

## Women's basketball team hosts nationally televised game against Tech

By PHILIP W. PETER  
Staff writer

Coming off of a 38-point loss is hardly where a team wants to be when they are to go up against the No. 7 team in the nation. But that is exactly where the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team (6-15, 2-9) is coming into Saturday's nationally-televised game against Texas Tech (17-4, 10-1).

Texas Tech is coming off of a 79-63 home victory over Oklahoma in which Alicia Thompson, the conference's leading scorer at 22 points per game, scored a game-high 34 points. The 6-foot-1 post player averages 9 rebounds and has been unstoppable in the paint.

Texas A&M Coach Candi Harvey knows that Thompson will get on the boards but does not want her to be able to have a career night.

"Nobody has matched up with Alicia Thompson for four years," Harvey said. "But what you have to shoot for there is not letting a player cre-

ate more offense than they typically do."

Harvey said she will use different defenses to keep Thompson from getting into her game.

**"Right now, we're just trying to get everyone contributing and playing their best."**

Tracey Lange  
Assistant Women's Coach

"You can't let a great player get into a comfort zone," Harvey said. "You have to keep them a little bit out of their rhythm by throwing different things at them and not giving them the same look every time. We haven't been consis-

tently smart enough to do that."

"On paper, we don't match up well, but we need to make adjustments as a team during the course of the game. That is what we need to get better at. Some of that is just maturity and learning how to maintain focus."

Offensively, Assistant Coach Tracy Lange said Texas A&M is concentrating on effort.

"We have a pretty balanced team," Lange said. "Right now, we're just trying to get everyone contributing and playing their best."

One factor Texas A&M is hoping for is a large turnout for the game.

"We played against Texas (Saturday), a team who had one more win in conference than we had," Harvey said. "They had 8,000 people in there to our 1,200. We're not talking about a team that's 9-3 in conference. We're talking about a team that was 3-7. You're just wrong if you think that's not a factor."

The game starts at 1 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.



RYAN ROGERS

Amy Yates and the rest of the Aggies will face Texas Tech on Saturday.

## Aggies face tennis battle with LSU on the bayou

By AL LAZARUS  
Staff writer



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

The Aggies will be led by senior Carlos Tori when they face the Louisiana State University Tigers in Baton Rouge today.

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Tennis Teams will square off with the Louisiana State University Tigers today and Saturday in Baton Rouge, a place with a reputation for being tough on visiting teams. The men's team plays at 2 p.m. today, and the women will be in action Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m.

LSU regularly draws more than a thousand spectators to its home matches.

A&M Women's Team Coach Bobby Kleinecke said the large crowds do a good job of making their presence known.

"They've had some great crowds when we've played them before," Kleinecke said. "The fans are up there yelling and hollering at you, and I've seen some matches turned around when players lose their focus because of the crowd."

The 38th-ranked women's team (4-0) is coming off a 6-3 victory over No. 31 University of Houston on Wednesday.

The match at LSU will be the Aggies' first road match of the spring. Last year, they defeated LSU 6-3 when the Tigers came to College Station.

The 33rd-ranked A&M men's

team heads into its match today with a 2-0 record. Its victories came against Abilene Christian and Rice, who are both solid teams, but neither comes close to LSU in terms of talent and depth.

Men's team Coach Tim Cass said despite LSU's high ranking (No. 6) and strong fan base, he doesn't expect his young team to be intimidated.

"We know they (LSU) are a good team with a strong tradition, but we're more concerned with taking care of the things that we can control, and giving ourselves the best chance to go in there and win," Cass said.

Shuon Madden, part of this stellar class, said that although he has yet to play a college match in front of a large opposing crowd, his past experience might have prepared him for this situation.

"My junior tennis gave me good experience in playing in front of a large crowd, so I don't really get intimidated," Madden said.

Playing at LSU may prove to be a tough test for the Aggies, but Madden said the pressure is not just on them.

"Obviously it takes a good team to be 6th-ranked, but I like our chances," he said. "There will be a lot of pressure on their side, because we have very little to lose and a lot to win."

## AGGIE SPORTS BRIEF

from staff and wire reports

### Men's golf team to play in Hawaii

The 25th-ranked Texas A&M Men's Golf Team will start the spring season in style, as they go to Hawaii to compete in the Taylor Made/Big Island Intercollegiate Tournament in Kona, Hawaii. The Aggies will be represented by senior All-America Miguel del Angel, juniors Ty Cox and Ryan Palmer and freshmen Ryan Tull and Casey Cronin.

Del Angel was the statistical leader this fall with a 71.71 stroke average. Cox had a 73.73 followed by Tull at 75.75 and Palmer at 76.00. Cronin will be getting his feet wet for the first time this weekend.

"We're excited about getting our spring season started," said Coach Bob Ellis.

The tournament will be a 54-hole total, with the rounds on Friday and Sunday played on the par 72 Waikaloa Kings Golf Course. Saturday's round will be played at Waikaloa Beach Golf Course, a par 70 course.

"Miguel had an exceptional fall but as a team we need to be more consistent," Ellis said. "This is a very strong field and we will be playing on a couple of tremendous golf courses. We need to play well and get some momentum going early."

### Baseball team to play in UTA tournament

The 22nd-ranked Texas Baseball Team will attempt to set its record perfect as it travels to Huntington to compete in the Arkansas State/UTA Invitational tournament today. The Aggies will be represented by senior Ryan Rupe, junior Ryan Roberts on Saturday and UTAR on Sunday during the tournament.

The Aggies have jumped out to a strong start in all phases of the game. As a team the Aggies are batting .313 with a 2.38 ERA while committing one error in the games this season.

Sophomore Sean Hepler is leading the team in batting average (.533), runs (6), RBI (8) and doubles (3). Senior Ryan Rupe has been the big story on the mound, throwing five hitless innings to strike out five batters before being way to the bullpen who went to complete the no-hitter.

The Aggies probable starting pitching rotation is Rupe on Friday, sophomore Casey Fossum on Saturday and junior Matt Ward on Sunday. All three pitchers are looking to make the most of their starts this season.

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