SPORTS

Wednesday • February.

► Women's Basketball

Lady Ags look to surprise Tech

► The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team hopes to rebound from its loss to Baylor against the Lady Raiders tonight.

BY JAMIE BURCH THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team (9-15, 3-11) returns home to G. Rollie White Coliseum for its final homestand of the season facing off against Texas Tech University (17-7 overall, 9-5) tonight at 7.

Fresh off a disappointing 75-60 loss to Baylor University Saturday afternoon, the Lady Aggies will look

they can beat

(at home)."

Texas Tech here

Candi Harvey

A&M head coach

to build momentum while heading into the Big 12 Conference Tournament. A&M Head Coach Candi

Harvey said the team is confident about defeating the Lady Red Raiders.

"Our kids believe they can beat Texas Tech here (at home)," Harvey said. "I think they're excited to

be playing them again and are looking forward to it. That's half the battle."

The Red Raiders have consistently mounted a balanced attack this season. Junior center Alicia Thompson, the catalyst of the Red Raider assault, leads the team in scoring (23.8), rebounds (10.0) and shooting percentage (.495).

Sophomore guard Renee Hanebutt is a threat from outside the perimeter. Hanebutt is 64-of-141 (.454) from the three point line. Six-foot-two junior center Crystal Boles leads the squad in blocked shots (80), swatting down 3.3 shots per game.

Harvey said reacting to Tech's zone defense is the key to victory.

With that type of matchup, everybody has to be ready to shoot as opposed to a man defense where you can dictate who's going to take the shot," Harvey said. "The problem teams have [with a zone] is that when you hesitate, the open shot is gone.'

At the two teams' previous meeting Feb. 12 in Lubbock, Tech crushed the Lady Aggies, 75-46. Thompson torched the Lady Aggie defense with a gamehigh 30 points. She also held A&M second chance points to a

"Our kids believe minimum, cleaning the glass by bringing down 10 defensive rebounds. Boles aided the Lady Red

> Raiders in obtaining a 13-1 blocked shot advantage, knocking down nine of A&M's shots. Hanebutt rounded out the onslaught, adding 11 points.

Sophomore guard Kerrie Patterson said the Lady Aggies are well aware of Tech's abilities and what they must do to win. 'Tech has a balanced team,"

Patterson said. "Their players know what they can and can't do. And they do it well. We'll have to execute and play our best game.'



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION Freshman Kera Alexander tries to avoid

the trap by a Colorado defender Feb. 8. Admitting the Lady Aggies will have to

play a near perfect game, freshman guard Amy Yates said playing at G. Rollie will provide A&M with an added advantage.

"Any time you play at home you have an advantage because it's your court," Yates said. "I know we can surprise them if we play as well as we can."

Rollerson leads A&M atta

The Texas A&M Wome Women's Basketball Team looks to close out the 1996-97 season in a winning fashion. This is easier said than done. The Lady Aggies have a difficult task ahead of them. A&M begins its final homestand of

South Division Title.

the season tonight against Texas Tech University (17-7; 9-5). The Lady Red

Raiders look to rebound from an 11

point loss (72-61) to the University of

Texas Saturday night. The loss doused

the Red Raiders' hopes for a Big 12

position for a first round bye in the con-

ference tournament. They need to close

out the season with two victories to

keep from relinquishing the spot to the

The Lady Aggies face the University of Texas (19-5, 11-3) Saturday night, in

the season finale. The red-hot

Longhorns have won five straight

games. They trail Kansas University by

one game for the best record in the Big

12. A win for the Longhorns tonight

against the University of Colorado or

against A&M on Saturday would seal at

Coming On Strong Senior guard Melissa Rollerson's game is blossoming rapidly even as the season wanes. Rollerson is averaging a

team-leading 17.6 points and 8.3 rebounds per game over the last three

games. The lone senior's efforts were

awarded last week, when she was selected as the Big 12 Player of the Week.

least a Big 12 South Division Title.

University of Nebraska (18-6, 8-6).

However, the Red Raiders are still in



Oklahoma overtime, while grat

ing a school-record five block

Intermission

The Lady Aggies have en cess when they lead at the ha undefeated (7-0) when they lead going into the locker halftime adjustments. The Lady Aggies, who ha

battling a season-long trend ing 20 instead of 40 min dreadful 2-13 when they trai second half play.

Player To Watch

Freshman guard AmyYate date for Big 12 Rookie/Fre the Year honors, continues down shots from three-po Prior to Saturday's loss University, Yates ranked three point percentage an 12 freshmen. The 5-foot-9 th downtown has drained m point baskets (45) than any man or rookie in the Big 12.

The freshman pheno 45 three-pointers rank fift at A&M. Yates is just 10 s mer A&M guard Bambi F four year total (55). At her pace, Yates will break form standout Lisa Branch's 165 three-pointers.



