

Tourney Time

Women's Basketball Team set for Big 12 Tournament

BY TRAVIS HARSCH
The Battalion

Maybe the tenth time will be the charm.

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team, which has come up short in nine straight conference games, will face the Nebraska Cornhuskers in a first-round contest of the Big 12 Tournament Tuesday.

In their first meeting this season, the Cornhuskers (19-10, 8-8) came away with a 62-54 triumph at Reed Arena behind 20 points from Nicole Kubik. The Aggies (7-19, 2-14) were led by junior forward Kera Alexander with 22 points and sophomore forward Prissy Sharpe with 13.

Coach Peggie Gillom said the Feb. 17 game against the Huskers did not represent either team's best effort.

"It was just an ugly game," Gillom said. "It could have gone either way. It was just one of those games that you didn't want to watch or even play in. Our defense was pretty good, but we couldn't get our shots to go, and we turned the ball over too many times."

Sharpe, who was named to the All-Big 12 second team this week, said despite her team's low seeding, she expects the Huskers to be focused on the Aggies.

"Nobody looks past you," Sharpe said. "Anything can happen in this tournament, and anything can happen in this league."

Gillom said A&M, which lost by 10 points or fewer in 13 of its 19 games, will need to avoid turnovers to advance.

"We have been our own worst enemy all season," Gillom said. "We have beaten ourselves in each of our losses. I hope that we can overcome that and play well here at the championships."

Gillom said effort is the key to a win. "Our women have to be relaxed and just go out and play hard," Gillom said.

"We're going to do anything and everything to win, but if our team does their best that's all I can ask for."

Sharpe led A&M in both points and rebounds in the regular season, averaging 18.3 points and 9.0 boards. Kubik, also an All-Big 12 selection, keys the Husker offense with 18.9 points and 5.9 assists per contest, while Brooke Schwartz averages 6.1 rebounds a game.

Last season, the Aggies defeated Texas, 98-74 in the first round of the Big 12 tour-



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

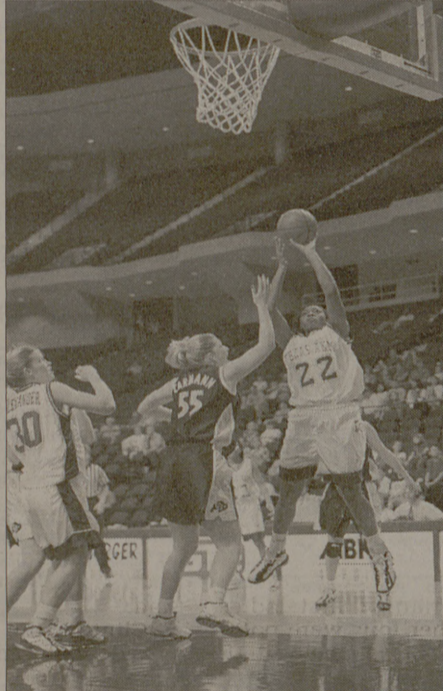
TOP: Senior Kim Tarkington drives the lane during Saturday's game with Colorado. BELOW: Freshman Celeria Washington pulls up for a shot against the Buffaloes.

Nebraska

Points leader:
Nicole Kubik (18.9)

Rebound leader:
Brooke Schwartz (6.1)

Assists leader:
Nicole Kubik (5.9)



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

ney before falling to Iowa State University. The winner of today's game will take on the fourth-seeded Longhorns.

The game will follow the Kansas State University-University of Colorado contest and will tip off at 2:20 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

The fourth-ranked Texas A&M Baseball Team travels to San Antonio on Tuesday to take on the University of Texas-San Antonio Roadrunners.

A&M Baseball Team ready to face UTSA Roadrunners

Aggies carry nine-game win streak into weekday contest

BY AARON COHAN
The Battalion

Coming off a three-game sweep of the Oklahoma State University Cowboys, the Texas A&M Baseball Team will try to keep its nine-game winning streak alive today against the University of Texas-San Antonio.

The Aggies moved up three places in the latest polls and are now ranked fourth in the nation.

The No. 4 ranking is the Aggies' highest in more than three years.

UTSA has won only five of 19 games this season, but the Roadrunners did beat No. 12 University of Texas.

A&M coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies should not overlook UTSA despite A&M's come-from-behind win over Oklahoma State University Sunday.

"We have to focus on UTSA and play now," Johnson said. "You have to put vic-

tories and losses behind you.

"Even the celebrated one's like yesterday can't get in the way of playing hard the next game."

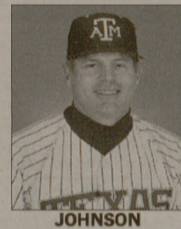
The Aggies will start freshman Khalid Ballouli, who earned his first win last Tuesday in a late-inning effort against Sam Houston State University. Johnson said Ballouli has impressed him so far.

"He is starting to place his fastball much better lately," Johnson said. "I am really looking forward to him pitching."

Ballouli has only worked six innings this year, but they have been productive ones, as he has struck out nine batters and has not allowed any runs.

Giving Ballouli run support will be a plethora of Aggie hitters. One of them is first baseman John Scheschuk, who mashed in a .444 batting average against some of OSU's top pitchers, though it was down from his season average of .468.

"We're just going to keep hitting and scoring runs for our team," Scheschuk said. "A lot of good things have fallen in place for us, and we have to just keep going after it."



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