

Ranked teams invade Reed Arena on Saturday

Aggies look to keep momentum going versus No. 2 Jayhawks

By Doug Fuentes
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's basketball team will have little time to savor its historic victory over the University of Texas Wednesday, as the Aggies return home to host the No. 2 Kansas Jayhawks Saturday at 3 p.m. in Reed Arena.

The Aggies (8-11, 2-3 Big 12) are coming off an 80-74 victory over the No. 24 Longhorns, which was the first for A&M in Austin since 1987.

The victory snapped a 16-game losing streak to Texas dating back to 1994 and was A&M's first victory on the road against a ranked opponent since 1982, also against Texas.

Junior guard Bernard King scored a season-high 30 points to lead the Aggies, who had a hot shooting night, hitting 59.5 percent of their shots including 58.3 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Sophomore forward Nick Anderson chipped in 13 points and eight rebounds for the Aggies, who out rebounded the

Longhorns 37-27.

"Our fans are probably dancing in the street," A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins said. "We have [No. 2] Kansas coming up, so it shows you can't relax in the Big 12."

With the Jayhawks (16-2, 5-0) coming into town, the Aggies will face a Kansas team that also got a monkey off its back with a victory on Wednesday night.

Kansas defeated Iowa State, 88-81, at Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa, to break a five-game losing streak against the Cyclones.

It was also the first victory for the Jayhawks at Hilton Coliseum since Feb. 4, 1998.

Drew Gooden, the reigning Big 12 Player of the Week, led the Jayhawks with 23 points and 12 rebounds against the Cyclones.

In last year's meeting, the Jayhawks defeated the Aggies 100-70 at Allen Fieldhouse.



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION
A&M junior guard Bradley Jackson dribbles the ball through a pair of Baylor defenders. The Aggies take on No. 2 Kansas on Saturday at Reed Arena

A&M women hope to bounce back against No. 4 Oklahoma

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

There could not be a better time for the Texas A&M women's basketball team to return to Reed Arena than this weekend.

After losing two straight on the road by an average of 26 points, the Aggies welcome a three-game stretch at home beginning Saturday at 7 p.m. as they face the No. 4 University of Oklahoma Sooners.

The game will be the second half of a men's-women's basketball double header.

The Aggies (10-8, 2-4 Big 12) are coming off a rough showing in Waco Wednesday. The No. 14 Baylor Bears dominated the game and stretched their lead to as much as 40 points.

The final score was the largest margin of defeat this season for A&M, 95-61.

Senior guard LaToya Rose's 13 points led the Aggies in their third-consecutive Big 12 loss.

"I knew Baylor was good, but not that many points better than us," said A&M head coach Peggie Gillom. "It was a long

night. I told them to forget about that one, and let's go forward."

However, going forward will not be easy for the Aggies as Oklahoma (15-2, 5-1) will be riding into College Station after defeating the No. 12 University of Texas Longhorns Saturday, 89-69.

"I knew Baylor was good, but not that many points better than us. It was a long night."

— Peggie Gillom
Women's basketball coach

During the matchup, six Oklahoma players scored double digits and forced 24 turnovers against a Longhorn team that is on a six-game winning streak and undefeated in conference play.

See **Bounce** on page 7

Men's tennis opens home schedule

By Joel Hudgins
THE BATTALION

Make no mistake, the Texas A&M men's tennis team loves playing at home.

Even though the No. 13 Aggies had early success at both Rice and Miami, it seems they feel most comfortable at home. Last year's team finished with an amazing 15-1 record at home, one reason Saturday's triple header with Texas Pan-American, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Trinity is so important.

"That's very unusual for us to play a triple header," Cass said. "It's quite a challenge. One of our goals is to get all

eight or nine guys in and get them some experience. It will be a great test for these kids. It really should help us."

"It will be a great test for these kids. It really should help us."

— Tim Cass
men's tennis head coach

"Three matches in one day: that's going to be a lot of tennis," said sophomore Khaled El

Dorry. "It should be very good for our team to get ready physically. It really helps to get a lot of matches under our belt."

The Aggies are coming off a successful trip to the Met/Rice Indoors Tournament last weekend.

At the tournament for the Aggies, senior Jarin Skube reached the consolation finals in Flight A and El Dorry reached the consolation finals in Flight B.

"The tournament at Rice went well," Cass said. "Some guys have played 10 matches in the past eight or nine days. With that in mind, it's been a great start, and all in all, it was a great weekend."

The Aggie freshmen dou-

bles team of Ante Matijevic and Derrick Bauer reached the finals of Flight B.

In addition, Bauer made the quarterfinals in singles. Cass has been impressed with the play and maturity of his freshmen so far.

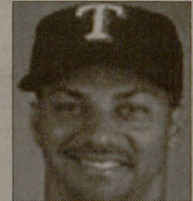
"I think as a group, the new guys have done a good job," Cass said. "They've come in and done very well, not only in the tournaments, but also in their preparation for matches."

The triple header on Saturday starts with Texas Pan-American at 10 a.m., followed by Texas A & M-Corpus Christi at 1:30 p.m. The Aggies finish the day by playing Trinity at 5 p.m.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Gonzalez completes physical for Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Juan Gonzalez moved a step closer to finalizing his \$24 million, two-year contract with the Texas Rangers, completing a physical Thursday before flying home to Puerto Rico.



GONZALEZ

Team doctors will review the results from a series of different tests over two days. Rangers spokesman John

Blake said the results were not available Thursday.

Gonzalez and the Rangers agreed to terms Jan. 8, but the deal is contingent on the two-time AL MVP passing the physical.

Gonzalez has had some back problems in the past.

Gonzalez spent the first 11 seasons of his career in Texas, earning the AL MVP award in 1996 and 1998, before being traded to Detroit in a nine-player deal after the 1999 season.

After struggling his one season with the Tigers, Gonzalez rebounded to hit .325 with 35 homers and 140 RBIs last year in Cleveland and then became a free agent.

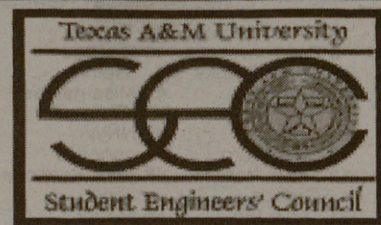
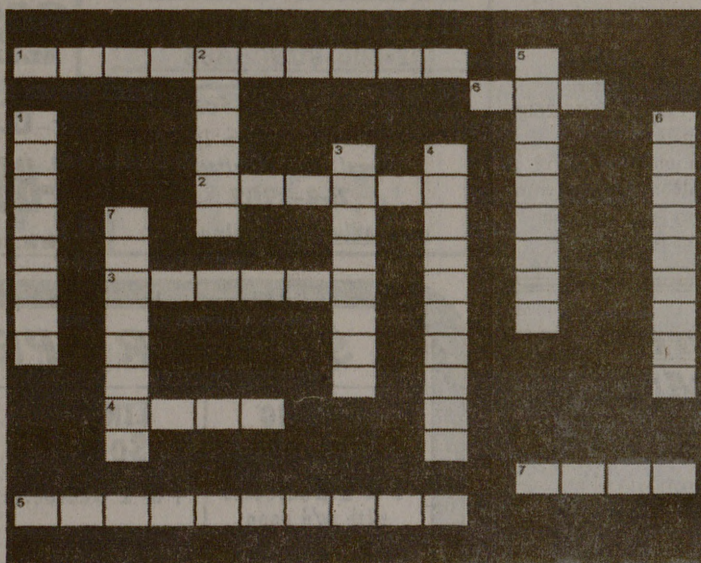
Ready for the SEC Career Fair? Try this crossword puzzle and find out!

Across

- Have copies of these to offer employers in case they ask.
- Have plenty of these on high-quality paper to distribute to recruiters.
- A company might print this on the free stuff they give away at career fairs.
- Short for "cooperative."
- A temporary job in one's field of study, sometimes unpaid.
- The host of the career fair.
- What you might wear to an interview.

Down

- What one might sign upon receiving a job offer.
- How you might get paid!
- The dress code for most offices might be described as this.
- Making contacts, meeting people.
- The person a company sends to career fairs.
- The first step towards getting a job.
- What you should do to prepare before an interview.



Career Fair

January 28
Reception/FREE Dinner
Hilton Ballroom ♦ 7-10 PM

January 29
Exhibition
Reed Arena ♦ 10 AM – 6 PM

For more information, see the
SEC website.

<http://sec.tamu.edu>

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