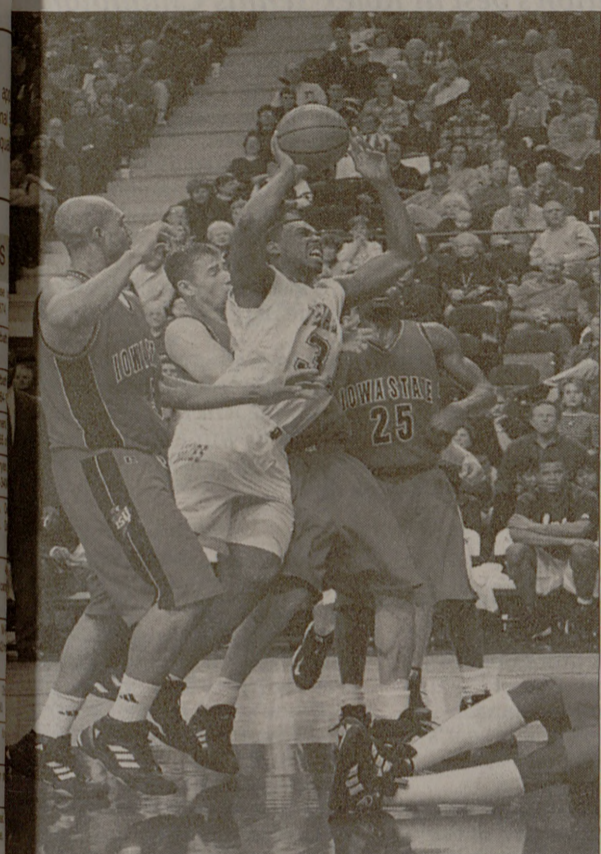


Turnovers cost A&M against Longhorns

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Senior forward **Shanne Jones** attempts a shot in traffic. Jones and the Aggies fell to the University of Texas Wednesday night 71-59.

It is hard to win a game when you cannot hold on to the ball.

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball learned that lesson the hard way Wednesday, as the University of Texas used 30 Aggie turnovers to rack up a 71-59 victory in Austin.

The Aggies (9-10, 2-7 Big 12) turned the ball over nine times before scoring their first bucket with four minutes gone by and shot only 42.9 percent from the field in the first half, but they trailed by only four points at the break.

However, four points was as close as A&M would get, as Texas (13-9, 8-1 Big 12) used their defensive pressure to force bad decisions from the Aggie ballhandlers and produce fast-break buckets.

The Longhorns' defensive attack was led by junior guard Ivan Wagner, who tied B.J. Tyler's school record for steals in a game with 10. Sophomore center Chris Mihm pulled down 17 rebounds, 10 on the defensive end alone, and added 11 points for his seventh consecutive double-double. Kris Klack also scored in double digits with 12.

For the Aggies, junior guard Clifton Cook led the way with 17 points and three assists but was forced into 11 turnovers. Michael Schmidt added 11 points and five rebounds. Shanne Jones, A&M's No. 2 scorer, pulled down four rebounds but was held scoreless in limited minutes because of foul trouble.

High scorer Gabe Muoneke, who finished the game with 19 points, scored the game's first five points with a pair of jumpers, one from three-point territory.

A&M Men's Game Leaders

Points:
Clifton Cook (17)

Rebound:
Three players (5)

Assists:
Clifton Cook (3)
Jerald Brown (3)

Texas ran up an early 10-point lead in the first half before hitting a cold spell that resulted in a three-minute scoreless stretch. The Aggies used the opportunity to go in a 9-0 run to pull ahead, 18-17, on a jumper by Cook. But Texas would recover and take a four-point lead by halftime.

A&M outshot Texas for the game, 44.2 percent to 37.9 percent, but turnovers turned out to be the difference. The Longhorns scored 30 points off turnovers and used the Aggies' miscues to outscore A&M, 12-0, on the fast break.

In addition, Jones' limited minutes hurt A&M's low-post productivity as Texas outscored A&M in the paint, 28-14, and outrebounded them, 38-29.

A&M will next take the court Saturday when they face the Sooners of Oklahoma University at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Okla.

Ags continue Big 12 slump

BY TRAVIS HARSCH
The Battalion

The A&M Women's Basketball Team was in a giving mood Wednesday night, and the Baylor Bears were more than happy to receive.

Baylor took advantage of 14 turnovers in the first half, and 25 the game, to build a 20 point halftime lead, then withstood an A&M rally in the second half that cut the lead to nine before falling away for a 72-55 win.

A&M coach Peggie Gillom said her team did not play their best game Wednesday night.

"Baylor played good defense, we really played lackadaisical," Gillom said. "We didn't really run the offense, we didn't do anything very well."

Baylor jumped to an early 12-3 lead and led 38-18 at the half. The play of freshman Latoya Rose, who scored 8 of her 10 points in a six-minute second half spurt that cut Baylor's lead to nine.

"Our bright spot tonight was really Latoya," Gillom said. "She came on and played with authority, she's a great athlete, we're just working on the basketball part of it, it's taking time for her to learn the offense."

Prissy Sharpe led the A&M offense with 15 points and 14 rebounds in the loss. Danielle Crockrom, who had 13 points for Baylor, said Sharpe made the Bears focus defensively.

"We had to stay on her (Sharpe), anywhere she went, we needed to be there," Crockrom said. "She's a shooter and she's been lighting it up, we had to stay on her and play her honest the whole game."

Baylor guard Lara Webb

said her team had been preparing for Sharpe and teammate Kera Alexander, who, along with Rose, were the only three Aggies in double figures.

"We'd been working all week on trying to stop Prissy and Kera," Webb said. "We felt they had a very strong inside game, we were going to try to stop it, that was our game plan, and we did a pretty good job of it."

Both teams were trying to snap losing streaks, as Baylor did not have a conference victory on the road, and the Aggies had not won a Big 12 game in Reed Arena.

Baylor coach Sonja Hogg said that in spite of the continuation of A&M's streak, the Aggies will turn it around.

"They're probably ready to back to the old place (G. Rollie White)," Hogg said. "But I think they're doing an excellent job. They have a relatively young team, and they're going to be just fine."

A&M continues its three game homestand Saturday against the Oklahoma Sooners at 5 p.m., in the second half of a doubleheader with the men's team taking on Baylor at 12:45.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Junior forward **Prissy Sharpe** goes in for a layup against the Baylor Bears Wednesday night at Reed Arena. The Aggies fell to the Bears 72-55.

A&M Women's Game Leaders

Points:
Prissy Sharpe (15)

Rebounds:
Prissy Sharpe (14)

Assists:
Kim Tarkington (5)

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