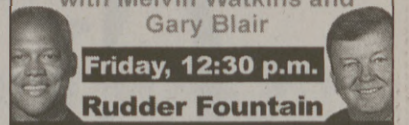


SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Friday, January 30, 2004

Basketball Yell Practice
with Melvin Watkins and Gary Blair
Friday, 12:30 p.m.
Rudder Fountain



Aggie basketball looking for first Big 12 wins

Aggie men face rival No. 16 Texas, hope to gain first conference victory

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

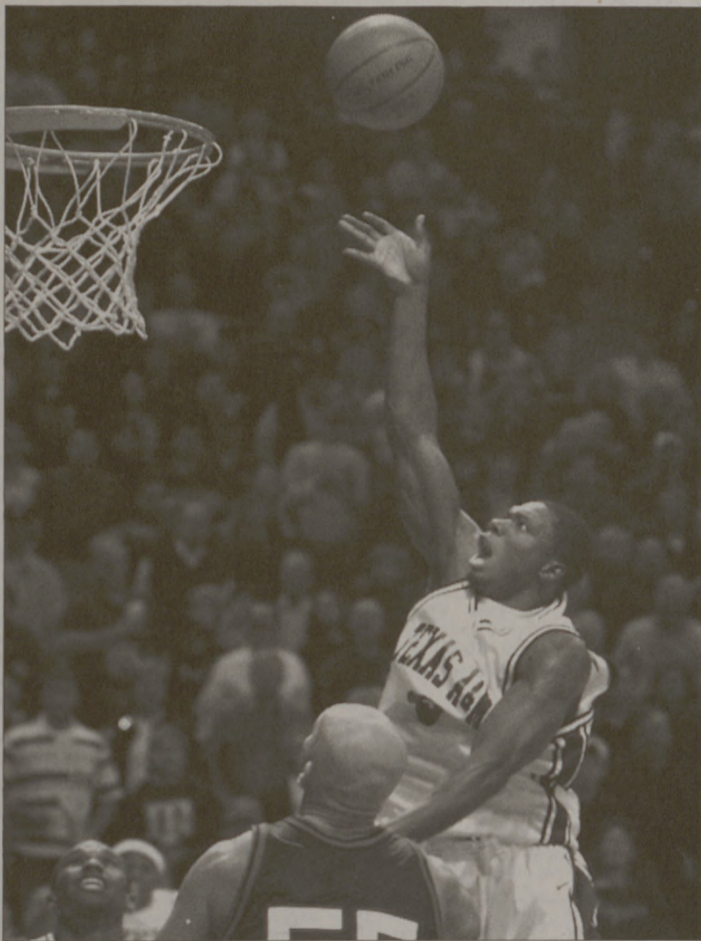
Five conference games and five losses later, the Texas A&M men's basketball team is still trying to gain its first win in the Big 12.

It seems that every time it has a shot to win a game, something happens to bring them back down to Earth and into the loss column.

In their most recent exploit, the Aggies (7-9, 0-5 Big 12) gave up a three-point halftime lead on the road at Iowa State only to see the Cyclones go to the free throw line 42 times on 25 Aggie fouls in the second half alone. The 53 Iowa State free throw attempts in the game set a new Big 12 record.

"It's like a broken record," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "We've been in every game. We've got to get over the hump."

A&M's toughest challenge of the Big 12 season could be this Saturday when they host No. 16 Texas at 12:30 p.m. at Reed Arena. Texas' fortunes have been the opposite of A&M. Instead of dropping close contests, the Longhorns (13-3, 4-1) have been able to



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A&M senior forward Jesse King shoots over Texas Tech senior forward Robert Tomaszek during A&M's 80-78 loss to the No. 13 Red Raiders.

find a way to win those ball games as was evident in their 62-61 win over No. 13 Texas Tech on Monday.

"We just find a way to come through," said Texas senior forward Brian

Boddicker. "We have a mindset that someone is going to make the big play."

Texas also has the luxury of

See Watkins on page 7

Blair's troops hope to end seven-game losing streak at home against Iowa State

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

"We're going to get the win and it's going to be soon," said Texas A&M women's head basketball coach Gary Blair. "That's all I'm going to promise."

It is becoming a familiar mantra, but for the first time in nearly a month Texas A&M women's basketball will be playing a team that is its statistical equal, Iowa State, this Saturday at 7 p.m.

Like the Aggies, Iowa State (9-8, 2-4 Big 12) is an unranked team that shoots about 40 percent from the floor.

But there are two reasons the Aggies (7-11, 0-7) will be going into this game with more intensity than ever before: the Iowa State Cyclones beat both No. 21 Oklahoma and No. 7 Texas Tech, and the Aggies have yet to win a Big 12 game.

Blair said although the Cyclones are unranked, they are still a great team that is on the verge of being in the top 25.

"Iowa State is one of the best zone teams in the country," Blair said. "If you are good at it and you are able to rebound off of it, (zone) is a very effective defense."



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M junior guard Mindy Garrison drives on Texas junior forward Heather Schreiber during Texas' 64-62 win. The Aggies play Iowa State Saturday at 7 p.m. at Reed Arena.

Blair said that may give more playing time to shooting guards Mindy Garrison and Erica Roy to compensate for the zone defense forcing outside shots.

"I have three (shooting) guards that can all shoot the ball

well," Blair said. "But you have to play both sides of the court because you can't substitute out after we shoot the ball."

See Aggies on page 7

TEXAS A&M AGGIES vs. **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS**
Saturday, 12:30 p.m.
Reed Arena

Women's Basketball
TEXAS A&M AGGIES vs. **IOWA STATE**
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Reed Arena



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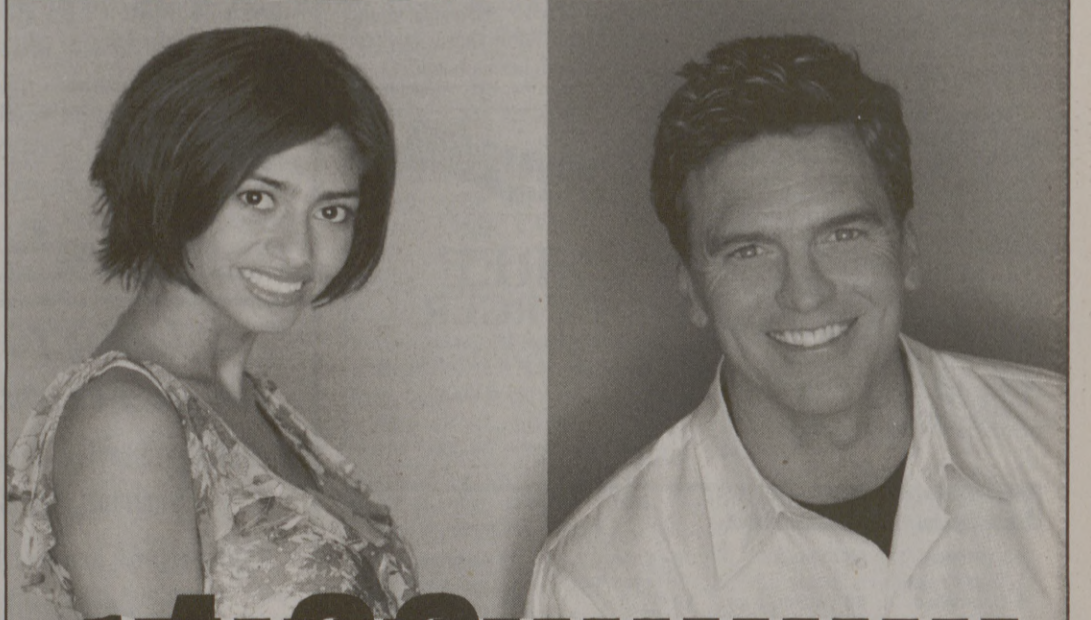
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