

MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Baseball Team, coming off a 1-2 weekend trip to the University of Arizona, will face Southwest Texas State University Tuesday at an field.

## Home sweet home

Aggie Baseball Team to host SWTSU Bobcats

BY AARON COHAN  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Baseball Team look to get back on track today as they host Southwest Texas State University.

The Aggies finished up a three-game road trip Sunday when they lost to the University of Arizona. Though the Aggies lost the first two games, their bats came alive in the final game to aid them to a clutch win. Despite their problems in the first two games, senior first baseman John Scheschuk believes it wasn't all that bad.

It went pretty well given our performance Friday and Saturday," Scheschuk said, "but obviously we need to practice and work to get better as a team."

With newcomers at a few positions, the Aggies have yet to see signs of distress. A major question coming into the season was who would fill the slots when big Kuzmic, Jason Tyner, Scott

Sandusky and Ryan Rupe left. So far replacing them has been a team effort as sophomore right fielder Daylan Holt has stepped up his power, leading the team with five home runs and 19 RBIs. John Scheschuk has been his steady self, batting .478 to lead the team. Junior ace Casey Fossum has already whiffed 19 batters in his first two starts.

"Our veteran players have really helped the team gel together since we started Fall practice," Scheschuk said.

But the real excitement has come from the transfers. Stepping in at third base is junior Blinn transfer Dell Lindsey. Starting all six games, Lindsey has not only been a compliment in the field but a force at the plate. His .350 batting average and team leading six walks have helped the Aggies put big digits in their run column. Another bright spot has been se-

SEE BASEBALL ON PAGE 8.

## A Rose by any other name... 'Tank Dawg' learns on the job with Ags

BY SANTOSH VENKATARAMAN  
The Battalion

Legendary former Marquette University men's basketball coach Al McGuire once said, "The best thing about freshmen is that they become sophomores."

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team is certainly looking for bigger and better things next season from freshman guard LaToya Rose.

The period of adjustment most freshman players go through in making the transition from being the best player on their high school teams to trying to learn a role on a college team was not easy for Rose. Not used to coming off the bench, Rose struggled early in the season but has come on strong as of late, scoring a college career-high 13 points against Baylor University Feb. 13 and 10 points in the first meeting with Baylor Feb. 3.

"In high school, I was the star player. Here I was working for playing time," Rose said. "I told a reporter once that it was like going from the headlines to the sidelines. But I am learning to get better to help the team out."

Rose grew up around athletics. She first played basketball at age 6 and attended basketball camps starting at age 13. One of her cousins is former St. Louis Cardinal wide receiver Roy Green and another is current A&M senior guard Kim Tarkington, who grew up with Rose in Magnolia, Ark.

Rose was a freshman and Tarkington a senior when the duo led Walker High School to the state semifinals in 1995.

Tarkington said she recognized Rose's potential early and sees similarities between Rose and herself in terms of adjusting to college basketball.

"At first, she started off scared, a typical freshman," Tarkington said. "She has been hiding it, but now that she's gotten the opportunity to score, she's doing it."

Rose narrowed her college choices down to A&M and the University of Arkansas, a school that competes in the Southeastern Conference, the best conference in the nation for women's basketball. She committed to A&M because of the proximity to family and friends but was sur-



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

TOP: A&M guard LaToya Rose looks to be a major player for the Aggies in the years to come.

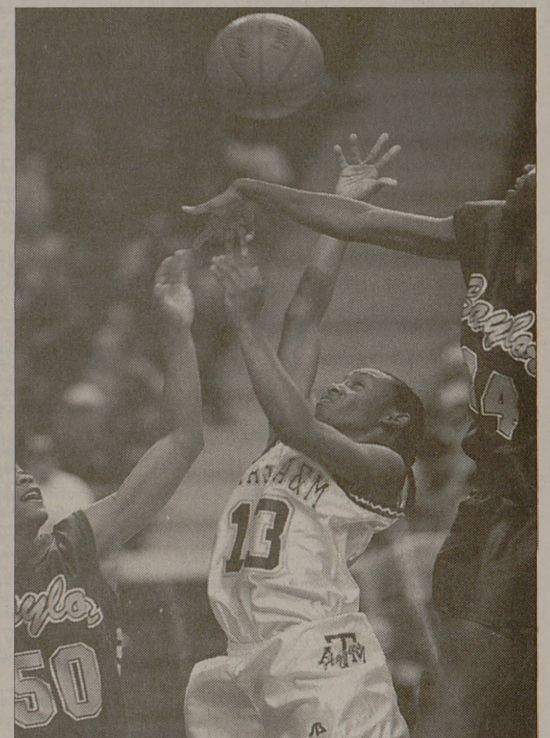
RIGHT: Rose has come up big in recent weeks for the A&M Women's Basketball Team, scoring 10 points against Baylor University Feb. 3 and a career-high 13 points against the Bears Feb. 13.

prised when Coach Candi Harvey and her coaching staff left. But once Peggie Gillom was named the Aggies' new coach, Rose saw the positives of the new staff.

"I figured that with Coach Gillom coming in that everyone would be on the same level," Rose said. "She didn't really know any of us so we all would have to earn our time."

Rose has improved in almost every area of the game during her time at A&M. Known as a prolific scorer in high school, she has made enormous strides in the areas of defense and moving away from the ball. Her demeanor off the court has improved as well. Her teammates and coaches call her "Tank Dawg" because as A&M administrative assistant Jennie Vance said, "She's about it; there's no limits to her."

With her confidence rising, Rose's recent play has sent a message to the rest of the Big 12 Conference — she will be a force to be reckoned with in the near future. The "Tank Dawg" is on the loose.



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