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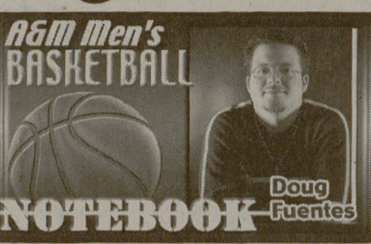
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# Ags hitting the mark with shooting



The Texas A&M men's basketball team continued on the right track last week, splitting a pair of home games.

The Aggies (9-16, 2-10 in Big 12) held off the University of Texas-Pan American Broncs, 81-78, on Valentine's Day. A&M had its three-game winning streak snapped Saturday when the Missouri Tigers held off a late charge by A&M to defeat the Aggies, 97-90.

The Aggies stay in Big 12 play this week as they host the Oklahoma State Cowboys at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday in a game televised by Fox Sports Southwest.

A&M finishes up its home schedule Saturday against the Texas Tech Red Raiders at 5 p.m.

**Foul Play**

The referees have been working their whistles overtime in the Aggies' past two games.

In Wednesday's game against UT-Pan American, the referees called a Reed Arena record 53 fouls, of which 25 were on the Aggies.

To follow that up, another Reed Arena record was set Saturday against Missouri when 56 fouls were called, including 30 on the Aggies.

The 109 fouls meant plenty of time at the free-throw line, as a total

of 132 free throws were shot in the two games.

"It does take away from the concentration of our team," said A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins. "But if we foul, they should call them. Once again, I think with the new rules, there's been inconsistencies going on through out college basketball, not just our games."

"It's hurt some kids, and in particular, our young kids in trying to adjust to what's a foul and what's not a foul. It's hard to tell them because I understand what they're saying. You bump sometimes, it's OK. Other times it's a foul."

**Brick Shortage**

The Aggies have discovered their shooting touch in the month of February.

A&M has shot over 45 percent in its five games this month, including 50.8 percent against Missouri on Saturday, its best mark in Big 12 play. The Aggies have averaged 47.4 percent in the five games this month.

It's a big turnaround for the Ags, who averaged only 35 percent from the floor in the six games prior to the month of February.

"The difference is that one, we have different options now with Nick [Anderson] picking up his scoring," Watkins said. "That means that Bernard [King] doesn't have to force it as much."

"Two, I think we've reached a comfort zone, and the kids are getting more confident and understanding what we consider good shots."



Doug Fuentes is a senior journalism major. A&M freshman forward Nick Anderson shoots over Missouri's Johnson in the Aggies' 97-90 loss to the Tigers on Saturday.

## Baseball to face SHSU in Huntsville

The Texas A&M baseball team will look to rebound from a three-game sweep suffered at the hands of Arizona this past weekend as it travel to Huntsville to face the Sam Houston Bearkats on Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Freshman Matt Farnum will be the starting pitcher for the Aggies today. The right-hander will be making his second appearance of the season as he threw three innings in Saturday's loss to Arizona.

Admission to Sam Houston's Holleman Field is free.



FARNUM

## Men's tennis fares well at indoors

It was a solid weekend for the Texas A&M men's tennis team at the UTSA/ITA National Team Indoor Championship in Seattle, Wash.

No. 10 A&M (7-2) started the tournament strong, sailing through its opening round opponent No. 11 Virginia Commonwealth, 4-0. The Aggies blistered VCU in singles play, with the closest match being sophomore Ryan Newport's upset of 50th-ranked Florian Marquardt,

## Sports in Brief

6-4, 6-4.

In the quarterfinals, A&M nearly upset No. 3 UCLA, falling just short, 4-3. The Aggies held a brief 3-2 lead after upsets by senior Shuon Madden and freshman Nathan Price.

Madden knocked off 10th ranked Jean-Julien Rojer in straight sets, and Price defeated No. 62 Lassi Ketola, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

Unfortunately for the Aggies, they could not seal the deal and lost the final two singles matches, including a three-set defeat in the sixth and deciding match.

UCLA went on to beat No. 1 Stanford and claim the championship.

A&M rebounded well the next day by sweeping Oklahoma State, 4-0.

The Aggies will travel to Florida to battle the No. 8 Florida Gators on Friday. The match will mark the fourth top-15 team the Aggies' have faced in their last five outings.

**Women's tennis sweeps road trip**

The Texas A&M women's tennis team completed its weekend swing through Florida in style, winning matches against Florida International on Friday and the University of Miami on Sunday.



MADDEN

## Tracksters post strong showing

The 30th-ranked Aggies (6-0) rolled over No. 41 Florida International, 6-1. On Sunday, A&M held on to beat Miami 4-3.

The Aggies, who have yet to lose a doubles point, did not disappoint by winning two of the three doubles matches. A&M's duo of freshman Jessica Roland and sophomore Ashley Hedberg claimed an 8-2 victory in their match to complete a perfect weekend.

**Tough road for the Ag**

With as many as six teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 during the season, travel for Big 12 matchups has been fun as traversing the conference with Great Aunt Fran.

The Aggies have lost 13 straight on the road, dating last season when A&M opened conference play with a victory over Baylor in Waco.

Overall, the Aggies are 4-3 away from home since the start of the Big 12 Conference.

## STREAK

*Continued from page 1*

Saunders ends scoring streak

The Aggies' floor leader, ta Saunders, ended a 24-game digit scoring streak Saturday when the 5-11 forward mustered just seven points in the Aggies' win over Colorado.

Saunders' last single digit performance came last season at the University of Texas at Austin.

Saunders' seven points per game, sliding her into the second spot in scoring in the conference and sixth in the nation.

Saunders' seven double-digits rank her fourth in the Big 12.

Brian Ruff is a sports journalist.

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