

## Aggies continue quest for Big 12 victories

### Women to battle Baylor

BY JASON SCHNEIDER  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team will face the Baylor University Lady Bears at 7 p.m. tonight at the Reed Arena. The Aggies are looking to bounce back from a four-game losing streak in Big 12 play.

The Aggies are also carrying a four-game losing streak against the Lady Bears, including a 91-76 loss in Austin the last time the two teams met.

The Lady Bears (11-9, 3-5 in Big 12) are led by Lara Webb, who is averaging 17.1 points per game and 5.6 assists.

Despite last week's 34th-consecutive loss to 10th-ranked Texas Tech, Baylor is a confident team coming into the game with A&M.

"No doubt this is the best game we've played on the road," Baylor coach Sonja Hogg said.

The loss to Tech kept Baylor in the top 10 in Big 12 play (4-4). The Aggies (7-11, 2-6 in Big 12), less at home in the Big 12 this year (0-4), come into tonight's game hoping to put an end to that streak.

The University of Texas narrowly defeated the Aggies 78-74 this past Saturday in College Station. The defeat was due to the lack of offense and missed opportunities, A&M head coach Peggie Gillom said.



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Senior guard Kerrie Patterson and the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team will face Baylor University Wednesday at Reed Arena.

"We picked our defense up in the second half, but we were really out rebounded and you don't deserve to win a game when you do that," Gillom said. "You got to get the rebounds."

In the Texas game, Texas A&M allowed 41 rebounds and 19 second chance points.

Junior forward Prissy Sharpe leads the Aggies with 19.6 points per game and 9.6 rebounds. Senior guard Kim Tarkington is the assists leader with 5.1 per game.

Gillom said the team is ready to put the losses behind them and bring on the "W's."

"I don't think we can have many more of the close losses," Gillom said.

"I am tired of finishing close. Yes, we have been close and some shots haven't fallen for us at the buzzer, but now it's time."

### Men face rival 'Horns on road

BY SANTOSH VENKATARAMAN  
The Battalion

One of the oldest intercollegiate intrastate rivalries in Texas will be renewed tonight on the basketball court when the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team visits Austin to take on the University of Texas. Game time at the Frank Erwin Center is 7 p.m.

The Longhorns are the surprise team in the Big 12, leading the conference with a 7-1 record, one game ahead of the University of Kansas, University of Missouri, and Oklahoma State University. Texas has engineered a big turnaround under first-year coach Rick Barnes after struggling in the early season. The Longhorns started the season at 2-7 with losses to the University of Houston and the University of San Diego as the players adjusted to Barnes' style. Since that time, UT has won 10 out of 12 contests and is now 12-9 overall.

The Longhorns are led by the threesome of sophomore center Chris Mihm, junior forward Gabe Muoneke, and senior guard Kris Clack. The trio combine for 44.8 points per game with Muoneke leading the way with his 16.6 ppg. Mihm is the second-leading rebounder in the Big 12 with 9.6 rebounds per game, while Clack chips in with 7.1 rebounds per game.

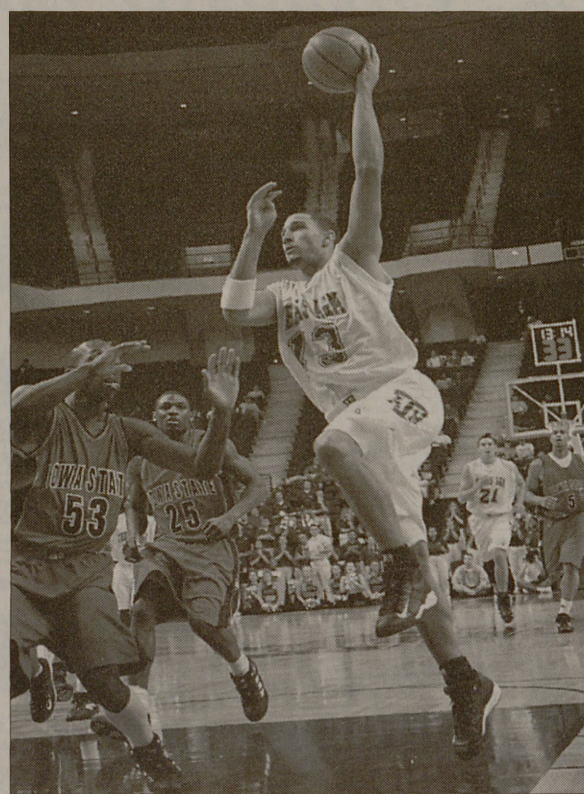
Texas also boasts the services of point guard Ivan Wagner, who is better known for his achievements as the NCAA High Jump Champion in 1997.

The Aggies are coming off a 66-61 loss at Oklahoma State on Jan. 30. A&M led by as much as 14 points in the first half before settling for an 11-point halftime lead.

Junior guard Clifton Cook scored 19 points in the first half for A&M. OSU pulled even midway through the second half and took the lead for good 2:19 left to play.

Down by one point, both Cook and sophomore guard Michael Schmidt missed chances to win the game in the before OSU hit four free throws in the final 3.5 seconds to seal the victory. It was the second five-point loss by A&M to the Cowboys this season. The Aggies' 30 turnovers in the game were a season-high in the Big 12.

The Aggies have dropped 10 straight to the Longhorns since a 85-84 home victory in the 1993-94 season in the Southwest Conference opener for both



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Sophomore guard Michael Schmidt and the Aggies take on the Texas Longhorns Wednesday in Austin.

teams. The Aggies' last win in Austin came in the 1986-87 season by the score of 58-56.

**Baylor**

Points leader:  
**Lara Webb (17.1)**

Rebound leader:  
**Kacy Moffitt (5.8)**

Assists leader:  
**Lara Webb (5.6)**

**Texas**

Points leader:  
**Gabe Muoneke (16.6)**

Rebound leader:  
**Chris Mihm (9.6)**

Assists leader:  
**Ivan Wagner (4.1)**

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