

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Tuesday, December 2, 2003

Aggies look to extend win streak

Wright and Co. hit the road for first road trip of the season

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's basketball team remains undefeated after three home games, beating its opponents by an average of 24 points.

The only knock on the Aggies is that they have played three teams with a combined record of 1-8. That all changes as the Aggies go on the road to face undefeated Tennessee (2-0) in Knoxville Tuesday night at 6 p.m.

"It's always difficult to go on the road," said A&M coach Melvin Watkins. "I think going into Tennessee surely won't be an easy place to go and play. Hopefully this will help our basketball team get ready for the challenges ahead, and we expect to go in there and get a win."

Last season, the Aggies took care of the Volunteers, 83-66, in front of a raucous crowd at Reed Arena that was fueled by junior guard Kevin Turner, who hit four three-pointers in

the last four minutes of the game. Turner's three-pointers gave the Aggies a large cushion in the waning minutes of a tight game.

But the Aggies might have to do without Turner, as well as freshmen Acie Law and Marlon Pompey, who all have ankle injuries. All three sat out the Aggies' last game, an 88-79 win over Prairie View A&M.

"(Turner), Acie and Marlon, all three of them are still questionable," Watkins said. "That doesn't sit well with us because I'd like to go in there with our full team. I'm sure (Tennessee) remembers Kevin Turner

and remembers all of us the way that game ended up on such a high note for us and a low note for them."

The Aggies will be facing a Tennessee defense that has given up just eight free-throw attempts in its first two games and held opponents to 63 points per game.

If the Aggies want to continue to average 90 points per game as they have during their first three games, they will have to do so against a much better defense than they've seen thus far, although the Volunteers are not up to their coach's standards just yet.

"I'm not real happy with our defense," said Tennessee coach Buzz Peterson. "We've got a ways to go. We're good in spurts."

In the past, the Aggies haven't been a very good team on the road. Since the 1998-99 season when Watkins took over the coaching reigns at A&M, the Aggies have gone 10-48 on the road. The Aggies were 2-8 away from Reed

Arena last season. "I don't think the fact that it's a road game is going to affect the way we play," said sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright. "If we go into games with the mindset that it's a road game and the travel starts to effect us, then we're going to play bad. If we go into a game like we just did a little traveling, all the goals are 10 feet, they put on their shorts like we do, we just got to get after it and play hard and we'll come out with a win."

The bottom line is that this Aggie team has played only three games, but all of them were wins and have led to



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Sophomore forward **Antoine Wright** dishes off to a teammate in the Aggies' win over Prairie View A&M. The Aggies will try to improve to 4-0 Tuesday against Tennessee.

the team's winning attitude. They are beginning to gain an attitude that says they are supposed to win.

A&M basketball hasn't had that attitude in a long time.

"I think we have a confident team," Wright said. "In years past guys

would get a little rattled and guys start to take shots that they weren't supposed to take. We have four or five guys every time on the floor that can put it in the hole. It doesn't matter who gets the open look, it just comes down to execution."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggie swim teams ranked No. 15; Rose, Sturdy lead NCAA

Both the Texas A&M men's and women's swimming & diving teams are ranked No. 15 in the nation, according to the latest edition of the College Swim Coaches Association (CSCAA) top 25 poll.

The Aggie women (4-0, 2-0) move up two spots after having been tied with the University of Virginia for the past month at No. 17. They will close out the fall season this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. by hosting No. 26 Kansas at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium.

The Aggie men (3-0, 1-0) dropped two spots despite winning the men's portion of the Texas A&M Fall Invitational.

Freshman Rebecca Sturdy currently leads the NCAA in the 100 and 200 backstroke as well as the 200 individual medley. Sturdy posted NCAA automatic qualifying times and A&M school records in each event as she blazed her way to a trio of first place finishes at the Fall Invitational. She also ranks among the top 20 nationally in the 50 and 100 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. Each of A&M's five different relay teams rank among the top 10 in the nation as well heading into this weekend.

Senior Matt Rose is the collegiate leader in the 50 freestyle after posting a Canadian national record of 21.95 in the 50-meter race. The Aggie men close their fall season this weekend by traveling to the Hoosier State for dual meets against Purdue and Indiana.

NCAA volleyball tickets now on sale at G. Rollie

Tickets to the NCAA first- and second-round volleyball matches to be hosted by Texas A&M at G. Rollie White Coliseum, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5-6, are now on sale at the ticket office located in The Zone at Kyle Field.

In addition, tickets will be available for purchase on the Internet at www.12thmanfoundation.com/tickets/ beginning Monday afternoon. Tickets also can be purchased by calling the ticket office hotline at 1-888-99-AGGIE or 979-845-2311.

UNITED
Realty & Investment Company

FREE LOCATOR SERVICE
260-1200

PRELEASING NOW for Jan, May & August 2004!

Across from campus, next to Taco Bell.

www.united-rico.com

Need a Semester Lease?

Pepper Tree
APARTMENTS

We do semester leases

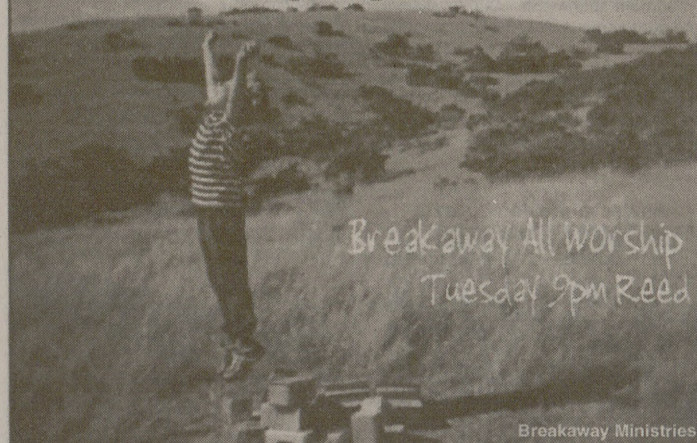
2 Months Free Rent
on select units!!!!

1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Units

Mention this ad and receive 0 Deposit & 0 Application Fee

2701 Longmire Drive, College Station
Phone (979) 693-5731 • Fax (979) 696-8481

shout to God



Breakaway All worship
Tuesday 9pm Reed

Breakaway Ministries

JOIN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AS A BUS DRIVER!



APPLICATIONS AT
KOLDUS RM. 118 OR VISIT
transport.tamu.edu

DEADLINE DECEMBER 3

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
transport.tamu.edu

TRANSIT ADVERTISING

GREAT VALUE - HIGH VISIBILITY

INSTANTLY EFFECTIVE

MAXIMUM EXPOSURE - MINIMUM PRICE

CALL 862-4980 FOR INFORMATION

We are now offering advertising on our buses! This service is available to all University departments, affiliated groups and organizations recognized by student affairs. Space is limited and sold on a first come, first served basis. Call now!

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
transport.tamu.edu