



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Outfielder **Hollie Hayden** strides to home plate and Sam Houston catcher **Jennifer Roberston** in the Aggies' 7-4 win over the Bearkats on Tuesday.

## Ags down Sam Houston State, 7-4

By **BRIAN RUFF**

*The Battalion*

The Texas A&M softball team began its home schedule with a win over the Sam Houston State Bearkats, 7-4, at the Aggie Softball Complex on Tuesday night.

The Aggies (2-1) opened up the scoring in the bottom of the first, after sophomore pitcher Lindsey Rippee sent the Bearkats down in order in the first. After senior left fielder Hollee Hayden reached first with a single, she stole second on the next pitch to set the Aggies up to score.

Sophomore catcher Selena Collins then singled to drive in Hayden. After a walk, senior right fielder Tiffany Esters doubled into right center to drive home Collins and move junior first baseman Kelly Ferguson over to third. An errant throw by the Sam Houston shortstop scored two more runs, and the Aggies found themselves with a comfortable lead at the end of first inning.

In the top of the second, Sam Houston began to chisel away at the A&M lead. Senior Natalie Pruitt singled and then scored moments later when a single got by the A&M right fielder and allowed

Pruitt to score, cutting the Aggie lead to 4-1.

Rippee had no trouble with the Bearkats for the following two innings. In the fifth however, Rippee had problems after an error on the second baseman set Sam Houston up with runners on first and second with only one out. Junior outfielder Ashley Hylton singled up the middle to drive in the two runners. Soon after, a single scored Hylton to tie the ball game up at 4-4.

The Aggies got another chance at the lead in the bottom of the inning with runners on third and second. A&M looked to take the lead, but a line drive by sophomore shortstop Crystal Martin was snagged by the Sam Houston third baseman to keep the Aggies from regaining the lead.

Freshman pitcher Lindsay Wilhelmson came in to pitch in the top of the sixth and sent the Bearkats down in order.

The Aggies got the breaks they needed in the bottom of the inning, when a wild pitch moved senior second baseman Rachel Lewis to second base. Junior second baseman Lisa Klam came in to run for Lewis. After Lewis moved over to third on a sacrifice, the Aggies were in position to take control of the game.

Ferguson stepped to the plate and grounded

a ball to second base, but the fielder was forced to throw to first, allowing the go-ahead run to score. The Aggies added two more insurance runs soon after, giving them a 7-4 lead.

"I was very excited to be put in that position," Ferguson said. "Lisa [Klam] is a great runner out on the bases, so I knew that if I gave her a chance, she would score."

Wilhelmson would close out the game to record the win in the top of the seventh, despite the Bearkats loading up the bases twice during the inning.

"Wilhelmson came in and did a nice job tonight," said A&M softball coach Jo Evans. "She also had some good defense behind her."

Esters led the Aggies against Sam Houston by going 2-2 at the plate with two RBIs. Wilhelmson recorded the win, her first of the season, despite pitching only two innings.

"I was really pleased with the way we came back and scored the three runs in the end," Evans said. "Our team really handled the pressure."

The Aggies will be back in action on Feb. 9 when they travel to Grand Prairie to take part in the UTA/Isuzu InterCollegiate Classic.

## Aggies look to upset No. 20 Longhorns tonight

By **BRIAN RUFF**

*The Battalion*

The Texas A&M women's basketball team looks to get back on the winning track Wednesday night as it hosts the No. 20 Texas Longhorns at Reed Arena.

The Aggies (12-8, 2-7) look to rebound from a three-game losing streak in conference play.

A&M is coming off a 92-79 loss to the No. 9 Texas Tech Lady Raiders in Lubbock on Saturday.

The Aggies' post players got into early foul trouble, and Tech was able to take advantage, scoring 42 points in the paint.

The Aggies were led by senior forward Jaynetta Saunders, who posted 23 points. Freshman guard Toccara Williams also added 11 points and 11 assists for her second double-double of the season.

The Texas squad comes into Reed Arena on the heels of a 70-60 upset loss to the Kansas Jayhawks on Saturday.

Texas was led by senior guard Meg Brown, who had 11 points on the night. The Longhorns shot a miserable 26.5 percent from the floor in the first half.

The Longhorns (16-7, 4-5) look to sweep the season series with the Aggies.

On Jan. 3, the Aggies suffered a 62-49 defeat to Texas.

Texas' effort was aided by an eight-minute scoring drought by the Aggies in the first half. Texas boasts a strong defense that ranks among the conference leaders in scoring defense.

The Longhorns also lead the Big 12 in turnover margin and 3-point shooting percentage.

Freshman forward Stacy Stephens has been a mainstay underneath the basket for

the Longhorns this season. Stephens is among the rebounding leaders in the Big 12 conference with an 8.7 boards per game average.

The Aggies were troubled by turnovers Jan. 31 against Oklahoma, when the team committed a season-high 27 against the Sooners.

"We were very lax with the ball, and it really hurt us," said A&M women's basketball coach Peggie Gillom.

The following Saturday against the Lady Raiders, the Aggies committed their second lowest turnover count of the season.

The team hopes to turn around its rebounding problems as well. The Aggies are ranked last in the Big 12 in defensive rebounds and rebounding margin, being outrebounded by at least seven boards per contest.

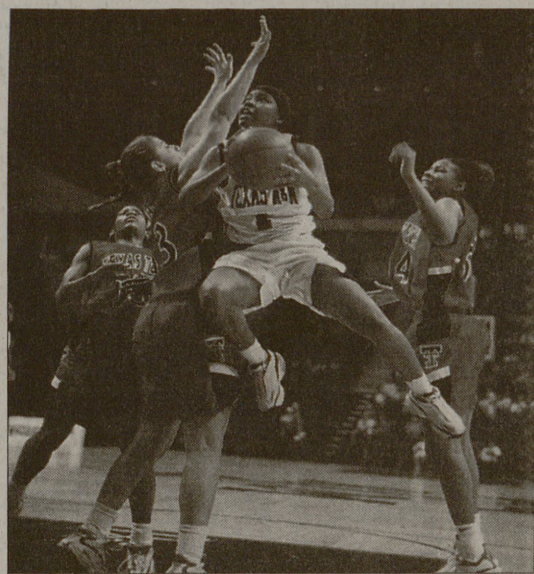
"Hopefully we can come out and get a big lead on them [Texas] and take away their confidence," Gillom said. "It is going to come down to who wants it more."

Senior guard Brandy Jones, despite being sometimes overshadowed by the high-scoring Saunders, who now leads the Big 12 in scoring, has also contributed greatly to the Aggie scoring effort.

Jones is the only other double-digit scorer on the team.

"We are going to be more aggressive than the last time we played them," Jones said. "We have been playing good at home, and we are pumped for this one."

Jones and the rest of the upset-minded Aggies look to knock off their second ranked team of the season at Reed Arena. On Jan. 20, the Aggies downed the No. 25 Baylor Bears.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Freshman guard **Toccar Williams** looks to lead the Aggies over the 20th ranked Longhorns.

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## Liberal Arts Career Week

Tonight: Networking Workshop  
7:00 p.m.  
Koldus 111

Thursday, February 8th: Alumni Forum  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Reed Arena  
Social  
8:00 - ? p.m. Reed Arena

Friday, February 9th: Career Fair  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Rudder Exhibit Hall

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