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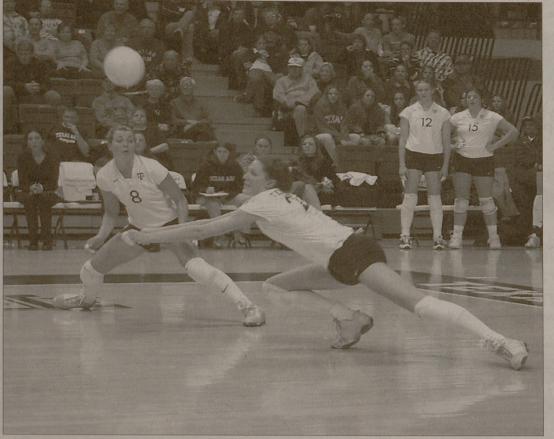
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**SPORTS** 

THE BATTALION

# Saves the day



Monday, December 2, 2002

Sophomore setter Lexy Beers is ready to help out freshman outside hitter Laura Jones who makes a save against the University of Texas in last Wednesday's game. The Aggies beat the Longhorns in four games in their final home match of the season. A&M defeated Iowa State on Saturday in Ames, Iowa in four games to finish fifth in the Big 12 standings for the season.

# Aggies hold off LSU in final seconds for 79-77 victory

By Dallas Shipp THE BATTALION

HOUSTON — Texas A&M and Louisiana State combined for 24 three-pointers in the first college basketball game played at Reliant Stadium in the 2002 Space City Hoops Classic but it

was crucial drives by senior guard Bernard King in the final minutes that led the Aggies to a 79-77 win.

The game came down to

the final seconds after LSU hit two threepointers in the final minute of play to get within two points.

With 17 seconds remaining in the game, junior guard Leandro Garcia-Morales threw an inbound pass over King's head and out of bounds, giving the Tigers the ball

on their end of the court. After LSU forward Antonio Hudson and LSU guard Torris Bright each missed possible game-tying shots, Bright was fouled by King, sending him to the line with 3.3 seconds remaining in the game for a one and one

opportunity. Bright missed his first shot and the Aggies got the rebound to hold on to a 79-77 victory over LSU.

Continued from page 7

Things did not go quite as well

The game continued to spiral downward for the

Aggies, as on the first play after receiving the kick-

off, Long threw his third interception of the game to

freshman Michael Huff. Huff returned the pick for a

Aggies as they took a 60-yard punt return into the

game after an 80-yard drive capped off by a fourth-

down, 15-yard touchdown rush by backup quarter-

back Jason Carter with just more than four minutes

Carter entered the game following an injury

The Aggies scored their final touchdown of the

endzone with 8:50 remaining in the game.

for the Aggies in their previous game against Miami last week. After taking a one-point lead with 1:32 in the game, the Aggies missed their final four shots and fell to the Hurricanes, 78-72.

"That Miami game showed us a lot even though we lost," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "This team has potential and a win like this will give us confidence that we can win close games at the end."

The Aggies opened up a 15point lead in the first half after going on a 23-7 run. During their impressive first half, the Aggies drained 10 three pointers, making nearly 72 percent of their shots from behind the three point arch. The Aggies would take a 45-38 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Aggies finished the game with 11 three-pointers, fifth most in school history and two short of the school record of 13.

"We have a lot of good shooters on this team," said freshman forward Antoine Wright. "All you have to do is penetrate and dish and we made a living off that in the first half."

Wright had 22 points, second only to King who had a gamehigh 26 points. Wright, who is known for his offensive abilities, also had two blocks and two steals on defense.

The Tigers made 13 threepointers as a team, tying the school record for the sixth time in

LSU's leading scorer, Collis Temple made five-of-seven from three-point range and racked up 19 points in the Tigers' losing effort.

LSU head coach John Brady was extremely frustrated following the team's loss

"We're not a very good bas-ketball team right now," Brady said. "We couldn't make free throws, we couldn't execute offensively. I've got to get some consistent play from those that are supposed to be our main players or I'm going to have to make

some changes. The win for the Aggies was one of their biggest non-conference wins in years.

"This year, we're trying to get to the post-season," King said. "To do that, we have to win big games like this."

The game was the first college basketball game ever played in Reliant Stadium, which is trying to experiment with basketball in hopes of being named a site for a NCAA Final Four in the future.

The stadium drew mixed reviews from each side. Watkins said he thought the venue had a good atmosphere and it was a fun place for the team to get to play.

Brady said he thought Reliant could learn a few things from the Superdome in New Orleans in order to make it a better facility for a possible NCAA Final Four site.

"I had thought about (putting senior quarterback Mark Farris) into the game," Slocum said. "I decided that Carter is a young guy that will be coming back to our program next year and would be excited to get into the game in any situation."

Long played throughout the game due in part to the ankle injury freshman quarterback Reggie McNeal suffered during the loss to Missouri. McNeal was on the sidelines, but not suited up to

The Longhorns continued to dominate the play during the game. The Aggies' season will be over unless they are

invited to play in a bowl game in December. "I'm confident that we will play in a bowl game," Slocum said. "I think it's too early to speculate which one it will be, but we would be happy to play in a bowl. After you win, you can't wait to get back on the field and play again. It's the same way after you lose. You want to compete and prove what kind of team you are."

# Soccer

touchdown.

Continued from page 7

remaining in the contest.

the match when Morrell lofted a ball from the left side of the pitch over the A&M defense and Ramsey ran onto the ball, timing her run perfectly to avoid being offside. She gathered the ball in, dribbled into the box and finished to the left of A&M

goalkeeper Katie Jo Spisak. UNC controlled the match in the second half as the Tar Heels had nine shots in the second 45 minutes to only one for the Aggies. Spisak made nine saves for the Aggies and prevented the score from being more lopsided. Jenni Branam made two saves for Carolina to earn the shutout.

"The only time we have really had trouble creating shots were against the last two teams we played, UCLA and North Carolina," said A&M's Heather Ragsdale. "Time after time we got there but could not connect on the final pass that would create shots '

Although the Aggies season came to a close, this year will leave its mark on the program's record books. Most notably, 2002 marks the first 20-win season in Texas A&M soccer histo-

In addition, the Aggies ran off a school-record 16-game unbeaten streak that stretched for a span of two months.



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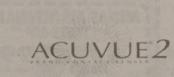


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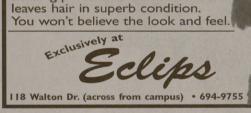
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#### Students Having Smarter Sex, Says New Survey, But More Education Needed

New research about the sexual habits of students is offering a positive look at what might really be happening behind closed doors.

New survey results suggest students ages 18-24 they are virgins. The survey also showed that most students know the basics of "safe and smart" sex (using both barrier and hormonal contraceptives), but there is still a need for

For the Smarter Sex Survey, sponsored by Bacchus and Gamma Peer Education Network and Pharmacia Corporation, makers of DEPO-PROVERA® Contraceptive Injection (medroxy-progesterone acetate injectable suspension), 1,051 men and women ages 18-24, currently enrolled in school, participated in an online survey that asked about various sexual topics ranging from contraception to sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

males surveyed have not had sex, compared to 18 percent of females surveyed -in part because more women than men reported being in monogamous relationships. In general, both men and women scored well when asked about STIs, HIV, and contraception - with 89 percent agreeing that monogamous couples should get first tested for HIV before they stop using

Likewise, men and women share similar views on relationships, emphasizing the importance of monogamy and healthy relationships. On average, those surveyed had 1.2 sexual partners during the last year.

knowledge they need to make smart sexual health decisions. But more information is always beneficial," says Drew Hunter, executive director, Bacchus and Gamma. "If students truly know the facts, we should see a further reduction in unintended pregnancy and STI transmission rates."

To provide more information about smart and safe sex, a new website, www.Smartersex.org has been established to help college students manage their sexual health safely and smartly.

Survey results suggest that three out of four women (73 percent) do not use a condom as a back-up method when they have missed a birth control pill - the form of birth control used by most women surveyed. And, more used by most women surveyed. And, more than half of the survey participants (62 percent) believe they can tell if someone has an STI "just by looking," even though the two most common STIs, chlamydia and

'A problem is that women and their partners don't always use contraception correctly or consistently, which puts them at risk," says Margaret Bridwell, MD, OB/GYN, and Director of the University Health Center, University of Maryland. "With so many birth control methods available that do not require daily dosing, such as DEPO-PROVERA®, we hope that information on suited to their lifestyles.

Depo-Provera does not protect against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Depo-Provera should not be used by women with known or suspected pregnancy, unexplained vaginal bleeding, breast cancer, blood clots, liver disease or a history of stroke. Some women using history of stroke. Some women using Depo-Provera do experience side effects, with the most common side effect being irregular menstrual bleeding or spotting. To find out if Depo-Provera is the right birth control option for them, young women should consult their health care provider. For important product information, visit the Web site at www.depoprovera.com.

For more information on the Smarter Sex Survey and sexual health topics or to test your own "sex smarts," visit www.SmarterSex.org.

\*When taken as scheduled - just four times a year - Depo-Provera is 99.7 percent effective, making it one of the most reliable