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A&M limps into game with ISU

Women's basketball team's losing streak extends to eight games

By BRIAN RUFF

The Battalion

When the Texas A&M women's basketball team takes on No. 9 Iowa State Saturday in Ames, Iowa, two scenarios could occur. One: The Aggies, losers of their last eight and 11 out of 12, could play like the team did more than a month ago, when the A&M squad knocked off the No. 25 team in the country. Or Two: The Aggies could play like they did earlier this week, when the team went eight minutes into the opening half without a field goal, and suffer their 13th loss in Big 12 play.

The Aggies (12-13, 2-12) are coming off a 60-55 loss to the Kansas State Wildcats in Manhattan Tuesday. The Aggies got off to a slow start and trailed the Wildcats 18-1 almost halfway into the first

half, before the Aggies hit a field goal. The Aggies battled back into position to take the lead, but the Wildcats hit a clutch free throw to secure the win.

"We fought back, but it was a little to late," said A&M women's basketball coach Peggie Gillom after Tuesday night's loss to Kansas State. "I praised them for fighting back."

Senior forward Jaynetta Saunders said she hopes to lead the Aggies to victory and end the losing streak. Saunders is second in the Big 12 in scoring with a 22.4 point-per-game average.

Freshman point guard Toccarra Williams is second in the conference in assists, with an average of 7.04 per game. Williams has also set Aggie freshman season records for

assists and steals this season.

The Cyclones (21-4, 13-1) being led this season by junior center Angie Welle, who averages 10.2 boards-per-game average.

As a team, Iowa State leads the conference with its scoring margin, outscoring its opponents by an average of 17 points per contest. Cyclones are also second in the conference in rebounding margin, as the Aggies sit at the bottom of Big 12 in the category, averaging under 10 rebounds less than their opponents per match up.

The Aggies look for their first win over Iowa State since the teams began battle.

Tip off against the Cyclones is set for 2 p.m. Saturday.

Texas A&M golf teams hit the road

By KEVIN ESPENLAUB

The Battalion

The Texas A&M men's and women's golf teams will head out of town as they continue their spring seasons with tournaments this weekend.

The women's golf team begins their season in the Sixth Annual Midwest Classic Golf Tournament at the Hyatt Bear Creek West Golf Course in Dallas on Friday. The Aggies will play 18 holes per day in the team competition, totaling 54 holes. The 5,838-yard course is par 72 and tee times will begin between at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

A&M women's golf coach Jeanne Sutherland will travel with seniors Mimi Epps and Marta Ostos, juniors Anna Jonsson and McKenzie Dylsin and freshman Mira Bendevis to represent the Aggies in the tournament.

The 18 teams competing in Dallas include six top-25 ranked teams including No. 11 Northwestern, No. 14 Purdue, No. 15 Ohio State University, No. 22 Oklahoma State University, No. 24 Oklahoma University and No. 25 Kent.

The women's last action took place in Oahu, Hawaii on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The team finished fifth out of 10 teams in the Rainbow Wahine Fall Classic and scored the highest placing of the fall season. Jonsson led the Aggies in the tournament with her ninth place individual finish.

The Aggie men's team is coming off a 13th place finish in the Taylor Made Waikoloa Tournament in Hawaii. The Aggies performance of sophomore Matt Lindholm, who finished 19th place of the more than 100 participants in the tournament last weekend, will be a greater success in this weekend's action.

The men will travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the San Juan Shootout Sunday through Tuesday. The tournament will feature 18 holes per day for a 54-hole total. The tournament will be at the par 72 Mar Country Club Ocean Course. The Aggies will be competing against second-ranked Clemson Tigers who will try to repeat their success from last year's tournament where they walked away with the title and a four-shot victory over Georgia Tech University. Georgia Tech will also travel to San Juan to participate in this year's tournament.

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Sports in Brief

Softball competes in California

Currently on a four game winning streak, the 21st-ranked Texas A&M softball team is going back to California to compete in the UC-Santa Barbara Invitational at Elings park.

The competition includes Cal Poly SLO, the University of California-Santa Barbara, San Jose State University and the University of Virginia.

The Aggies are the only ranked team competing in Santa Barbara. The Aggies are aware that they are thought of as the prey rather than the predator.

"Teams are going to bring their best," said A&M softball coach Jo Evans. "They are gonna try to measure themselves against us."

"We are excited to play this

weekend," said senior pitcher Amy Vining. "We go into every tournament thinking that we are the best team there."

The Aggies begin competition today when they face San Jose State. The Ags face Cal Poly SLO tonight.

The tournament resumes on Saturday when the Ags play Santa Clara, and then Virginia. The tournament wraps up on Sunday as the Aggies go against the tournament host, Santa Barbara.

Last Chance faces swimmers

The Texas A&M women's swimming team will travel to Austin Friday to compete in the Last Chance Meet. The meet gives Aggie swimmers one last chance to qualify for

the NCAA championships in Long Island, N.Y., March 15-17.

A&M coach Steve Bultman said junior Clara Ho is the only Aggie swimmer who will qualify with her current times.

Ho swam consideration times in both the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events during the Big 12 Championships last weekend.

The Last Chance Meet will be the last NCAA competition this season for A&M swimmers.

The Big 12 championships where A&M finished second, will be broadcast on Fox Sports Southwest at 3 p.m., Feb. 24.



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