

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Men's basketball team puts history on hold

A&M victory keeps Knight short of milestone

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

The first sellout basketball crowd in Reed Arena history came in droves on Saturday night to see Texas Tech Head Coach Bobby Knight go for his 800th career victory.

Instead, it saw a Texas A&M basketball team that has been working all season to gain attention for itself. The Aggies received nationwide attention with a 64-59 win over Knight and his Red Raiders in front of 12,611 fans, the largest basketball crowd ever assembled for an A&M home basketball game.

A&M Head Coach Melvin Watkins told reporters after the game that he had stressed the importance of 800 all week in practice.

"We talked about 800," Watkins said. "We talked about me winning 800 games."

Watkins said the crowd was one of the best crowds of the year and

emphasized how important it was to his team.

"The energy level was there, and we could hear the crowd in the locker room before the game," Watkins said. "We wanted to show our fans that big-time basketball is on this campus."

Senior guard Bernard King, who was honored before the game as the all-time leading scorer in A&M school history, said he knew why fans had turned out.

"We knew a lot of people were coming here today to see him get his 800th win," King said. "But this game was big for us. We wanted to let everyone see how we can play."

The Aggies did just that. After finishing a 17-2 run, the Aggies took a 25-9 lead with 7:41 to go in the first half, creating an atmosphere of excitement that was previously not typical at Reed Arena.

"The biggest factor in the ballgame was simply the way we started," Knight said. "It's been that way the entire conference season and I don't

know why."

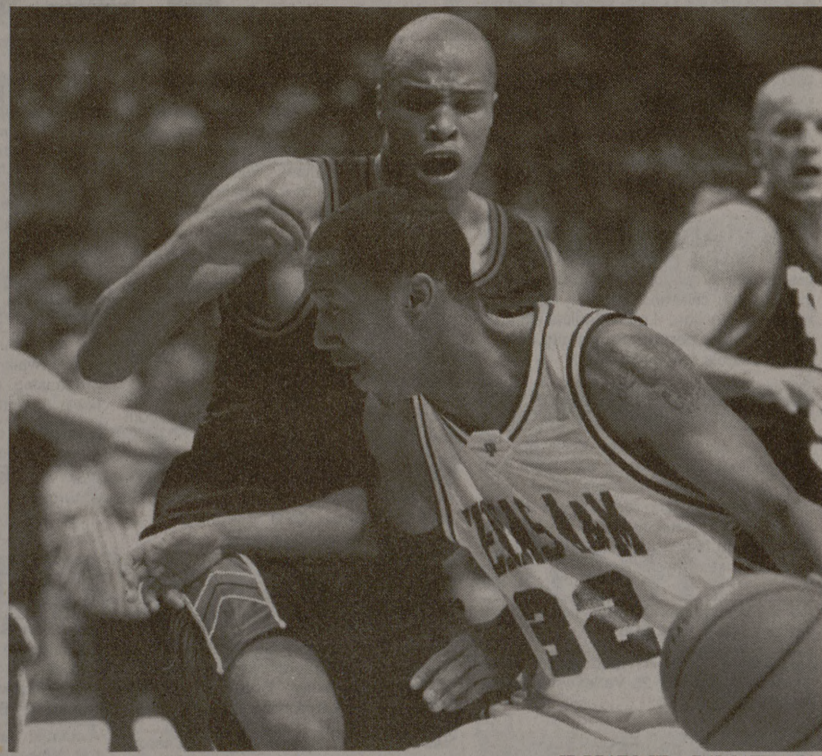
After falling behind early, the Red Raiders fought back with a 17-8 run to get within seven at the half, 33-26. The Raiders picked up where they left off after halftime with a 13-2 run, giving them a six-point lead 41-35.

But A&M bounced back with a 10-0 run of its own and the Raiders never relinquished the lead.

"There's a lot of credit to be given to a team that gets back into a game like ours did," Knight said. "But more credit goes to a team who can get ahead and finish the game."

The record-setting crowd's intensity peaked with 2:41 left in the game after freshman forward Antoine Wright flew by one Tech defender and over another to slam home a one-handed dunk, giving the Aggies a 60-53 lead.

"At the time, it just put us over the top," Wright said. "We were still a little shaky. But after that we were pretty comfortable. That was a Bobby



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

See Tech on page 7 A&M guard Bernard King drives against Texas Tech forward Kasib Powell on Saturday.

Swimming topples Houston

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

Saturday marked the final appearance for the No. 23 Texas A&M women's swimming and diving team in its home pool this season. The Aggies (8-3) overwhelmed the University of Houston Cougars 173-115 with a strong team effort. The Aggie women quickly captured the opening relay, building an early lead, winning the three events.

The only real challenge to the Aggies' supremacy came during the diving competition when three-time national champion diver Yulia Pakhalina from

Houston put on a clinic, easily capturing both diving events for the Cougars.

Fortunately for the Aggies, the Cougars' success ended there. The A&M women went on to capture all 12 individual events in the pool.

A standout for the Aggies was senior Karri Tibball, who captured two individual wins, winning both the 200-meter breast stroke and the 200-meter individual medley. Her time of 2:09.77 in the medley was just a fraction of a second off her personal season best.

The next test for the Aggies is the Big 12 Championship on Feb. 20-22 in Austin, Texas.

Tennis team loses Texas Cup

Staff & Wire
THE BATTALION

It was the same old news for the No. 12 Texas A&M men's tennis team this weekend at the Pennick-Allison Tennis Center on the University of Texas campus. The Aggies (3-1) fell by the margin of 4-2 for the third year in a row against rival No. 11 Texas in the third annual Texas Cup.

The first blemish on the Aggies' season record this year came, in part, as a result of troubles in doubles play. The A&M men dropped two of the three matches, and lost the crucial tie-breaking point early. The duo of senior Ryan

Newport and sophomore Lester Cook saved the Aggies from a sweep at the hands of the Longhorns by defeating the No. 19 combo of Jean Simon and Jose Zarhi.

On the singles side, A&M managed to snag just two out of the five matches. Newport defeated No. 19 Simon from the Longhorns, while junior Khaled El Dorry downed Pete Stoner to account for the two Aggie wins.

The road doesn't get any easier from here for the young Aggie squad. Next week it will be heading to Florida to face another national powerhouse, the No. 5 Florida Gators, on Friday, and then moving on to Miami on Sunday to face off with the Hurricanes.

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ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE

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GET GOING WITH TAMU OUTDOORS

Upcoming Events	Registration	Event Date
Lead Climbing Clinic	Jan. 21-Feb. 17	Feb. 18
Rock Climbing 101	Jan. 21-Feb. 18	Feb. 22
Women's Rock 101	Jan. 21-Feb. 18	Feb. 23
Backpacking Trip	Jan. 21-Feb. 18	Feb. 22-23

SPRING BREAK TRIPS

- Climb Hueco Tanks**—Join TAMU Outdoors on a climbing adventure in one of the top US bouldering sites. Registration ends Feb. 27. \$265*/\$318**
- Canoe Big Bend's Rio Grande**—Canoe the scenic wilderness of the Rio Grande River, hike through side canyons, explore the desert and sleep under the stars. Registration ends Feb. 27. \$364*/\$419**
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- SAIL & SCUBA the Bahamas**—Sail on Blackbeard's cruise and trace the historic route of pirate ships and treasure galleons. Registration ends June 9. \$819

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Sports CLOSING:	Registration ends	Cost
Outdoor Soccer	Feb. 4	\$40/team
Slow Pitch Softball (M&W)	Feb. 4	\$40/team
Wallyball	Feb. 4	\$10/team
Table Tennis	Feb. 4	FREE

Sports OPENING:

Program	Registration	Cost
Team Bowling	Feb. 3-Feb. 11	\$40/team
Tennis (tournament)	Feb. 3-Feb. 11	FREE
Kyle Field Ramp Romp	Feb. 3-Feb. 18	\$10

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IM Orientation Clinics

	Date/Time/Location
Sand Volleyball	Feb. 10/7:00 p.m./281 Rec
4/4 Flag Football	Feb. 17/7:00 p.m./281 Rec

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