

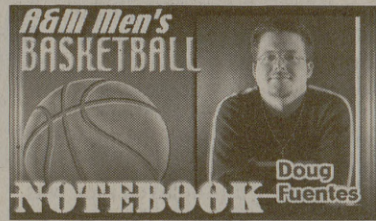
BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore guard Jamaal Gilchrist attempts a pass between two Texas Tech defenders during

the Aggies' 62-52 victory over the Red Raiders on Saturday at Reed Arena.

Ags head into homestretch

Men's basketball team looks to improve its standing in Big 12 Tournament play during final two games



NOTEBOOK
Doug Fuentes

The Texas A&M men's basketball team heads into its last week of the season after splitting a pair of games last week. The Aggies squandered a half-time lead against Oklahoma State on Wednesday, losing 82-76. A&M completed a season sweep of Texas Tech on Saturday with a 62-52 victory. A&M will end the regular season with a pair of road games. The Aggies travel to Lincoln, Neb., on Wednesday to face the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers. The Aggies attempt another season sweep Saturday as they travel to Waco to take on the Baylor Bears.

Jockeying for Position

The Aggies enter the final week of the season with a real chance to improve their seeding in the Big 12 Tournament on March 8-11. A&M is tied with Kansas State for last place in the conference with a 3-11 record. Texas Tech is a half-game up in the loss column with a 3-10 record.

K-State has two games left, at Kansas and at Colorado.

Tech has three games this week, hosting Oklahoma State and Texas and traveling to Iowa State.

If both Tech and K-State go winless and the Aggies win one game, A&M will earn the 10th seed.

The Aggies have an outside shot at the ninth seed. If Baylor loses both its remaining games (OSU, A&M) and A&M wins out, the teams would be tied with 5-11 conference records.

The Aggies would then get the ninth seed, thanks to the season sweep of Baylor.

Road Woes

The games against Oklahoma State and Texas Tech completed a four-game homestand for the Aggies. Overall, A&M finished with a .500 record at home at 7-7.

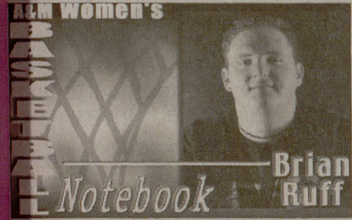
With the final two games of the season on the road, the Aggies must travel to a place that has not been kind to them all season long.

A&M is just 1-8 on the road this season, with its only win coming at Texas Tech, 72-70. In Big 12 play, the Aggies have been outscored by an average of 17 points per contest.

"In the Big 12, when you play on the road, it's tough no matter who you are," said A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins. "For us in particular, we haven't had that much success on the road, so that complicates matters even more so. But we'll go in with a game plan and see if we can make it work."

Doug Fuentes is a senior journalism major.

Aggies' losing streak reaches nine games



NOTEBOOK
Brian Ruff

The Texas A&M women's basketball team hopes to close out the regular season on a positive note and halt a nine-game losing streak this week when it takes on the Kansas Jayhawks at Reed Arena on Wednesday night.

Last week, the Aggies suffered another pair of conference losses

at the hands of the No. 9 Iowa State Cyclones and the Kansas State Wildcats.

On Feb. 20, the Aggies traveled to Manhattan and were handed a 60-55 loss by the Wildcats.

Senior forward Jaynetta Saunders led the Aggies against the Wildcats with 24 points and freshman guard Toccara Williams added 14 points.

On Saturday, the No. 9 Cyclones used eight 3-pointers to pull away from the Aggies, 82-61, in front of a crowd of 12,931, the second largest of the season for ISU. Saunders once again led the squad with 29 points.

The Jayhawks will come into Reed Arena on Wednesday with a two-game losing streak. Kansas suffered losses to Missouri and Nebraska last week, after knocking off Iowa State on Feb. 17.

Saunders rewrites record book

Saunders, the Aggies' scoring leader for most of the season, added two more A&M records to her resume last week.

On Saturday night, the 5-11 junior college transfer had 29 points, breaking the single season scoring record of 577, held by Peggy Pope who played for the Aggies during

the 1978-79 seasons.

Saunders also became the 16th Aggie to reach 1,000 career points, and just the second Aggie to hit the milestone in only two seasons.

Saunders joins senior guard Brandy Jones, the 15th to reach the 1,000 point plateau, who accomplished the feat earlier this season.

Saunders leads the Aggies with a 22.7 points-per-game average, good enough for second in the Big 12 conference behind Baylor's Danielle Crockrom, who averages 23 points per contest.

Brian Ruff is a sophomore journalism major.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

A&M senior forward Jaynetta Saunders became the Aggies' all-time single season scoring leader with 577 points.

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