

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Tuesday, November 26, 2002

## Aggies open season on sour note, lose 65-59



Junior guard **Toccare Williams** fights toward the basket against Northwestern State Monday at Reed Arena in the Aggies' season opener.

By Gary Livingston  
THE BATTALION

Poor shooting and weak defense contributed to the Texas A&M women's basketball team's defeat, as it dropped the home and season opener to the Northwestern State Demons 65-59 on Monday night.

For the game, the Aggies shot a dismal 25.6 percent and were three for 22 from the three-point line for 13.6 percent. Even though the Aggies outrebounded the Demons 58-55, head coach Peggie Gillom said that stat was misleading.

"We got a lot, but then coughed it up," Gillom said. "We weren't tough. We were playing passive and they got too many second opportunities."

A&M did not play the way it had in the first two exhibition games. In those games at least four players scored in double digits and junior Janae Derrick led the team in scoring.

Against the Demons only two Aggies,

senior Kim Moore and junior Toccare Williams, scored in double digits. Derrick was 0-3 on the night with her only two points coming from free throws.

"We came out not ready to play, and they did," Gillom said. "We shot bad in the first half but since we were only down 25-24, I thought that was OK. We couldn't get going on offense or defense, and I think if we played defense we would have won."

The Demons seemed to control the momentum and the game all night, constantly catching the Aggies off guard and not letting them get into a rhythm.

Coach James Smith, who won the 300th game of his career, said the team had a massive effort to rebound, and said part of his team's success is its experience.

"We were 22-7 last year, and have all five starters returning," Smith said. "I was pleased with our performance and thought our defense was good at times."

Smith added that he thought his team made it a half court game, not allowing

A&M to get easy baskets, and controlling the ball as much as possible contributed to his team's victory.

He jokingly added that 300 wins means you're old, and that it's the players, not coaches, who usually win games.

"Not too many people know about our program because we're in the Southland Conference," Smith said. "But we have a good team. We've won at least 20 games every year over the past five years. We've only had two losing seasons since I've been here."

Coach Gillom, who was notably distraught after the loss, said her players are better than how they played and they have to show they want to win if they expect to compete for the rest of the season.

"We can't be on the court with them," Gillom said. "I'll say this, we had the shots, we just did not score."

A&M will return to action on Nov. 30 when it begins the Whataburger Basketball Classic at Reed Arena.

## Hidalgo recovering from gunshot

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Astros outfielder Richard Hidalgo sustained muscle and nerve damage when he was shot during an attempted carjacking in Venezuela last week, general manager Gerry Hunsicker said Monday.

Hidalgo has been examined by two team physicians since returning to Houston on Sunday. Hunsicker described Hidalgo as being in "good spirits."

"He's got some numbness in his little finger and ring finger as well as weakness in the fingers and hand area," Hunsicker said. Doctors plan some additional nerve and circulatory tests and

will monitor Hidalgo for the next 10 to 14 days before deciding if surgery is needed.

"If surgery is necessary it will be to explore and decompress the nerve," Hunsicker said. "Whether surgery is necessary or not, the doctors are cautiously optimistic that he'll be ready and available to participate in spring training next February."

Hunsicker said the team's biggest concern now is how serious the nerve damage is and how to go about repairing it.

The 27-year-old right fielder was shot Thursday in the left forearm during an attempted carjack-

ing at an intersection near his home in Valencia, about 90 miles from Caracas, Venezuela. Hidalgo bats and throws right-handed.

Hunsicker said that Hidalgo was on his way to meet someone when two men came up to his car. One stood in front of it and the other by the driver's side window. As Hidalgo started to drive away, the men beside the window fired a shot into the car, Hunsicker said.

Hidalgo was released from the hospital later that day. He recovered at home until returning to Houston on Sunday.

He has struggled since signing a four-year, \$32 million contract.

He missed the final six weeks of the season because of a strained hip, finishing with a .235 average, 15 home runs and 48 RBIs in 114 games.

While in Venezuela he has been in a workout program ordered by Hunsicker.

Turmoil and rising crime in Venezuela have prompted some major leaguers to remain in the United States during the offseason.

Magglio Ordonez, a Venezuelan outfielder with the Chicago White Sox, narrowly escaped a confrontation with thieves two weeks ago in Puerto La Cruz, about 210 miles from the capital.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Morris suspended for Texas-A&M game following arrest for DWI

Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum suspended linebacker Jared Morris indefinitely after Morris was arrested on driving while intoxicated charges by the College Station Police Department.

Morris was pulled over after reportedly reaching speeds of nearly 70 miles per hour on Texas Avenue Nov. 16 following the A&M-Missouri football game.

Morris reportedly performed poorly on field sobriety tests after being stopped and was taken to the Brazos County Jail until Sunday morning.

Slocum told the *Bryan-College Station Eagle*, "It would be my take, right now, that it would last beyond the Texas game."

Morris has started 10 games for A&M this season, but did not receive playing time in the Missouri game prior to his arrest due to a knee injury.

## GIG the TIGERS

Calling all Aggie fans in or near Houston over the Thanksgiving

holiday weekend! Your men's college basketball team leads off

a basketball triple-header Saturday, November 30 at the

spectacular new Reliant Stadium. Support your Aggies

against the Tigers of LSU at 1:30 pm. Then stick

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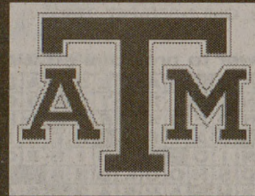
**Seton Hall**

**Baylor**

@7:00pm vs

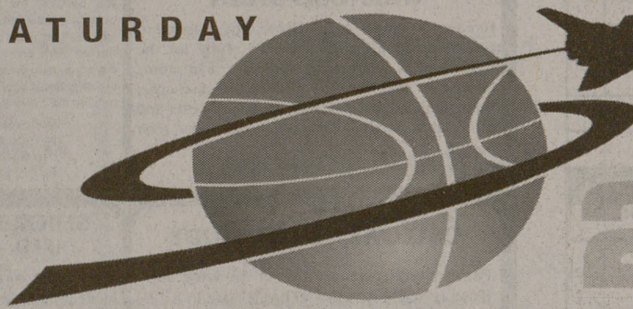
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Tickets start at only \$12 for admission to all three games.



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