

## Aggies chase Big 12 home win

BY TRAVIS HARSCH  
The Battalion

One of these days, the coyote is going to catch that roadrunner, and the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team is going to get its first Big 12 victory in Reed Arena. The Aggies will get another chance on Saturday night, as they host the Oklahoma Sooners in a 5 p.m. Big 12 contest.

The Aggies are 0-6 in conference play in their first season at Reed, but that record is somewhat deceptive, with four close losses: a one-point defeat to Oklahoma State, a four-point loss to the Texas Longhorns and a three-point loss to eighth-ranked Texas Tech.

"We've been close and some shots haven't fallen at the buzzer," A&M coach Peggie Gillom said.

Wednesday night's game against Baylor was one of those two this year that have not been close for the Aggies. In a 72-55 loss, the Aggies turned the ball over 25 times, with 15 turnovers in the first 20 minutes that led to a 20-point halftime deficit. The team did cut the lead to nine in the second half, something that Gillom said was a credit to her team.

"They really fought back out there," Gillom said. "We had to gamble at the end, and it didn't happen."


Oklahoma (9-10, 3-6) defeated Texas on Wednesday night in Norman, 71-69. The win broke a three-game conference losing streak for the Sooners, as La'Neishea Caufield led the Sooners by scoring 25 points.

The Sooners are led by junior forward Phylesha Whaley, who averages 19.4 points and 7.8 rebounds, and by freshman point guard Stacey Dales with 5.2 assists per game.

Prissy Sharpe, who was honored before the Baylor game for scoring over 1,000 points in her A&M career, ranks first for the Aggies and eighth in the Big 12 with 17.8 points per game and pulls down 8.1 rebounds a contest. Against Baylor, Sharpe scored 15 points and grabbed 15 rebounds despite facing a defense geared to stop her and junior Kera Alexander, who had 11 points.

Both the Aggies and the Sooners have lost several close games this season, with seven of A&M's losses coming by five points or fewer. Oklahoma has lost five games by two points or less, with the win against Texas marking the first time all season the Sooners have won in a game decided by 10

**Oklahoma**  
(9-10, 3-6 Big 12)



Points leader:  
**Phylesha Whaley (19.4)**

Rebound leader:  
**Phylesha Whaley (7.8)**

Assists leader:  
**Stacey Dales (5.2)**

points or fewer.  
"We aren't satisfied with losing close games," Gillom said. "We want to win every game we play. We have to keep plugging away and good things will happen."

### NEWS IN BRIEF Aggie duo pulls upset at Rolex

Texas A&M sophomores Shuon Madden and Dumitru Caradima recorded the doubles upset of the day Thursday in the first round of the 1999 Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoors tennis tournament at the Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas.

The Aggie duo entered the tournament ranked No. 8 nationally immediately upset the No. 2 seeded and No. 2 ranked pairing of Ken Kigongo and Francisco Trinidad of Michigan State, in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4.

The Aggie duo will face the winner of the match between the tandem from New Mexico and the team from Webber in the round of eight late Thursday evening.

The tournament will conclude on Sunday.

### Swimmer, diver honored by Big 12

DALLAS - The Big 12 Conference announced its swimmers and divers of the month, based on performances in January.

Devin Howard of Texas A&M was selected as the male swimmer of the month and Texas A&M's Danielle Guarneri was chosen as the female diver of the month.

Howard, a senior from Klein, continued his success in the 200-yard IM and 200-yard butterfly with victories against Louisiana State and Kentucky. And he captured the 200-yard butterfly in A&M's meet versus national powers Texas, Arizona and Miami, Fla.

Guarneri, a junior from Orlando, Fla., competed out of the country on her way to being named female diver of the month. She placed ninth overall in the platform while competing at the Canon XI FINA Diving World Cup in Wellington, New Zealand.



ERIC NEWNAM/THE BATTALION

Senior guard Kerrie Patterson battles for rebound against Texas Jan. 30.

### Baylor (6-16, 0-9) Big 12



Points leader:  
**Kish Lewis (14.5)**

Rebound leader:  
**Kish Lewis (9.3)**

Assists leader:  
**Leon Morris (1.6)**

## Men face Baylor in rematch

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

If things go the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team's way, it will not take a "Victory" to get a win when they face Baylor University (6-16, 0-9 Big 12) Saturday at Reed Arena.

Jan. 23, the Aggies (9-10, 2-7 Big 12) used their last-second "Victory" play to free up senior guard Chris Clayton for a game-winning three-pointer against Baylor. The win gave A&M its first conference victory of the 1998-99 season, 57-56.

But this time around, the Aggies will aim to put the game away long before the final buzzer sounds. Coming off a 71-59 loss to archrival University of Texas in Austin Wednesday that saw 30 A&M

turnovers, the Aggies are looking to end a two-game conference losing streak when they go up against the Bears.

If A&M hopes to come out of Reed with a "W," the team will have to shut down Bears center Kish Lewis, who ranks among the Big 12's top 15 in five different statistical categories. Lewis is averaging 14.5 points (11th in Big 12) and 9.3 rebounds (third in Big 12) per game to lead the Baylor squad. He also ranks among the conference's best in blocked shots per game (1.45, fifth), field-goal percentage (.470, seventh) and free-throw percentage (.654, 15th).

The task of guarding Lewis will fall to freshman center Joe White,

who has averaged 6.2 points and 4.4 rebounds per contest in conference play this year. He will share the paint on offense with senior forward Shanne Jones, who ranks second among Aggie players in scoring with 15.2 points per game while adding 5.7 rebounds.

In the backcourt, the Aggies will look to leading scorer Clifton Cook. The junior guard is averaging 15.2 points per game this season, 15.7 in Big 12 competition, and 6.2 assists. Clayton, the hero of A&M's last game against Baylor, contributes 8.6 points per contest.

The Aggies have an opportunity to dominate against the Bears on

SEE BAYLOR ON PAGE 8.



ERIC NEWNAM/THE BATTALION

Senior forward Shanne Jones pulls up for a jumper against Texas Tech Jan. 27.

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