

## Marino considers playing for Vikings

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — At least one team in the NFL doesn't think Dan Marino is washed up.

Dennis Green is trying to lure the league's career passing leader to Minnesota, where he would become the Vikings' eighth starter in eight seasons.

Marino turns 39 this year and has spent his entire 17-year career in Miami. He is considering an offer from the Vikings but also considering retirement.

The Vikings feature receivers Cris Carter and Randy Moss, but they also lost Pro Bowl offensive linemen Randall McDaniel and Jeff Christy to rival Tampa Bay.

Marino was offered Minnesota's starting quarterback job last week in talks with Green, two sources close to Marino and speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed Monday.



MARINO

Marino, who has never won a championship, most likely will decide by the end of the week, one of the sources said.

The offer was first reported Sunday night by ESPN and Fox Sports Net, citing unidentified sources.

"I'm just flabbergasted," Dolphins president Eddie Jones said. "I have no idea about Dan Marino and any report about him going anyplace. I know nothing about where Dan's head is at or what he plans to do."

Green didn't return phone calls from The Associated Press on Monday. Last week, he told his staff not to discuss the team's quarterback situation in light of heavy criticism of his declaration that Daunte Culpepper, his top draft pick last year, would enter camp as the projected starter.

The Vikings haven't offered Jeff George a contract even though he went 9-3 after coming off the bench last season to replace Randall Cunningham, who was demoted 5 1/2 games into his new \$28 million contract.

## A&M women start Big 12 tourney

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team ended its regular season with a record of 11-15, 3-13 in Big 12. But the Aggies are hoping this is just the beginning as they play in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament Tuesday at 8:20 in Kansas City, Mo.

The Aggies will face the University of Texas Longhorns (18-11, 9-7 Big 12) in the first round of the tournament.

This will be the third meeting between the two teams this season. The Longhorns won the two earlier games by scores of 82-54 and 76-67.

Having played the Longhorns twice already, the Aggies have an idea of what to expect.

In what has been the case, tonight's contest is sure to feature a great match up between A&M's junior forward Jaynetta Saunders and Texas' senior guard Edwina Brown.

"It will be a great match up," A&M coach Peggie Gillom said. "I think they thought they stopped Jaynetta (in the last game) by putting Edwina on her. I don't think that was the case. I think the case was, we didn't give Jaynetta the ball."

Saunders and Brown traded baskets and blocked shots in the two previous contests, and each player is a valuable weapon for their respective team.

Saunders averaged a team high 15.7 points per game and earned 7 rebounds a game this season, while Brown lead her team with 21.4 points per game and 8.2 rebounds a game.

Saunders is looking forward to playing her Longhorn counterpart.

"She's a great player and a good defender, and I'm just looking forward to playing with one of the best players in the Big 12," Saunders said.

Brown may be thinking the same thing about Saunders, who has quickly made a name for herself in her first season with the Aggies.

Saunders was named Big 12 Rookie of the Week five times this season and earned third-team All Big 12 honors.

Senior forward Prissy Sharpe was



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

A&M freshman forward **Meg Banahan** looks to pass the ball against the University of Texas Longhorns Feb. 26 at Reed Arena in the Aggies' 76-67 loss to the Longhorns.

also recognized by the conference, being named to the honorable mention All-Big 12 list. Sharpe averaged 12.7 points and 8.6 rebounds this season, and needs just three boards to break the all-time school record of 911.

Sharpe feels confident in her team's chances in the tournament.

"We just have to be focused," Sharpe said. "Anybody can win the tournament. It's like a new season. And if you win the tournament, you go to the NCAA's (tournament). That is the joy of having the

first round are Iowa State University, University of Texas Tech, Oklahoma University and University of Kansas.

The winner of the A&M-Texas game will face Oklahoma tomorrow at 8:20 p.m.

Gillom hopes her team will be able to respond to the challenge of this first game of the tournament.

"This is it," Gillom said. "Do you want the season to be over? You have to ask yourself that question, and I don't right now."

The four teams receiving byes in the

### Sports in Brief

#### Aggies travel to face No. 3 Cougars

Fresh off of being swept by the fifth-ranked Baylor University Bears, the Texas A&M baseball team hits the road once again to play a nationally ranked opponent.

The Aggies head to Houston to face the third-ranked University of Houston Cougars at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

A&M (9-10, 3-3 Big 12) was swept in a conference series for the first time since 1996 when Rice University swept the Aggies. It was the first sweep of A&M by Baylor since 1991.

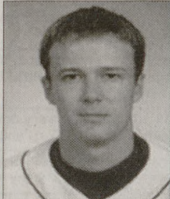
The Cougars (12-6) lost two of

three games against the University of Illinois this past weekend.

Last season the Aggies and Cougars split a pair of games, with A&M winning 8-7 in Houston, while the Cougars returned the favor by beating the Aggies 15-5 in College Station.

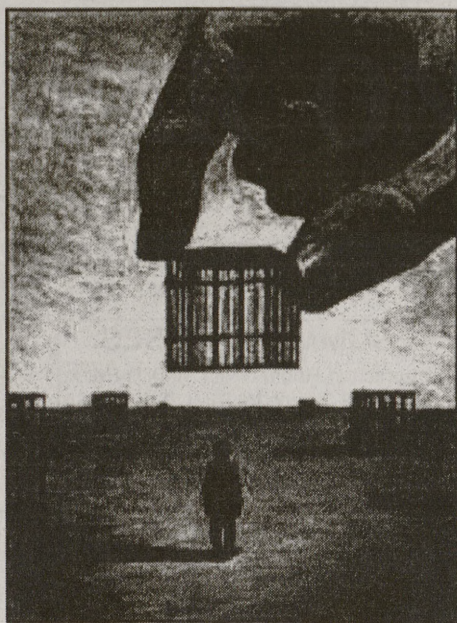
On the mound for the Aggies is freshman pitcher Zach Dixon who is 0-1 on the season with a 1.86 ERA.

Pitching for the Cougars will be Robert Dieudonne who is 1-1 with a 1.93 ERA this season.



DIXON

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