

Ags look for first conference win A&M goes for second straight

By JEFF WEBB
Staff writer

The Aggie Men's Basketball version of the Trail of Tears makes its way into Stillwater, Okla., tomorrow afternoon to take on Oklahoma State University. The first meeting of these two teams occurred in College Station and the lopsided 100-65 final score remains the darkest moment of the Aggies' current five-game conference losing streak.

Despite the score in the first game, Texas A&M



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Shanne Jones and the rest of the Aggies will look for their first conference win against OSU on Saturday.

coach Tony Barone said the game was closer than the 35-point margin. The Aggies were within eight points with 13 minutes left in the game, but a loss of confidence after a series of OSU shots spelled an unhappy end to the game.

"The end result of the game was obviously a huge differential, but the game wasn't like that," Barone said. "If you go back and look at a number of games all over the country now, you see (a team) get beat by this many points and all of a sudden they win the next one. How did that happen?"

Fortunes may be even entering the game due to the lack of OSU success since leaving the visitor-friendly confines of G. Rollie White Coliseum. Cowboys coach Eddie Sutton has been looking for his milestone 600th win for the past two weeks and has come away empty-handed from bouts at Missouri and a double-overtime thriller at Baylor. Although Barone has professed respect for coach Sutton, he said he would prefer to remain out of the OSU record books.

"(We're) going to an arena that's impossible to play in and Eddie's going for 600," Barone said. "We want to go in there and play. Our kids are excited about the game. I hope he has to wait another week for that 600th, though."

Oklahoma State has an excellent inside-outside tandem with guard Adrian Peterson and center Brett Robisch. Peterson is averaging a gaudy 23 points per game in Big 12 conference play this season and Robisch leads the team with 8.4 rebounds per game in conference contests. However, the one player on the OSU squad that coach Barone said must be accounted for is sophomore guard Doug Gottlieb.

"(Gottlieb is) a pain. He's one of those thorns in your side who talks too much, but he gets in your team's psyche," Barone said. "He hasn't played well since he played us. He was one-for-seven (shooting) with seven turnovers when he played Baylor, but he's a leader. He wants to win and does anything he can to help his team win."

This trip to Stillwater will mark the last regular season meeting between the teams. The Aggies will also be without the services of forward Calvin Davis who was diagnosed earlier in the week with herniated disks in his back. Coach Barone said Davis originally injured his back when he tried to catch a bad pass during the first meeting with Oklahoma State.

By JEFF SCHMIDT
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team (5-10, 1-4) travels to Boulder Saturday to take on the struggling Colorado Buffaloes (7-8, 1-4). The game will be televised nationally by Fox Sports and will start at 1 p.m. Colorado leads the all-time series with three wins and one loss.

The Buffaloes have lost four straight games, the longest streak in the Big 12 Conference. The Aggies are seeking their second win in conference play this season. On Wednesday the Aggies defeated Oklahoma 91-83 for their first win.

Aside from being the youngest team in the Big 12, the Aggies have struggled to achieve cohesiveness in the starting lineup. There has been a different starting lineup in each of their 15 games. Despite that, several leaders have emerged on the team. Junior transfer Kim Tarkington has started every game at point guard, the only player to start every game at one position. Sophomores Amy Yates and Prissy Sharpe have both been a force to be reckoned with. Yates is 10th in the nation in three-pointers made per game and is 11th in free throw percentage. Sharpe is ninth in the nation in rebounds with 11 per game. All three will have to step up in order to beat the Buffaloes on the road.

Even with the slow start, Coach Candi Harvey said she is pleased with the team's improvement and does not think any changes will improve the situation.

"I think our focus the last two games has helped us. I'm not going to change what we're doing. We need to be consistent with what we're teaching," Harvey said.

Amy Yates believes there is still a lot of fight left in the team.

"Our confidence is down, but you just have to keep working hard. Sooner or later things will pay off," Yates said.

Although Colorado is also struggling, going to Boulder cannot be overlooked. Five of Colorado's seven wins have come at home.

Colorado is lead by point guard LaShena Graham, their leading scorer and best playmaker. Graham is expected to contend for all-conference honors. Senior guard Alexis Felts is an adept three-point shooter, hitting 44 percent of her attempts.

Sophomore Jenny Circle, a 6-foot-3-inch forward,



RYAN ROGERS

Sophomore guard Amy Yates and the rest of the Aggies will go for their second Big 12 conference win Saturday against Colorado.

"Colorado is a young team. They're very physical. They protect their home well. Our half-court defense has to be on point (for us to win). They're a very physical team to play strongly."

Yates has another outlook on how to defeat the Buffaloes. "We need to out-rebound them," Yates said. "Our players are extremely big. We must be technical when blocking them out to negate their size. If we play good defense, our offense will come out."

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These students are invited to a reception at The Fox and Hound, Wednesday, February 4, 1998 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. RSVP to (800) 754-5085 by Monday, February 2, 1998 Dress is casual.



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