

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Friday, January 31, 2003

## Knight vies for 800th victory at Reed Arena

### A&M men's basketball team hosts Texas Tech

By Kevin Espenlaub  
THE BATTALION

History could be made Saturday at Reed Arena as Texas Tech Head Coach Bobby Knight attempts to become the third coach in NCAA Division I men's basketball history to win his 800th career game.

While Knight is not particularly concerned with the landmark, any win in the Big 12 Conference is hard to come by and the Red Raiders (12-4, 2-3 Big 12) could use a boost as they currently sit in sixth place in the conference standings.

"When we got fired at Indiana, I had to go down and clean out his locker and I found three balls: 500 wins, 600 wins, 700 wins," Knight's son and Tech Assistant Coach Pat Knight told The Associated Press. "They were buried underneath his locker with just tape on them signifying what victory it was — and he could care less."

"Coke was spilled on them. Just all kinds of junk were on these balls. I took

them back to the house. He just threw them in the closet."

Knight will likely collect another game ball in the near future after recording his 799th victory Wednesday night against Colorado as junior guard Andre Emmett scored 19 points and led a 21-2 run by Tech early in the first half to claim the lead and cruise to a 66-56 win.

All-Time Winningest Coaches - Division I		
1. Dean Smith	North Carolina	879
2. Adolph Rupp	Kentucky	876
3. Bobby Knight	Texas Tech	799
4. Lefty Driesell	Georgia State	785

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"I think we played a stretch in the first half that was the best we played in the conference season in the games we played," Bobby Knight said. "After we got behind 8-2, from that point on, until we went (13) points ahead, I think that was probably the best stretch of basketball we've played in conference."

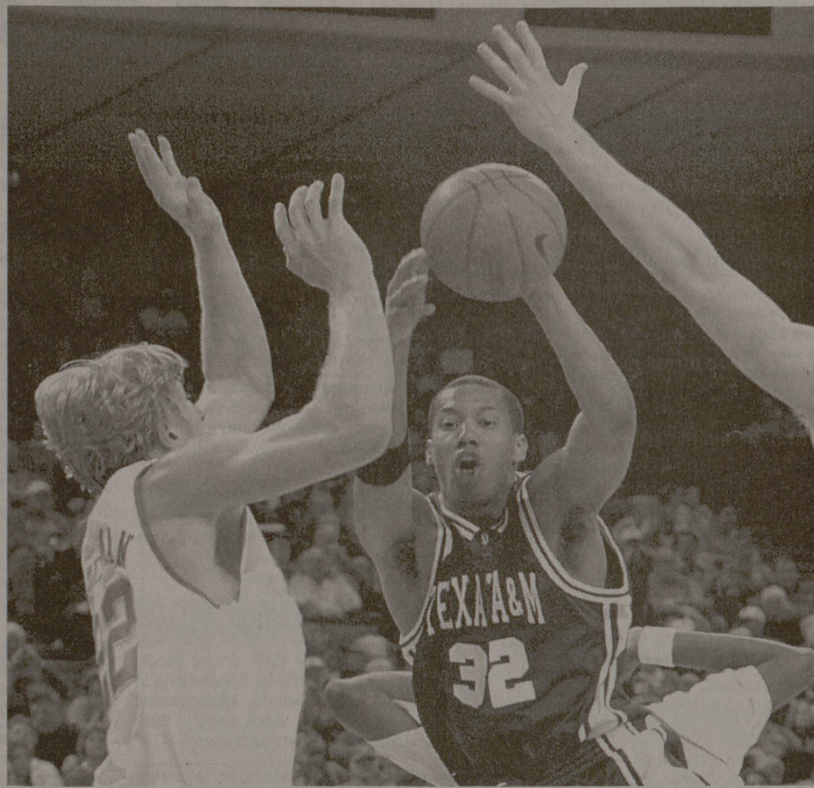
Standing in the way of a record-setting night will be Texas A&M (10-6, 2-3 Big 12) and Head Coach Melvin Watkins, fresh off a tight loss to the No. 6 University of Oklahoma Sooners on Tuesday.

The Aggie defense kept the team in the game early on, but a 14-point run by OU in the first half and a seven-minute scoring drought by A&M gave the Sooners enough cushion to withstand the upset bid.

"We knew coming in it's always been difficult for anyone to win (in Norman)," Watkins said. "But our kids fought back. I was proud of their effort."

The Aggies rallied throughout the ballgame to stay close in the final minutes, but a three-point attempt by junior Kevin Turner with just more than three minutes in the game rimmed out of the basket and OU's senior guard Quannas White drove to the other end of the court to put the win away.

"It was a shot we wanted (Turner) to



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Aggie guard Bernard King is contested by Texas guard Brad Buckman.

See Knight on page 9

## Women's basketball team seeks revenge against Texas

By Troy Miller  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M women's basketball Head Coach Peggie Gillom has a headache on her hands that could turn into a migraine if the Aggies don't do something quickly.

Gillom has already lost senior forward Kim Moore, the Aggie's leading scorer and rebounder. Moore left the team for personal reasons earlier this season. Sophomore forward Sabrina Mitchell has a herniated disk in her back that is limiting her minutes on the court.

On top of the injuries, Gillom's squad just lost to the University of Kansas, a team that has not won a

Big 12 conference game in almost two full seasons.

"In the Big 12 you have to dig with what you can," Gillom said. "Right now I don't think our team is down. (Kansas) was a big loss for us. We thought we would win that game."

The injury bug has bitten more than just Mitchell. Senior Lara Classen has an injured knee and junior Lynn Classen is suffering from a hip pointer.

Without a mid-week game for the Aggies (8-9, 1-5 Big 12), the team is trying to heal in time for its rematch with No. 11 University of Texas (12-5, 5-1). "That injury bug has hurt us," Gillom said. "We need that time off."

Texas is coming off a hard-fought 60-54 win over No. 19 Oklahoma. Longhorn Head Coach Jody Conradt is also fresh off her visit to the Texas State

Senate where she was recognized for winning 800 career games, only the second coach ever to do so.

Conradt won her 800th game by beating No. 7 Texas Tech 69-58 in Austin.

"It helped to have Texas Tech at home, a key game in the conference race," Conradt said. "The 800 wins overshadowed that and we're done with that now and I think that everyone has moved forward."

For the Aggies to avenge their 74-47 loss to the Longhorns, they must rely on junior guard Toccara Williams. Williams leads the nation in steals, averaging 4.94 per game.

"Toccara is one of the most consistent player (players) we have," Gillom said. "She concentrates on playing on defense. She's having a good year and

a good attitude."

If A&M wants to have a chance against the Longhorns, the Aggies must contain junior forward Stacy Stephens. Stephens averages 14.1 points and 8.2 rebounds per game.

The first time the Aggies faced the Longhorns, Stephens scored 18 points and pulled down nine boards in just 21 minutes of playing time.

"I was just reading what the defense was giving," Stephens said after her dominated effort against the Aggies. "I totally just went with what I was feeling on the court."

The Aggies must find a match-up for Stephens despite the injuries to their best post players. The Aggies will take on Texas State, Feb. 2 at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Five Aggie tennis players named to preseason All-Big 12 team

Texas A&M had five tennis players named preseason All-Big 12 team on Thursday, including three male athletes and two female athletes.

Senior Ryan Newport and sophomores Lester Cook and Ante Matijevec were each recognized from the A&M men's team. Newport was an All-American last season following a trip to the NCAA Championships round of 16. Cook and Matijevec were selected as a doubles tandem.

Senior Ashley Hedberg and junior Jessica Roland received preseason honors from the women's team. Hedberg is the current Big 12 No. 5 singles champion in addition to her doubles play. Roland is a two-time All-Big 12 selection in both singles and doubles play for the Aggies.

Players were selected by the league's head coaches.

## Track teams set to compete in Baton Rouge

By Marcus White  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's and women's track and field teams take their talents to Baton Rouge Friday to compete at the Bayou Bengal Invitation held by Louisiana State University. The indoor track meet will be A&M's third this season.

Both teams are coming off successful showings in the Houston Indoor Opener earlier this month.

The Aggie men, ranked 19th nationally, once again fared well in the field events as Ronny Jimenez took the gold in shot put and Jarrod Matthews took the gold in pole vault. The Aggie men went on to take the top two places in both events.

A&M track and field Coach Ted Nelson was not surprised by how well his team placed in the field events. In an interview this week with Jackson Lewis, Nelson identified silver medalist Josh Ralston as an Aggie primed to help the team.

"Josh Ralston has the potential to make the biggest contribution for us," Nelson said. "He will be a factor for us during the indoor season."

The Aggie women also made a strong statement, defeating some of the nation's best track and field teams in several field events.

Freshman Abby Ruston won the shot put competition with a throw of more than 45 feet, taking her second gold medal, while Robyn Burkhardt was tops among collegiate athletes in the high jump. Aggie pole vaulters Sarah

Bollwitt and Stephanie Garcia finished sixth and eighth respectively in a field of 18 competitors.

A&M looks to continue its successful start in Baton Rouge, La., but will have to face off against perennial track and field giant LSU to do it.

Trackwire currently ranks the LSU Tigers first among NCAA Division I schools.

Led by junior John Moffit, the Tigers took four gold medals in men's events. Moffit, whose leap of 25-8 3/4 leads all long jumpers nationally, earned his second NCAA provisional qualifying mark in the long jump.

Coach Nelson looks forward to competing against Moffit and will rely on several A&M jumpers that he feels are among the nation's strongest.

"We have...a handful of athletes that have and can jump over 25 feet," he said.

Nelson identified veterans Brandon Evans and Anderson Smith as two of the best long jumpers in the Big 12, saying, "Both have scored in the long jump in virtually every Big 12 meet they've competed."

Evans competes in a number of different track and field events. When asked which event he prefers, Evans said, "My favorite is probably the 200 meters, because it's right in between an all-out sprint and a pace. I prefer the 200, but I like the jumps as well."

Evans will get the chance to compete in both this weekend.

The events are scheduled to begin at Carl Maddox Fieldhouse at 3 p.m.

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