

# TURN OUT THE LIGHTS, THE AGONY'S OVER

Last game at G. Rollie White brings closure to an A&M era, miserable season for men's basketball team

JEFF SCHMIDT  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team (6-19, 0-15) will host the Baylor Bears (13-12, 8-7) at 2 p.m. Saturday in the last men's basketball game at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies are coming off of a 95-80 loss to Kansas State in which they tied the all-time record for consecutive conference losses of 18. Baylor clinched the fifth-seed in the Big 12 Tournament Wednesday by defeating Iowa State 69-54.

The Aggies own a 110-62 series advantage against the Bears but earlier this year, Baylor beat A&M 73-64 in Waco. Sophomore guard Steve Houston was the Aggies' leading scorer with 14 points and dished out three assists.

Sophomore point guard Brian Barone did not play, the only game he has missed this season. The Bears held a one-point advantage at halftime, but the Aggies could not pull off the upset.

The Bears are led by senior center Brian Skinner, a second-team All-Big 12 selection last year and possible NBA first-round draft pick, and senior point guard

Patrick Hunter.

Skinner is averaging about 20 points a game in league play, leads the Big 12 in field-goal percentage and is second in the conference in rebounding at nearly nine rebounds a game. Hunter has come on strong this season

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Porter Moser  
Assistant Coach

chipping in 13 points and four assists a game. Roddrick Miller, son of Baylor Coach Harry Miller, averages 12 points a game.

"Baylor has two great players. They have Skinner, who's a pro, and Hunter, who's a confident player and makes big plays," Assistant Coach Porter Moser said. "They are real physical inside with Skinner. Those two guys have got to be the focus point when you

play against Baylor."

In order to defeat the Bears, the Aggies will need a well-played game from their two centers, Aaron Jack and Larry Thompson. Both will be used to battle Skinner and in an attempt to get him in foul trouble. Barone will play his usually solid defense against Hunter.

"We have got to contain Skinner and Hunter. You can't let those guys get five or six points above their averages," Moser said.

Another thing the Aggies must improve on if they want to stay in the game is their free-throw shooting.

"Our free throw shooting was bad down the stretch at Baylor. It was the same old deal at the free throw line," Moser said.

Thompson, the team's lone senior will be stepping on the G. Rollie court for the last time.

"We've told Larry Thompson to look around and take everything in because it's your last game at home. Enjoy every little bit of it," Moser said. "For the rest of the guys, they'll be looking forward to next year with the new arena. Hopefully, the guys will play a little harder down the stretch."



Junior Shanne Jones has been one of the bright spots for the Aggies this season, averaging almost 20 points per game.



Junior Kim Tarkington drives to the basket in the victory against Kansas State.

## Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team closes out regular season against Baylor

By MICHAEL TAGLIANTI  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Basketball Team (8-17, 4-11) will take on the Baylor Bears (16-9, 9-6) Saturday at 7 p.m. in Waco. The Aggies are coming off a 81-76 defeat of the Kansas State Wildcats last Wednesday night.

The Aggies have won two of their last three games and are looking to finish the season with a win. Finishing the season strong and establishing momentum going into the Big 12 tournament is a priority at this time of year.

Coach Candi Harvey said the Baylor game is a big game. "It is a huge game. You talk about possibly winning five conference games, and where we've come in the last two weeks," Harvey said. "Going and getting a road victory against a good in-state rivalry, you are talking about a team that could go sky high into the conference tournament. We could be pretty scary just from a confidence standpoint."

Harvey thinks that while Baylor is a great basketball team, the Aggies have a great chance at pulling off an upset in Waco.

"Baylor is an outstanding basketball team, but we know we didn't play as well as we are capable of playing against them when we played them here at home," Harvey said. "If we can put two halves together the way we have been doing, that game could go to the wire."

Baylor's front line has been hit by the injury bug in the past few weeks. Baylor's backup center Shannon Applebury and forward Nicole Palmer have recently had season-ending knee injuries. Coach Candi Harvey said their lack of depth down low could be a factor in the game.

"Their post depth is a little bit suspect right now with some injuries and hopefully we will be able to get them in a little bit of foul trouble to see what we can do."

In their previous matchup this year Baylor defeated A&M 85-78.



Harvey

**"It is a huge game. You talk about possibly winning five conference games and where we've come in the last two weeks."**

that game A&M had no answer for Baylor's 6-foot-4-inch center Moffitt. Moffitt and Baylor guard Lara Webb combined to score 49 points against the Aggies that night.

Baylor is coming off a 99-59 loss to the Texas Longhorns. In that game Texas held Baylor's scoring tandem of Webb and Moffitt to 29 total points. Webb was three for eighteen from the field on the way to 15 points.

In the previous Baylor game, Aggie sophomore forward Kera Alexander scored 32 points in the loss. Alexander has had the hot hand of scoring 33 points in Wednesday night's victory over KSU.

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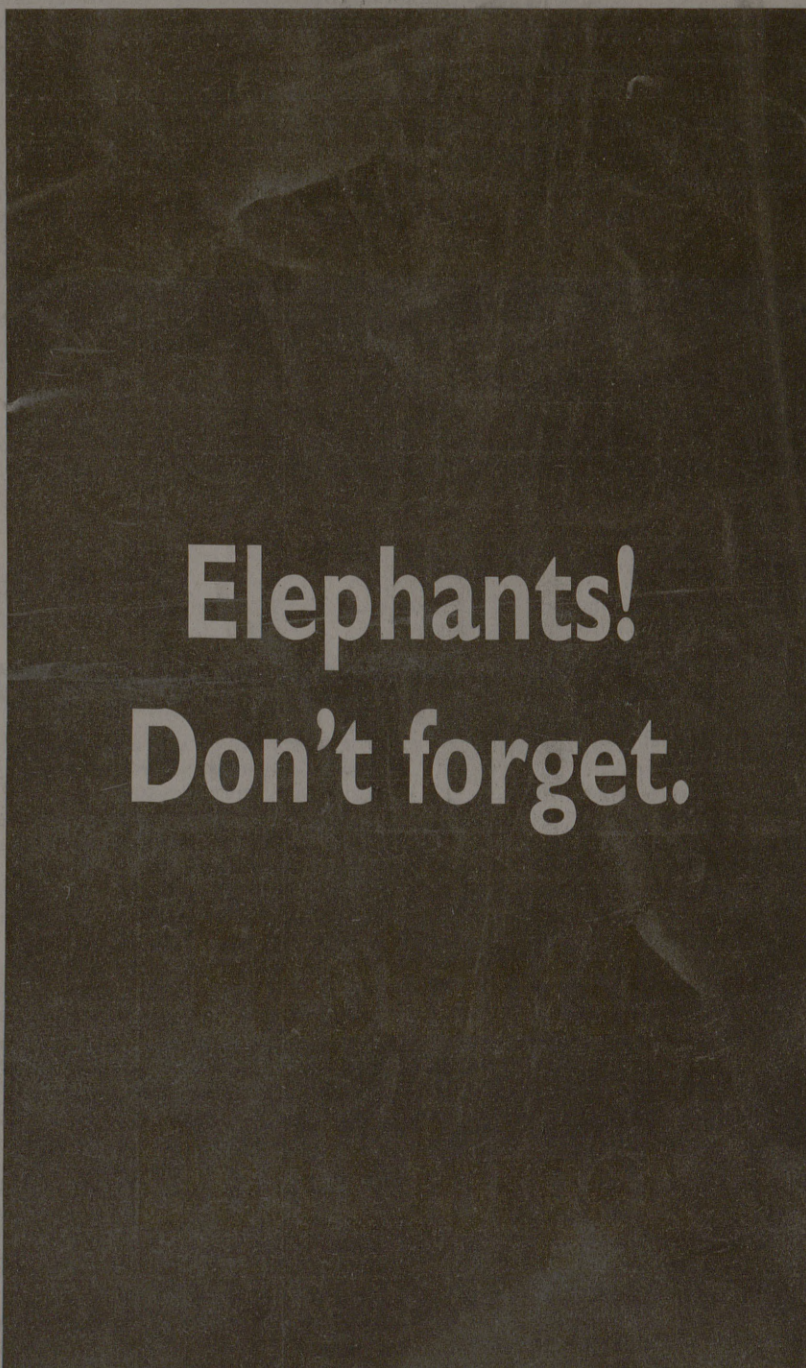
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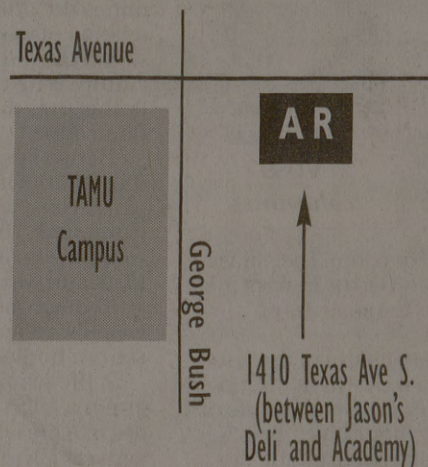
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