SPORTS

Vomen head departed first mates for Easter Oklahoma

s look to improve record th win over OU Sooners

BY TRAVIS HARSCH

its next-to-last game of the Big 12 regular season, exas A&M Women's Basketball Team will take on homa in Norman Wednesday in a game that i be a potential preview of next week's confertournament in Kansas City.

the season ended today, the Sooners (13-11, 7-7) would be seeded fifth and would take on the season ended today, the Sooners (13-11, 7-7) would be seeded fifth and would take on the season the outcome of their last two games. It is seven A&M wins, five have come on the A&M coach Peggie Gillom said the disparity in stord is due to an easier pace when the Aggies hit lighway.

When we go on the road we're more relaxed," m said, "You don't have the classes, you can sleep ty, you're more relaxed and ready to play."

te game will be the last regular-season contest on lad for the Aggies, who will finish the regular seaaturday at home against the University of Colorado. &M's last game was a 65-56 loss to the Univerof Texas Longhorns on Saturday. The game was a than the score indicated, as the Aggies trailed ally two points with two minutes remaining in lame.

ra Alexander led the Aggies with 14 points, and man Celeria Washington got her first start on the m, scoring nine points. Gillom said Washington's ies are improving.

When she learns what to do on the court, she will murderer out there," Gillom said. "She's looking comfortable out there, and her confidence is ng to build. She's showing that she can play."

pe, who ranks second in the conference in reds per game. Sharpe also puts points on the d for A&M, averaging 18.3 points per game.

&M has continued to play teams close, with eight e team's 17 losses coming by five points or fewhey are playing teams much closer this year than as their average margin of loss this season is 8.6 ts, compared with the 14.7 point margin of loss st year's 9-19 campaign.

klahoma had its five-game winning streak



MIKE FUENTES/THE BAT

Junior forward **Kera Alexander** and the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team will close out the regular season Wednesday at the University of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma (13-11, 7-7 Big 12)



Points leader: Phylesha Whaley (19.5)

Rebound leader: Phylesha Whaley (7.5)

Assists leader: Stacey Dales (5.0)

ers are led by Phylesha Whaley, who averages 19.3 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.

The game will tip off at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd Noble

Sooners to visit Reed

Men look for Big 12 victory in final home game

BY SANTOSH VENKATARAMAN
The Pattalion

It will be the final home game in the Aggie careers of senior forward Shanne Jones and senior guard Chris Clayton tonight as the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team hosts the University of Oklahoma at 7 p.m.

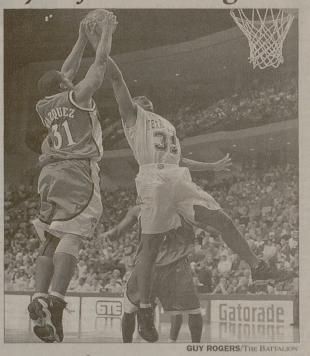
A&M will look to make history, as the Aggies have never beaten Oklahoma, dropping all 11 meetings between the schools. The Ags (11-13, 4-10 Big 12) are coming off a 63-54 loss to the University of Texas, while the Sooners (19-8, 10-4 Big 12) are coming off a home loss to the University of Kansas.

OU is in search of its fourth win in their many trips to the state of Texas this season. The Sooners won earlier nail-biters at Baylor University on Feb. 3, 59-58, and at Texas on Feb. 10, 64-63. OU has won four straight road games and six out of their last seven overall.

Jones, who transferred from Stetson University in 1995 and played three years at A&M, will be remembered by many as one of the top post players in Aggie history. He is 11 points shy of ranking in the top 15 in scoring in A&M basketball history. This season, his 55 percent field goal percentage leads the Big 12 and is the fifth-best percentage in school history. Jones, a native of The Colony, averaged a career-high 18.0 points and 6.7 rebounds per game in the 1997-98 season en route to being named third team All-Big 12. This season, although his numbers have dipped slightly (14.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg) in part because of increased attention by Big 12 opponents, Jones still scored in double figures in 20 out of 24 games. One of his best games came last season when he showcased his abilities before a nationally televised ESPN audience, scoring 32 points against Texas. Jones also slammed home 24 dunks in his 1997-98 campaign.

Chris Clayton enjoyed a solid two-year Aggie career after transferring from Ventura (Calif.) Community College. The Bakersfield, Calif., native quickly established himself as one of the top three-point threats in A&M history and ranks among A&M's top 10 in three-point field goals made. Clayton set a G. Rollie White Coliseum record by nailing seven out of 11 three-point attempts last season against Maryland-Eastern Shore. This season, Clayton is probably best known for two game-winning three-point buzzer-beaters. The first came on Dec. 3 at Sam Houston State University as Clayton nailed a three from the left corner with seconds remaining to snap a 70-70 tie and give A&M the victory.

SEE SOONERS ON PAGE 12.



Senior forward **Shanne Jones** will play his last home game when the Aggies face Oklahoma Wednesday.

Oklahoma (19-8, 10-4 Big 12)



Points leader: Eduardo Najera (15.0)

Rebound leader: Eduardo Najera (8.0)

Assists leader: Michael Johnson (3.8)



National Engineer's Week February 21-27

Sponsored by the Student Engineers' Council

Wednesday:

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Zachry Lawn Picnic Free Food Provided! 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Social at Chelsea St. Pub 9 p.m.

Thursday:

Pool / 42 Tournament at Yesterday's 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.