

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Tuesday, January 18, 2000



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Senior forward **Kera Alexander** dribbles the ball against Kansas State University last Saturday at Reed Arena. The Aggies went 4-4 over the semester break

## Texas A&M women's basketball team starts off fast, finishes slow over semester break

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

While most Texas A&M University students were enjoying the semester break celebrating the holidays at home and ringing in the new year with friends and family, there was one group of students hard at work.

The Texas A&M women's basketball team battled its way through a successful non-conference schedule in preparation for Big 12 Conference play. During the holidays, the Aggies won four of the eight games they played.

A&M began the break by pulling out a 72-70 victory over TAMU-Corpus Christi at Reed Arena before traveling north and sweeping the University of Illinois-Chicago and Chicago State University 68-50 and 82-48, respectively.

On Jan. 3, the Aggies lost their first game of the new year, 60-57 at Rice University, bringing their non-conference record to 8-2.

Two days later, the Aggies traveled to Waco for their fourth consecutive game on the road, and their first conference game against Baylor University.

Senior forward Prissy Sharpe clinched a victory for the Aggies after making a three-point play in

the closing seconds of the game, giving the team a 62-59 win.

With 27 seconds left in the game and the score tied at 59, Sharpe went up strong for a baseline shot and was fouled as the ball went in the basket. She then proceeded to sink the free throw for the final point of the game.

"To win our first conference game is great," senior forward Kera Alexander said. "We overcame a lot. We may not have played our best, but this is a confidence boost."

The Aggies returned home to take on Oklahoma State University in a game featuring a Reed Arena record 34 turnovers by the Aggies.

After trailing 27-23 at halftime, the first five minutes of the second half passed before the Aggies scored again. After that, A&M only managed to score five more field goals in the second half, giving OSU the win 61-42.

"I was stunned, everybody was," A&M basketball coach Peggie Gillom said. "It was just an ugly game."

After the disappointing loss, the Aggies traveled to Norman, Oklahoma to face the University of Oklahoma.

The Aggies experienced a scoring drought and only managed to shoot 20.7 percent of their field

goals which lead to a 87-59 OU victory.

A&M returned home and lost a close game to Kansas State University, 67-62. The Aggies shot 51.1 percent in the second half and managed to cut the deficit to 60-59 with 48 seconds remaining before the cats pulled away.

The Aggies were missing one of their best players as Sharpe was being treated in an area of the hospital suffering a slight case of pneumonia.

"When you lose a player the caliber of Prissy Sharpe, you have a hole in your front line that is hard to fill," Kansas State Coach Deb Pattee said. "You lose rebounds and inside presence, and it showed some good character without being obvious this afternoon."

Although the Aggies lost the last game of the semester, they seem to be making progress. The Aggies proved its shooting percentage from 35.7 percent against OSU and 32.8 percent against OSU to 45.3 against KSU.

They are also expecting to regain the momentum on the court for tonight's road game against the University of Colorado at 8 p.m. where they will find their second Big 12 victory of the semester.

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