

A&M basketball team tries to avoid tying record conference-losing streak

JEFF SCHMIDT
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team (6-18, 0-14) will play the Kansas State Wildcats (15-9, 6-8) in Manhattan, Kan., tonight at 7:05. Both teams enter tonight's game following tough losses which extended their respective losing streaks. An 86-83 loss to Texas Tech sent the Aggies to their 15th consecutive loss and KSU fell to Oklahoma State 64-61 to run its losing streak to three.

The Wildcats lead the all-time series 4-1 and are undefeated in games played in Manhattan. However, the Aggies' lone victory against the Wildcats came last year in College

Station with a 76-67 score. The victory was the Aggies' ever Big 12 Conference win. Injured junior forward Davis scored 21 points and had 15 rebounds in the win.

The Wildcats are led by junior forward Matt May who is averaging 18.1 points and 7.0 rebounds per game. However, Dies may not play due to an arrest on the grounds of the possession of marijuana. A session of drug paraphernalia, transportation of a container of liquor and obstruction of the legal process. No official charges have been filed as of Tuesday.

Junior center Shawn Rhodes is adding 11.1 points and 5.3 rebounds while senior guard Aaron Swartzendruber is scoring 9.1 points a game and is shooting 42 percent from three-point range. Sophomore guard Shane Davis is out with an injury and junior guard Matt May provides a spark off the bench.

KSU is one of the league's top defensive teams, which is allowing just 68 points per game and a league-best 42 percent shooting from the field. All but one of the Wildcats' six Big 12 wins have been at home.

"They play really well at home. Dies is probably the most improved player in the Big 12. May is probably the best player for them. He's an athletic wing player," Assistant Coach Porter Moser said. "Swartzendruber is a really good shooter."

"What people don't know is that KSU has the fewest amount of points in the Big 12. Their offense is very good. Their defense is very aggressive. They get out and deny the wings."

If the Aggies are to win, they need a big game from senior forward Shanne Jones who is averaging 12.1 points in conference games. Freshman forward Matt Schmidt must bounce back to his recent high level of play after scoring only three points against Texas Tech. The Aggies also need to improve their free-throw shooting as they are making only 54 percent in Big 12 play. The Aggies connected on over 60 percent against Tech in an 11-game streak of sub-60 percent shooting.

"We've got to hit some free throws. We're 20 percent behind the Big 12 leader. When you're missing free throws, you are going to lose some games," Moser said. "Our post defense is going to be key. There two leading scorers are post players. We got to contest their jump shooters. They are a much more ferent team if you let them shoot it."



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Michael Schmidt will try to continue his high-scoring ways against the Kansas State Wildcats in Manhattan.

ALEXANDER

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Her freshman year at Texas A&M she played the role of the sixth man, coming off the bench to provide the spark she has become known for. In addition to her role for the women, she also earned a 4.0 GPR.

All of these accomplishments point to the fact that Alexander does whatever she must to succeed. It helps to have great talent, but what

you do with that talent separates one person from another.

"I just want to do whatever it takes to help the team play well and win some games," Alexander said.

With two games remaining in the regular season, Alexander is vocal about the Aggies' opportunity to make some noise in the Big 12 Tournament.

"We want to build on our last two games because anything can happen come tournament time," she said. "The team gets along so

well, and the fact that we can ourselves really improving every day makes it all worth it. We're not giving up on this season. Any means, but we are also going to get better so that we can have a run at a championship next few years."

Alexander may or may not be the best player on the team yet, but she has a special ability other athletes admire. When someone has talent, it works every day to improve. Her players seem to follow her

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