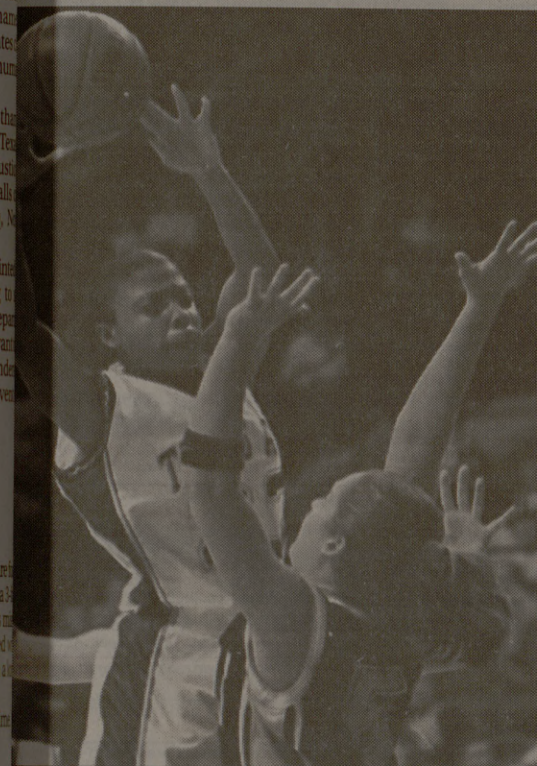


Aggies begin stretch of games against old Southwest Conference foes against Baylor

By MICHAEL TAGLIANTI
Staff writer



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Senior guard Brandy Jones and the Aggies will try and end last year's horrid record against old SWC teams.

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team will face the Baylor Bears tonight at 7 at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies (6-12, 2-6) are coming off a 76-61 win over Missouri Saturday and are looking to extend their home winning streak to three games. Baylor (13-6, 6-3) is coming off a 97-67 win over Oklahoma.

The win against Missouri may have marked a turning point in the Ags' season.

"This team is maturing," Coach Candi Harvey said. "A year ago, three months ago, we couldn't throw some of the things at them that we are now. They've been a lot of fun to coach, and it's nice to see them go out and execute."

In the win against Missouri, A&M was led by junior point guard Kim Tarkington with 19 points and seven assists. Tarkington took over the game in the second half, blowing by Missouri defenders multiple times for acrobatic layups. Harvey said she was impressed with Tarkington's play and her expanding role in the offense.

"I think a go-to player develops themselves," Harvey said. "That's not something a coach can develop. Kim wanted to be that tonight, and she was."

Baylor Coach Sonja Hogg has turned the Baylor program around in the past couple of years. After consecutive losing seasons in Hogg's first two years in Waco, the Bears posted a 15-13 record last year, going 7-9 in conference play. Hogg leads an experienced team into G. Rollie tonight.

"Baylor is a great basketball team, but we feel like we have a shot to beat them here," Harvey said. "They are a veteran basketball team. These are kids who have been playing together for three or four years."

Baylor is led by junior guard Laura Webb who averages 17.5 points per game. Webb is a transfer from Lamar University and hails originally from Mandurah, Australia, where she played on the Australian national team.

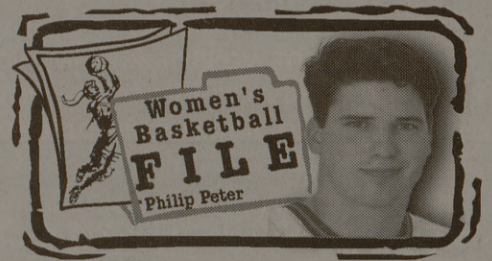
The game against Baylor will mark the beginning of the old-Southwest Conference portion of the Aggies' schedule. The Aggies will play former SWC opponents in six of their next eight games. Last year, the Ags were swept by these teams, 0-6. But Harvey said this year will be different.

"We had a goal going into this season that the same thing that happened last year was not gonna happen (this year). And dadgummit, it's just not going to," Harvey said. "If I have to go out there and take a charge myself, I will."

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Coach Candi Harvey on last year's 0-6 record against old SWC teams.

A&M women's team beginning to click



Since posting its first conference victory, 91-83, against Oklahoma on Jan. 21, the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team is 2-2. Although they dropped two on the road to Colorado and Kansas, the Aggies returned to G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday and posted an emotional win over Missouri, marking the first time the Aggies have won two consecutive home games this season. Wednesday they face Baylor (13-6, 6-3) to try to push the streak to three.

Take A Kid To The Game

In celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, children accompanied by an adult will be admitted free of charge when the Aggies host Baylor tonight at 7. Organizers of the annual "Take A Kid To The Game" program, sponsored by Nabisco, Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company and Lifetime Television for Women, hope children who attend the game will be excited by women's athletics and inspired by positive female role models.

In The Training Room

Senior center Kim Linder is suffering from a broken fifth metatarsal in her right foot. Linder has suffered from stress fractures throughout her career. The latest occurred during practice Friday and should keep her out of action for approximately two weeks.

Coaches vs. Cancer

Coach Candi Harvey has pledged \$10 per Aggie three-pointer this season as part of the IKON 3pt-Attack Coaches vs. Cancer campaign. With eight regular season games remaining, the Aggies have already hit 84 from behind the three-point line. At an average of 4.7 three-pointers per game, Harvey's donation could reach \$1,200 by the season's end.

Coming Off The Bench

Forward Kera Alexander has only started three games this season but has been a much-needed spark off the bench. Alexander is averaging 11.7 points and 5.2 rebounds in 25 minutes per game. She is also the eighth leading scorer in conference play, averaging 14.4 points per game against Big 12 opponents. Not just an athlete, the sophomore has maintained a 4.0 grade point ratio in computer science.

Aggies to sign recruits today

Today is the NCAA's National Collegiate Football Signing Day. School players from around the country have only been able to make verbal commitments to colleges until today.

Verbal commitments are non-binding, and therefore, have been common throughout the course of the recruitment period.

Tomorrow's *Battalion* will run a file of the Aggies' recruiting prospects from offensive and defensive perspectives.

Women route UNT in season opener

from staff and wire reports

The Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team defeated the University of North Texas Tuesday afternoon, 9-0 at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

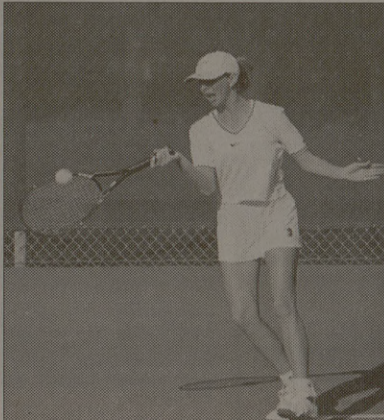
Sophomore Lisa Dingwall, playing in the No. 1 singles slot for the Aggies, rolled to victory, 6-2, 6-2. The rest of the Aggies, including junior Monica San Miguel, senior Monica Rebolledo, sophomore Kathryn Scott, freshman Monica de la Torre and freshman Danielle Lee, also recorded straight-set victories, highlighted by Lee's 6-0, 6-0 victory.

Scott and freshman Eva Marcial, playing together in the No. 1 doubles slot for the Aggies, won 8-4.

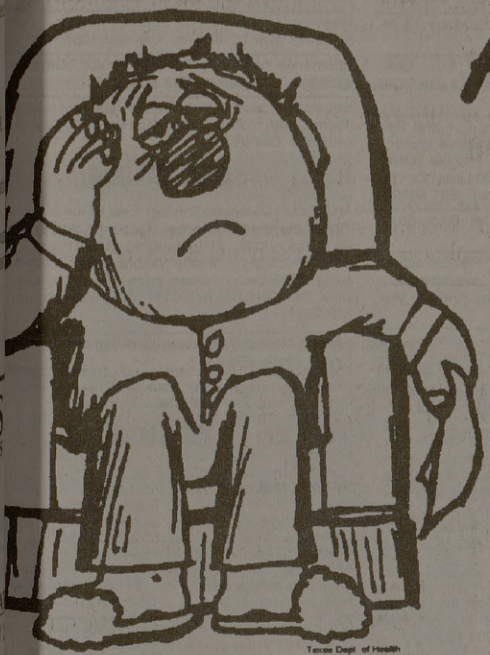
Women's Coach Bobby Kleinecke said yesterday's match was a good way to start the season.

"I thought our team had a good, tough display today," Kleinecke said. "We showed good composure today and I thought we played well at every position in the lineup. We still have some things to work on, but I am pleased with the start. We just need to build and gain more confidence."

The women's team plays its next match against Southwest Texas State at the Omar Smith Tennis Center Saturday, at 1:30 p.m.



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION
Senior Vanessa Rooks and Lisa Dingwall won their doubles match, 8-1.



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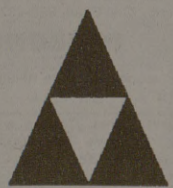
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