

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Kansas hands Aggs 10th straight loss

A&M squad moves to Big 12 tournament after 75-62 defeat by Jayhawks

By BRIAN RUFF
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team can put a dismal second half of the season behind it now and look forward to a fresh start in the Big 12 tournament. The Aggies (12-15, 2-14 in Big 12) closed out the regular season with a 75-62 loss to the Kansas Jayhawks at Reed Arena on Wednesday night.

The Aggies have now lost 10 straight conference games and 12 out of their last 13 matchups. The 10 straight losses ties an A&M record that was set by the A&M squad during the 1998-99 season.

The Jayhawks worked well inside, scoring 22 points in the paint in the first half, and chipping in another 22 from the lane in the second frame.

"We tried to force them into a half-court game," said Kansas women's basketball coach Marian Washington. "I thought our team did a good job of that tonight."

The Jayhawks were led by junior center Nikki White, who had 20 points coming off the bench. Twenty-five of Kansas' points came from bench players.

"Anytime our bench is able to contribute, it really helps us," Washington said. "We rely so much on Jennifer [Jackson] and Jaclyn [Jackson] so much and when they are not playing well, we really struggle."

Senior forward Brooke Reeves also added 18 points and nine rebounds.

A&M senior forward Jaynetta Saunders, the Big 12's second-leading scorer, had 21 points in her final game at Reed Arena.

"They ran some different defenses, and we weren't capitalizing and running the offense like we were supposed to," Saunders said. "We really weren't getting the shots we wanted."

The Aggies closed the Jayhawk lead, which was built as high as 16

points in the first half, to only seven points with only two minutes to play. A&M was unable to get any closer to the Jayhawks, who shot an amazing 57.9 percent from the floor to put the Aggies away.

"I told them it is not too late. The season is not over yet."

—Peggie Gillom
A&M women's basketball coach

The Aggies outrebounded the Jayhawks 20-9 on the offensive side, something the A&M squad has been struggling with all season.

"We went to the offensive boards," said A&M women's basketball coach Peggie Gillom. "That is something we haven't done all

year. We just missed a lot of shots. Kansas came out and shot the ball very well."

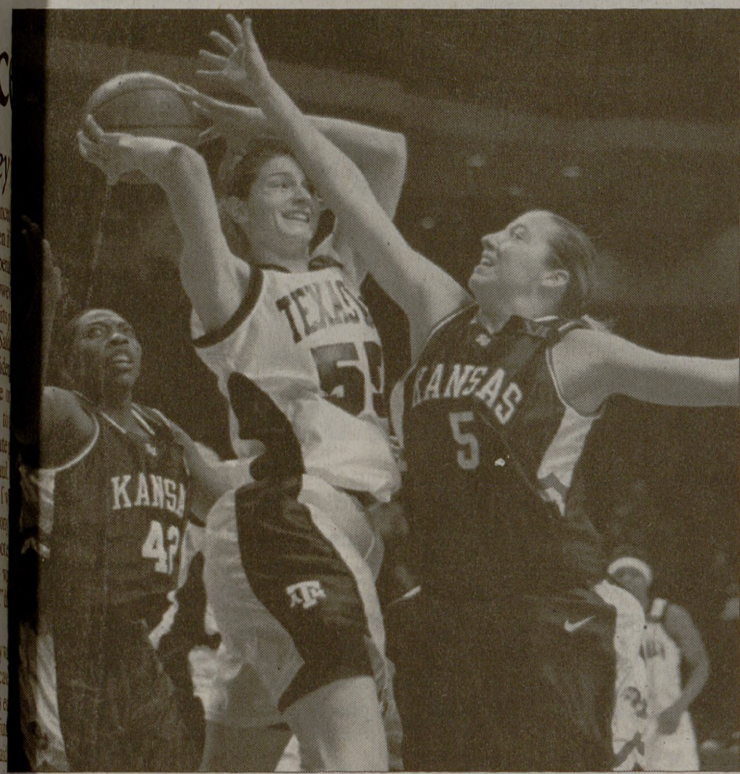
Three seniors on the A&M squad were honored before Wednesday night's game. Saunders, guard Brandy Jones, and post Margaret Eaton all made their final trip to the floor of Reed Arena.

Jones also added 10 points in her final game as an Aggie.

"I told them (the seniors) it is not too late," Gillom said. "The season is not over yet. My heart goes out to them and I would have liked them to go out with a victory."

With the loss, the Aggies will draw the 12th seed in the Big 12 tournament that begins March 6 in Kansas City. A&M will take on the Missouri Tigers, who beat the Aggies Jan. 10 by a score of 69-61.

Tip off against the Tigers is set for 2:20 p.m.



ROBIN GRAHAM/THE BATTALION

M sophomore post Lynn Classen wrestles a rebound from two Kansas defenders during the Aggies' 75-62 loss to the Jayhawks.

Aggies use early lead to pound Cougars, 6-1

TRUE BROWN

The only thing colder than the spring for Slather Wednesday night was the rearing sheath of Houston women's tennis team, which the Aggies defeated to make such ease, 6-1.

The matches were scheduled to be held at the Varsity Tennis Center, but were moved to the Bryan Indoor Sports Center because of rain.

For the eighth time in a row, the Aggies (8-1, 1-1 in Big 12) took the early lead by winning two of three doubles matches. The tandem of junior Leah Leahr and senior Eva Marcial had no problems at all, blazing past Jen Baccarani and Anne Marie Rapp, 8-0.

The duo of juniors Martina Nedorostova and Majorie Terburgh followed that up with an overpowering 8-3 victory over the Cougars' Sarah Flood and Karine Urbin.

"We were really pumped up," Terburgh said. "We came out here and took care of business. We are playing really well."

The lone doubles loss of the evening came when the 11th-ranked team of freshman Jessica Roland and sophomore Ashley Hedberg dropped an 8-4 decision.

A&M took a 2-0 lead when UH defaulted at No. 6 singles after an injury to Urbin.

The first singles win for the Aggies came at No. 2. Roland rebounded

from her earlier loss in doubles with some very steady play, winning in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2. Roland's win put the score at 3-0.

The Cougars posted their lone point of the night at No. 1. Sarah Borwell used a strong serve and pinpoint accuracy to glide past A&M sophomore Olivia Karlikova, 6-4, 6-2.

Just seven minutes later, Terburgh clinched the team victory at No. 3. Terburgh, who was battling a sore throat, turned in an inspired performance and won a back-and-forth contest, 7-5, 6-4.

The win, Terburgh's fourth in a row, gives her a 7-1 record in singles play.

Killen, playing at No. 5, ended her two-match losing streak by winning in

two sets, 6-2, 6-2. Killen lost the first two games in both sets before catching fire and running off wins in six straight games.

Nedorostova continued her strong play, riding an early lead to a 6-2, 7-6(5) win.

"We felt like we should win the match," said A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke. "We just had to stay out and make them hit enough balls, which was what our game plan was. We did what we had to do to win the matches."

The Aggies, who moved up to No. 25 in the latest WingspanBank.com polls, will take a week off before taking on the No. 7 Vanderbilt Commodores on Wednesday.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Sophomore Olivia Karlikova and the Aggies defeated the Houston Cougars easily, 6-1, on Wednesday night.

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