

## UT up next for Aggies

By True Brown  
THE BATTALION

Just when it looks like there might be a break in the clouds for the Texas A&M men's basketball team, the road comes calling. This time the road leads straight to Austin, where the red-hot University of Texas Longhorns await.

The road has been brutal for A&M this season, and the Aggies have managed only a 2-9 record away from Reed Arena.

The skies seem a bit brighter after A&M (7-11, 3-3 Big 12) posted a 63-60 win over Baylor Saturday, its first conference win of the season.

"The first thing I've noticed is that the guys had smile when they came to practice," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "It didn't seem like it was such a chore. The guys have been working hard and the only part that was missing was that we hadn't gotten a win. [Saturday] was surely a way of saying that if you keep working hard, good things will happen."

UT head coach Rock Barnes has his team firing in all cylinders, as the Longhorns (13-4, 4-0) have won 12 of their last 13 games, including a road win over then-No. 5 Oklahoma State on Jan. 5.

The Longhorns have been without forward Chris Owens, their leading scorer, since a Dec. 29 game in Utah where he tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee, ending his season.

With Owens' absence, the Horns have relied on the likes of guards Brandon Mouton, Royal Ivey and T.J. Ford.

Ford, a freshman, leads the nation in assists with an 8.4 average and surpassed last year's team leader in assists for the entire season during his eighth game.

"[Ford] has a great understanding of the game," Barnes said. "He really sees what is going on, and if he doesn't see something, he has a great understanding of what needs to be happening."

Watkins said he will depend on more than one player to guard Ford.

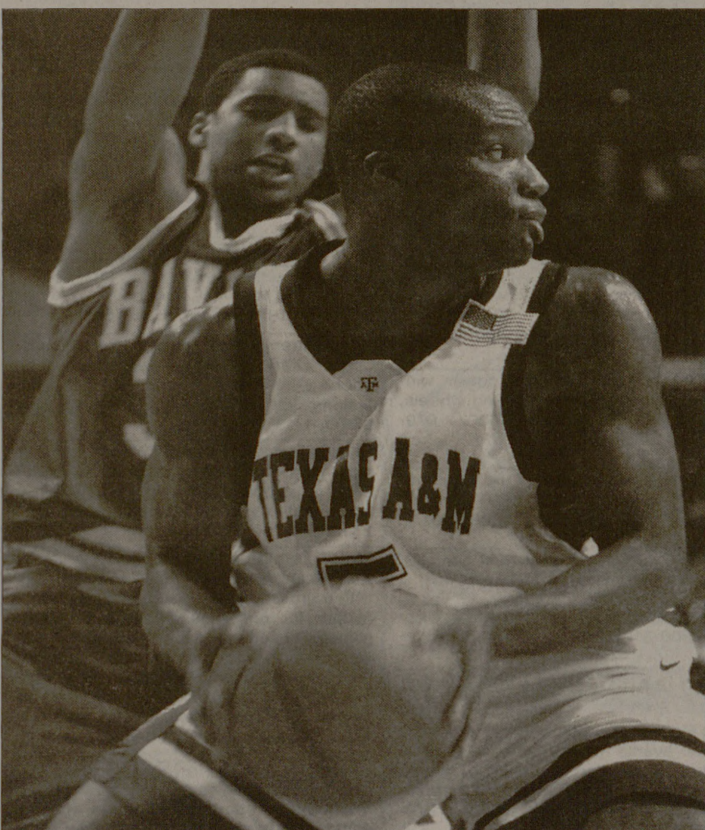
"(Junior guard) Bradley Jackson will get T.J. Ford and (senior guard) Andy Leatherman and whoever else we can find to guard him," Watkins said. "He's having a sensational freshman year. He is a special player."

Watkins also announced that freshman guard Daryl Mason has been cleared to return to practice with the team. Mason, along with sophomore guard Michael Gardener, was suspended prior to A&M's game against Oklahoma on Jan. 5.

The pair have missed all four of the Aggies' conference games.

Watkins did not say when Mason would be allowed to resume playing in games. He also

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION  
Sophomore forward Nick Anderson and the Texas A&M men's basketball team will take on the University of Texas at 8 p.m. tonight in Austin.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Three sign letter of intent for A&M

The Texas A&M women's swimming and diving team announced the signing of three athletes to a National Letter of Intent Tuesday.

Paty Villarreal, from Jacksonville, Fla., was a Mexican Olympian in 2000 and swims the distance freestyle event.

Katy Lieb, from Brookfield, Wis., was the 2001 Wisconsin High School State Champion in the 200 freestyle.

Kara Morelli, from Scottsdale, Ariz., was the 2001 Arizona State High School champion and automatic All-American in the 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley.

#### Coakley added to Pro Bowl roster

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dallas Cowboys linebacker Dexter Coakley was added to the NFC Pro Bowl roster Tuesday, replacing Derrick Brooks of Tampa Bay, who is injured.

Coakley, a Pro Bowler in 1999, becomes the first Dallas linebacker to earn multiple trips to the Pro Bowl since Bob Breunig went for the third time in 1982.

Prior to this season, Coakley signed a \$25 million, six-year contract, the most the team has ever given a linebacker. That deal, which included a \$5.5 million signing bonus, ended an exodus of 13 free-agent linebackers the Cowboys had lost since free agency began in 1989.

## Tough stretch continues for A&M

By Kevin Espenlaub  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team (10-7, 2-3) will reach the halfway point of a brutal seven game stretch against ranked opponents Wednesday when it tries to get back on track after a 88-70 defeat Saturday at the hands of the No. 19 University of Colorado Buffaloes.

Standing in its way is a tough Baylor team (13-3, 2-3) that will enter Wednesday's game on the heels of a dominating win over the University of Missouri Tigers, 80-59, Saturday. The Bears enter the contest at the Ferrell

Center in Waco ranked No. 14.

The Aggies started the rough stretch at Reed Arena with a win over then-ranked No. 5 Iowa State and a narrow defeat by the No. 9 Kansas State Wildcats. Saturday's game was another close contest at halftime when the Aggies hit the locker room trailing by one, but Colorado was able to pull away in the second half with the help a 7-of-8 three-point shooting performance. A&M finished the game with 11 buckets from the long-range line.

After shooting 50 percent from the field for the first half, the team followed up with a 32 percent performance in the

final 20 minutes of the game.

"I think we played well in the first half, but we just ran out of gas in the second," said A&M head coach Peggie Gillom. "Offensively we just weren't able to get anything going."

One bright spot for the team was their leading scorer, senior guard LaToya Rose, who shot for 19 points, including five from the three-point line. Rose was the leading scorer for the team during the upset over Iowa State when she notched a school-record eight three-pointers.

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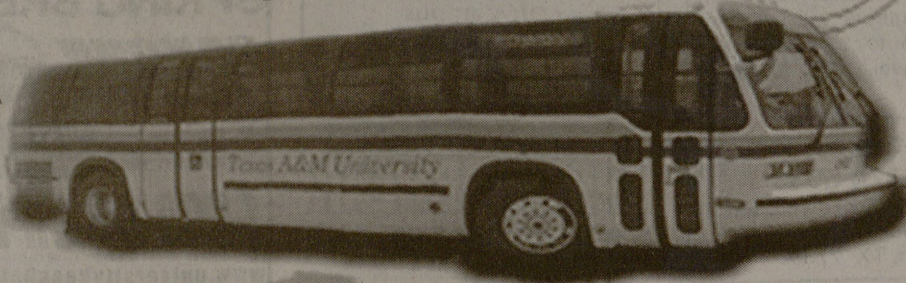
JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION  
Texas A&M sophomore Janae Derrick puts up a shot against Iowa State Jan. 12.

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