

Aggies return home to face Tech

By **MATT MITCHELL**
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team is headed toward the only place they have won a conference game this year — home.

After a two-game road trip that took them to Oklahoma and Colorado, the Aggies return to G. Rolfe White Coliseum tonight to take on the Texas Tech University Red Raiders at 8 p.m.

The Aggies are hoping to snap a three-game losing streak and collect a breakout win that will end their month-long habit of losing close games to conference opponents.

The Aggies are looking to bounce back from two close losses to the University of Oklahoma and University of Colorado. The Oklahoma game saw A&M lose in overtime after missing a chance to win in regulation.

Against the Buffaloes, the Aggies led for much of the first half before running out of gas, partly because of the limited play of freshman guard Jerard

Brown, who was slowed by illness.

Tech is coming off an 87-74 pounding of Nebraska Saturday in a performance that largely typified the Big 12's season. The Red Raiders boast two of the conference's best players and perhaps it's premier inside-outside combination in the tandem of senior guard Cory Carr and junior center Tony Battie. Carr scored 33 points against the Huskers while Battie hauled in 17 rebounds. Battie is averaging 20 points and 12 rebounds per game; Carr is scoring at a 23 point-per-game clip.

"Every team has a couple of really good players, especially Tech," senior center Dario Quesada said. "He (Battie) is a guy who I think, in the last three games, has not scored one single basket that wasn't a dunk. So they're going to throw alley-oops and run special plays for him."

A&M Head Coach Tony Barone said he is equally impressed with the duo.

"I think Cory Carr is the toughest player in the league

(Big 12) to guard," Barone said. "He is a 40-minute guy — he plays 40 minutes and does not stop working to get open. He's a physical specimen, and his toughness on the court is really amazing."

Battie is obviously a player. He presents problems for you because he's quick — he runs the court and blocks shots, and they look for him in certain situations where they try to out-match you with his size and quickness, so you have to be ready for it."

Aside from the obvious task of containing Battie and Carr, the key for the Aggies may be pressuring Tech guard Stan Bonewitz, a gym rat who sets up his more celebrated teammates by making the entry pass as well as knocking down jumpers.

"He is a blue-collar worker in that he doesn't try to do anything he can't do," Barone said. "He's an outstanding long-range shooter and he's very underrated as a passer."
"He's a basketball junkie and consequently has a tremendous knowledge of the game — he plays very intelligently. So any deficiencies he may have, I think he overcomes with savvy."



Ryan Rogers, The Battalion
Senior guard Tracey Anderson watches as center Kelvin Cato dunk one on the Aggies.

"Every team has a couple of really good players, especially Tech."

Dario Quesada
Junior center

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 7

"The thing I'm pleased about, and of course we put ourselves in these spots, is we came back," Head Coach Mark Johnson said. "And we came back the first game. We had a chance to win the ballgame. We haven't died [in any game]."

However, Johnson was not pleased with the rest of the team's effort.

"We're not playing to our potential right now," Johnson said. "We seem to have the monkey on our back every game, where every game is in a pressure situation."

"We need one of those games where we can get out to a 10-run lead and relax and get it going. We haven't got over the hump, and that's what we're working on right now."

A&M soccer signs seven for 1997

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

The Aggie Class of 2001

The Texas A&M Soccer Team announced the signing of one of the most talented women's recruiting classes in the nation.

The Aggies signed one All-American, five southern United States regional team players, two of Texas' top high school goal scorers and the defensive standout of the U-16 National Champions.

The Aggies lost nine players on their 1996 squad to graduation, but A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri said this class will fill that void.

"We are excited about this group of young ladies," Guerrieri said. "I expect all of these players to step in and make an immediate impact next season."

Stefanie Chaney — defender, Highland Park High School. Strong aggressive defender who anchored the Scots' UIL State Champions in 1996.

Claire Elliot — sweeper, Richardson Pearce High School. The All-American is one of the most skilled defenders in the nation.

Katie Offutt — forward/outside midfielder, Dallas Woodrow Wilson High School. A tireless worker who leads Texas public high schoolers in scoring this year.

Elizabeth Pavlas — defender, Plano Senior High School. The top defender on the Sting Soccer Club team that won the 1995 National U-16 Championship and is widely regarded as the top U-19 club

team in America this year.
Allison Peters — midfielder, Norman High School. The top midfielder in Oklahoma and member of the Southern United States Regional Team.

Michelle Remington — forward/midfielder, South Galena High School. A crafty and technically skilled goal scorer. Another regional team player who is scoring in Texas behind Offutt.

Heather Wiebe — center forward, Klein Oak High School. A 19 National Pool player and the captain of the No. 1-rated school team in South Texas, as well as one of the top U-17 teams in the nation.

"With this recruiting class could be even more talented," Guerrieri said.

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