggie Tennis Team will begin the 1996 spring season today by hosting the University of North Texas Eagles.

The match will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Lady Aggies say they are going into this match extremely self-assured of themselves. They hope to exceed their record from last year when the team finished second in the Southwest Conference and 30th in the nation.

The team to beat appears to be the Lady Longhorns of the University of Texas, who finished first in the nation last season.

Senior Wilson Pate said UT could be beatable this season because of

key losses.

"I believe that we will play Texas better this year because they lost their top two players last year," Pate said. "In order for us to beat them, we will have to play really hard and be focused."

Pate said the team's main goal is to be ranked in the Top 25 this year and be invited to the NCAA tournament.

"We have been practicing hard for the last three weeks, and I feel that we should do really well," Pate said. "If we want to accomplish our goal, we must come prepared and ready to win."

Although the big lure this year is beating Texas, Head Women's Tennis Coach Bobby Kleinecke said the Lady Aggies must be wary in conference play.

"Texas is going to be our biggest competitor," Kleinecke said. "But we must not forget Baylor, SMU and Rice. They all have good teams, and we must be prepared for every situation."

Kleinecke said he is ready for to-

day's match to start. He said his team has been practicing very well, and he is ready to see where they stand.

"Today's meet is a nonconference meet, but I am really excited to get things kicked off," Kleinecke said.

Kleinecke said his team can beat the Eagles, but too much confidence can sometimes hurt a team. Since this is the first meet, he said he going to try different things with his lineup.

"We will be going in today's meet trying a new style," Kleinecke said. "I want to get a feel for how my team will respond."

In order for the Lady Aggies to accomplish their goals both today and for the season, Kleinecke said that playing well is the main element.

Kleinecke said the team's accomplishments will be the determining factor, but they must not fall apart when they have a bad meet.

"Success depends on how you bounce back from a loss," Kleinecke said. "We must get off to a good start, and I am really excited about getting things going against North Texas."

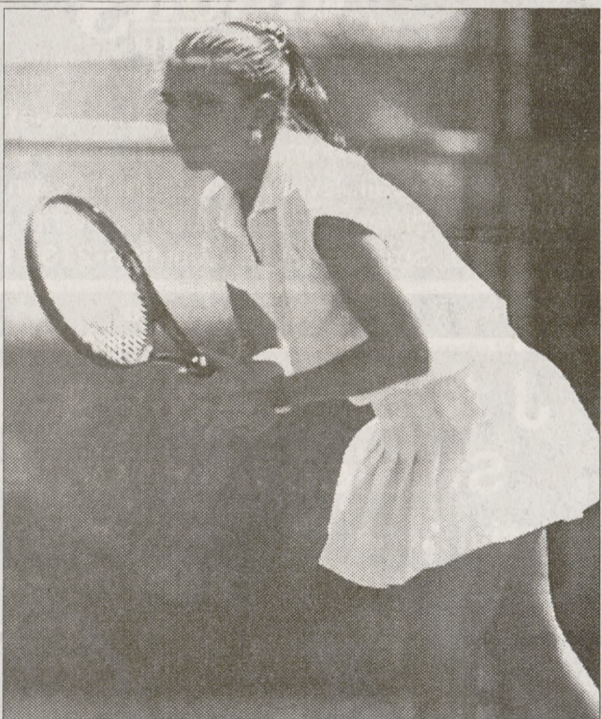


Photo Courtesy of Texas A&M Sports Information Department
Junior tennis player Julie Beahm warms up during practice. The Lady Aggies begin play today at 1:30 p.m.