

# Lady Raiders thump A&M, 75-60

BY LARA L. ZUEHLKE  
THE BATTALION

It was a hard-fought contest for the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team Wednesday, who fell 75-60 to the No. 15 Texas Tech Lady Red Raiders at G. Rollie White Coliseum in front of 1,155.

The loss drops the Lady Ags to 9-16 overall and 3-12 in Big 12 play, while the Red Raiders improve to 18-7 overall and 10-5 in the conference.

Texas Tech, led by junior center Alicia Thompson, came in unprepared for the Aggies' strong first-half showing.

The Ags came out on fire, leading by as many as 10 points in the first-half. However, the Lady Raiders went on a 7-0 run with 5:05 left in the first-half and brought everything to an even-keel at halftime, 29-29.

"I thought A&M did a great job tonight," Texas Tech Head Coach Marsha Sharp said. "I thought they came out with a good plan. They made us be awfully patient with the basketball on our end of the floor."

The Lady Aggies were led by freshman forward Prissy Sharpe, who posted her fifth double-double of the season with 12 points and 14 rebounds. Freshman forward Jennifer Burrows contributed 12 points and three boards, and senior forward Melissa Rollerson added 10 points and four rebounds.

In the second half the Lady Raiders stepped up their play behind the hot hand of All-American candidate Thompson, who led the Raiders with 20 points and eight re-

bounds, and by sophomore Julie Lake, who scored nine of her 11 points in the second half.

Sharpe said the Lady Ags started out strong, but Tech capitalized on the Aggies' lack of concentration.

"At the beginning of the first half, we played so well as a team," Sharpe said. "We lost our focus for a few minutes, though, and things started to snowball on us."

A&M Head Coach Candi Harvey said she was pleased with the Lady Aggies' play, but the team lost its poise in the final minutes of the game.

"I'm proud of our effort tonight, and for about 30 minutes we were right there and had an opportunity to win," Harvey said. "What we had done so well in the first half was move the ball and really make them work, but in the second half we got impatient. We'd make one pass and shoot it."

Harvey said the game was determined on the defensive end of the floor.

"I thought the difference down the stretch was Tech simply played better defense than we did," Harvey said. "We had breakdowns on the defensive end that were crucial. We gave up three-point plays and that can't happen."

The Lady Raiders also proved to be the better team on the shooting end, connecting for 46 percent (28-61), while the Ags shot 34 percent (21-61).

Harvey credited the A&M freshmen with stepping up and coming through for the Lady Ags. "I just can't say enough about these younger kids," Harvey said. "This is the 15th-ranked team in the nation and for 30 minutes we're right there with them. This says a lot about their potential and their heart. We just need to get smarter, and that's just something that will have to



Rogge Heflin, The Battalion

Sophomore guard **Kerrie Patterson** passes the ball off against Tech.

come with time."

Harvey said despite another loss, the Aggies are building and learning with each game.

"We come in here and talk about another loss, but it's not an empty loss," Harvey said. "The kids are learning great lessons, and I'm very proud of them."

## GUILLORY

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Guillory has handled her role as a senior well, competing solidly and being a good role model for the younger girls on the team, leading a full life.

In addition to her work in the pool, Guillory involves herself in other campus activities. She participates in the HOSTS program and is a member of the Kappa Phi Honors Society, maintaining good.

Guillory comes into this weekend's Big 12 Conference Championships ranked top in the conference in the 200 and fifth in A&M's all-time records. This will be her last meet in the home pool, and her conference championship.

Wagner said no matter what Guillory decides to do when her swimming career is over, she will be very successful.

"She is so focused that she will do well," Wagner said. "I am going to miss her very much, but she is gone."

## Season dedicated to Robinson

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball dedicated its 1997 season to Jackie Robinson on Wednesday and will donate \$1 million to his foundation in honor of him breaking the sport's color line 50 years ago.

"It was baseball's proudest moment then. It's still baseball's proudest moment, and I believe it will always be baseball's proudest moment," acting commissioner Bud Selig said. "Should it have come earlier — certainly. There never should have been a barrier."

At a news conference attended by Robinson's widow, Rachel, Selig said:

—all major and minor league players and all major league umpires will wear "Breaking Barriers" arm patches this season;

—all teams will use balls with the commemorative logo in their home openers;

—100,000 gold and 200,000 silver commemorative coins will be sold by the U.S. Mint;

—teams will show Robinson video spots created by

filmmaker Spike Lee on their stadium scoreboards and television broadcasts;

—the All-Star game in Cleveland will be dedicated to Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League, and he will be honorary captain of the AL team.

"The residue of racism is still with us and the struggle is still on," Rachel Robinson said. "We need to have a vision and we need to have a plan."

When Robinson made his big league debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947, he became the first black in the major leagues since Moses Fleetwood Walker of Toledo in the American Association in 1884.

President Clinton said Tuesday he will attend ceremonies at Shea Stadium on April 15 to mark the anniversary and will speak from the field during the game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets.

"The Robinson challenge was not just to the pitcher, but to society as a whole," said NL president Len Coleman, the chairman of the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

## Tech looks to improve athletic academics

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Texas Tech will improve its athletes' academic performances and vigorously fight a lawsuit filed by a former football player, Chancellor John Montford vowed Wednesday.

"Texas Tech, as should all universities, exists to educate students," he said. "There is too much emphasis today on winning in sports at all costs. Reforms are needed."

In a speech carried live on local radio, Montford listed several proposed academic reforms, some of which already have been implemented this semester. He stressed that recent news reports of academic irregularities among student athletes did not prompt most of the actions.

In a related matter, Montford announced that the university has tapped a mini "dream team" of trial attorneys — including famed lawyer Joe Jamail and fellow Houstonian Harry Reasoner, managing partner of Vinson & Elkins — to defend it against a federal suit filed last week by former defensive lineman Stephen Gaines.

Gaines seeks unspecified dam-

ages, claiming Texas Tech used him for his playing ability while ignoring his scholastic life. Gaines' attorney, Christopher Kalis, offered to settle for \$300,000 last month, Montford said, adding that Tech offered nothing.

Kalis declined to discuss the negotiations, only to say that school officials had about two weeks to mull a settlement.

"To me it's ironic that the university chooses the day after the 10th anniversary of the SMU death penalty to hold this press conference to respond to this suit," Kalis said.

An NCAA investigation of the Texas Tech athletic program turns a year old Friday, and Montford said it could drag on another six months. Gaines' allegations comprise a "substantial part" of the NCAA probe, Montford said.

"I don't know anything about the NCAA thing, but I do know lawsuits,

and this looks like it is totally without merit," said Jamail, who is working for free. "But we'll just have to see what the court decides."

Among the reforms, Montford said Tech will develop a written policy to prevent athletes from participating in postseason events with sub-par grades.

The Houston Chronicle reported recently that junior star running back Byron Hanspard played in the Alamo Bowl last December despite having a fall grade-point average of 0.00. Hanspard has decided to enter the 1997 NFL draft.

Texas Tech is willing to restrict its own failing athletes even if other Big 12 schools don't follow suit.

"I think it's a leadership issue," Montford said. "And frankly, I suppose this happened to the least likely person (Hanspard) that I thought this would have happened to."

"I think almost everyone would approve the direction of the chancellor's remarks, and we'll want to see how it results in a concrete policy," said Faculty Senate chair John Howe.

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