

## Seniors lead way for A&M tennis team

By Dallas Shipp  
THE BATTALION

After a relaxing weekend in Hawaii, both on and off the courts, the No. 19 Texas A&M women's tennis team is looking forward to spring.

The Aggies defeated The University of Hawaii 6-1 Thursday and swept California State Northridge Saturday at the Turtle Bay Hilton courts in Hawaii. Head coach Bobby Kleinecke, in his 16th season as the A&M women's tennis coach, said he is very encouraged with the team's performance in Hawaii.

"It is a great start to our season," Kleinecke said. "The team did a great job of taking care of business on the courts while also enjoying their time in Hawaii."

The Aggies, after a school-best 20-6 record last year, did not end the

season well. Four of the six losses suffered by the Aggies last year were to top 25 teams. After losing to No. 15 Texas in the Big 12 tournament, the Aggies advanced to the NCAA Championship where they were knocked out in the first round by Tulane.

With the entire lineup returning from last season, the Aggies will have a strong amount of experience and depth in 2002.

The majority of returning experience comes in the form of five returning seniors. Robyn Bassett, Olivia Karlikova, Leah Killen, Martina Nedorostova and Majorie Terburgh all return from last season's squad that finished ranked No. 19 and reached the NCAA Team Championships for the seventh time in school history.

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Seniors (clockwise from top) Robyn Bassett, Leah Killen, Martina Nedorostova, Majorie Terburgh and Olivia Karlikova are all returning to the women's tennis team.

## Aggies stun Longhorns

### King leads Ags in 80-74 upset

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AUSTIN — The last time the Texas A&M men's basketball team won at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin, most of the current student body was still in grade school.

That dark cloud was lifted Wednesday night when the Aggies defeated No. 24 Texas, 80-74, in front of 10,602 at the Erwin Center.

After struggling at the end of the first half, A&M (8-11, 2-3 Big 12) came out of the locker room and could not miss the basket. The Aggies dominated, hitting their first seven shots to take a 50-39 lead.

A&M never trailed again, hitting crucial shot after crucial shot and playing stifling defense against the Longhorns (13-5, 4-1).

"It was really important that we came back out in the second half and didn't fold under the pressure," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "The guys stepped up and closed out the game in a positive way."

Junior guard Bernard King came up huge for the Aggies, hitting 13-of-14 from the free-throw line, with seven assists and a season-high 30 points.

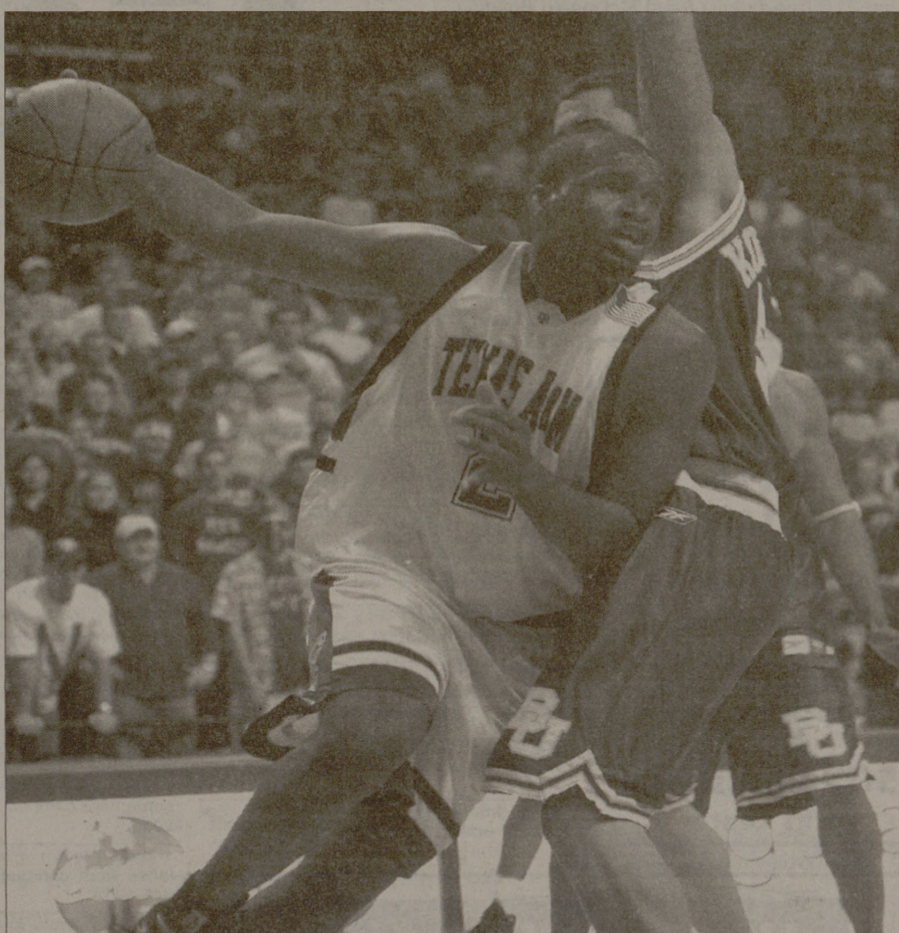
"To come in here and get the win means a lot to this team," King said. "We've had some struggles this year and to beat a good team in their own gym means a lot."

King had a lot of help from his teammates as the Aggies shot 60 percent from the floor and hit 23-of-27 free throws.

"If we didn't turn over the ball 15 times in the first half, we would have been up 10 points," Watkins said.

As much as the Aggies are excited about the victory, Watkins said there is no time to relax.

"Our fans are probably dancing in



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A&M junior forward Keith Bean, shown here against Baylor Saturday, scored three points in the Aggies' 80-74 win in Austin. The win was A&M's first against Texas in 17 games.

the street. We have [No. 2] Kansas coming up so it shows you you can't relax in the Big 12," Watkins said.

While Wednesday's game was a huge boost for the Aggies, it was a disappointing loss for guard T.J. Ford and the Longhorns, who fell to 4-1 in conference play.

"Players will struggle," Ford said. "It is just a part of basketball. We just have to rebound from this loss. [Texas A&M]

is a good team and played a great game. They stuck together and came out more fired up than we were."

Wednesday night marks the first win over a ranked opponent on the road for A&M since 1982, which also came against Texas, 70-59.

The last time the Aggies beat a ranked opponent was two years ago in Reed Arena, as No. 12 Oklahoma State fell to A&M, 64-59.

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