

**TONIGHT'S GAMES**

Women's Basketball exhib.  
7 p.m. at Reed Arena

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 1B • Thursday, November 13, 2003

## Standoff in Big 12 North on Saturday

The Big 12 North is like Cinderella before she found the glass slipper that fit: It seems to be the neglected stepchild that defers to the South Division, the golden child of the Big 12 conference. This year's Big 12 North winner is all but a technicality. Whoever wins will invariably meet the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners Dec. 6 in Kansas City, Mo. When the clock strikes midnight for the team that will face a cheery Bob Stoops and his armada of Sooners, the results of the championship



**BIG XII NOTEBOOK**  
Blake Kimzey

game won't be as pump-kick-patch sweet as they are in the fairy tale.

Harsh reality aside, this weekend Kansas State and No. 18 Nebraska will duke it out in a North Division, winner-take-all skirmish. Tangled at 4-2 apiece atop the North standings, Saturday's pivotal meeting will be a battle of teams that are currently streaking on opposite sides of the ball. On the defensive side, the Huskers boast one of the nation's hungriest defensive

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## Newcomers make waves for Aggies

By Dallas Shipp  
THE BATTALION

Aggie basketball fans got their first taste of the Bernard King-less basketball team Wednesday night and it was mouth-watering.

Texas A&M blew up offensively against Team Ezybond in a 98-82 exhibition win in front of 4,086 fans at Reed Arena Wednesday night, leaving most of the Aggie faithful waiting for dessert.

"We know we can score," said Aggie sophomore forward Antoine Wright, who led the Aggies with 20 points. "We have a team with a lot of guys who can put it in the hole."

After losing King's 32 points per game and three other starters from last year's starting five, many people were waiting to catch a glimpse of the new-look Aggies.

They came out strong against the Ezybond all-star team, kicking off a 25-7 run just two and a half minutes into the game to take a 29-14 lead and never looked back.

The quick Aggies ran the court against Team Ezybond early and often, scoring 25 fast break points, four of which came on two steals by freshman guard Acie Law IV, who finished the night with 13 points and five assists.

Junior point guard Bobby Leach posted seven points with seven rebounds and sophomore forward Luis Clemente posted a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds to join Law in the coming out party for the Aggie newcomers.

"This recruiting class we got this year has been real big for us," Wright said. "In practices it's been a lot more competitive. Guys have been pushing each other and those guys are going to help us a lot, especially when we get into conference play."

Freshmen Justin Loewe, Marlon Pompey and LaKeith Blanks combined for eight more points in the newcomers' parade, giving the newcomers 38 points in the game.

But despite the Aggies' success on



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Aggie sophomore forward Luis Clemente goes up for a lay-up Wednesday night against Team Ezybond. Clemente was the player of the game, posting a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

offense, Aggie coach Melvin Watkins was not pleased with everything the Aggies did Wednesday night.

"I was not pleased with our defensive intensity but we were trying to play passing lanes because that was something I wanted to work on," Watkins said. "I'm not worried about our scoring, but we've got to defend. That's what we have to work on."

The Aggies gave up 82 points in the exhibition, which Watkins said was more than he wanted.

"In the first half I liked some things we did in spurts, just not enough of it," he said.

"But that's why you play these exhibition games, to check yourselves."

Ezybond's Jamal Brown posted a game high 32 points and 14 rebounds.

Brown was one of the lone bright spots for Ezybond which never seemed to get into a rhythm against the Aggies.

The Aggies have one more exhibition game left against EA Sports All-Stars next Monday at 7 p.m. at Reed Arena.

## Watkins inks three to letters of intent

By Staff & Wire  
THE BATTALION

Miguel Ayala of Tepic, Mexico, Joseph Jones of Normangee, Texas, and Kenneth White of Dallas have signed national letters-of-intent to play college basketball at Texas A&M, Aggies coach Melvin Watkins said Wednesday.

"We think this is another strong recruiting class for us, not so much in numbers as in the quality of the players," Watkins said. "We feel like

we've addressed our needs with these three guys. All three have been very well coached and will be able to make an impact on our program."

Ayala, a 6-foot-7 guard/forward, played two years ago at Riverside Community College before missing last season with a broken hand. As a freshman, he started in all 37 games, averaging 10.8 points, 5.4 rebounds and making 42.4 percent (78-of-184) from three-point range and

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