

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Monday, February 2, 2004

## Still winless

### Cold shooting leads to second-half letdown as Aggies fall to No. 18 University of Texas

By Kyle Davoust  
THE BATTALION

The clock has already begun ticking on Texas A&M head coach Melvin Watkins' tenure as men's basketball coach.

Eight and counting — that's the number of consecutive Big 12 conference losses Watkins' Aggies have suffered through dating back to last season. One would have to travel all the way back to January of 2002 to find the last time A&M won consecutive Big 12 games.

The No. 18 Texas Longhorns added to A&M's woeful streak Saturday as they defeated the Aggies 69-59 in front of a near-capacity crowd at Reed Arena. It marked the Longhorns' (14-3, 5-1 Big 12) 10th consecutive victory over the Aggies (7-10, 0-6) in College Station.

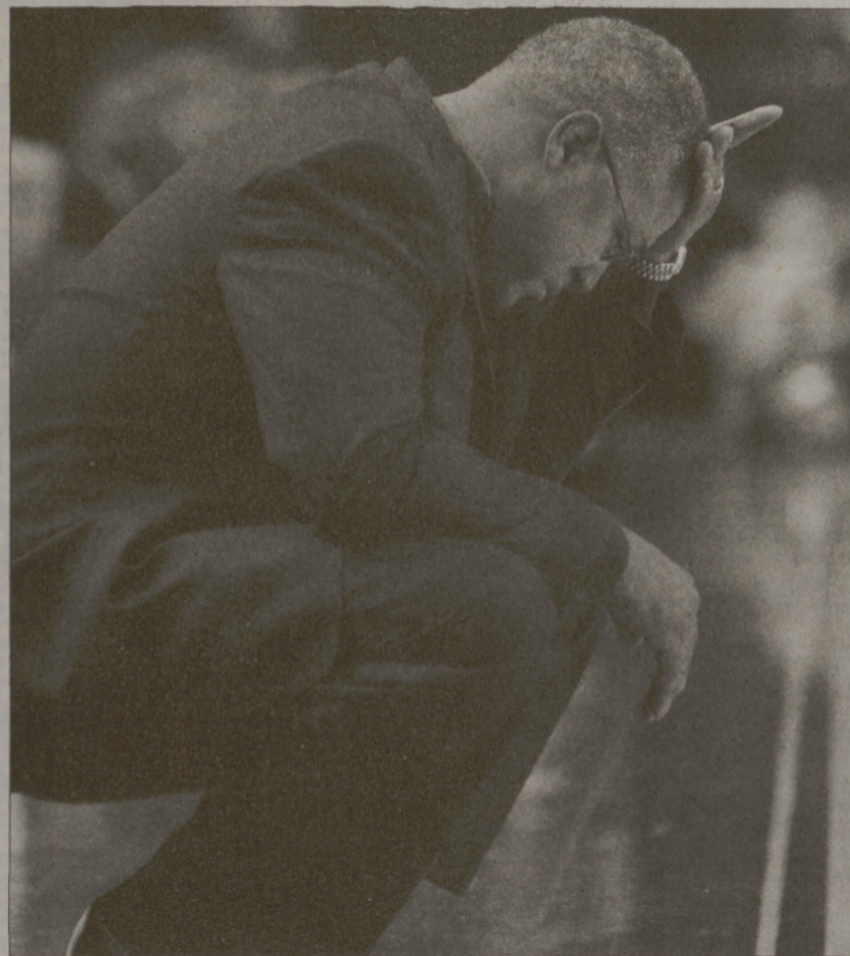
Texas was led by a front-line rotation that kept the Aggies out of the paint and, once again, out of the win column. Big men reserves Brian Boddicker and Jason Klotz combined to score 21 points and grab 12 rebounds.

"They were bringing everybody to the goal," said A&M senior Nick Anderson of the Texas front line. "They take Klotz out and bring Boddicker in — they're huge."

As in its other Big 12 losses this season, A&M was able to hang with Texas for a good portion of the game, even taking a 48-43 lead off of a Marcus Watkins jumper with 12:41 remaining in the second half. That, however, would be the last field goal the Aggies would make all afternoon, as the Longhorns responded with a 20-1 run that put the game out of reach.

Once again, a second-half letdown was more than the team could overcome. "We played 20 minutes of basketball today," Watkins said. "And obviously you have to play two halves to win it."

For the first time this season, it wasn't the defense that lost the game for A&M. This loss can mostly be attributed to offense, or the lack thereof. Facing a 2-3 zone for most of the second half, the Aggies just couldn't hit their shots. After the jumper by Watkins, A&M went 0-13 from the field, scoring their last 11 points from



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

A&M head coach Melvin Watkins shows his frustration during the Aggies' 69-59 loss to No. 18 Texas Saturday. Watkins' Aggies have lost six straight games and are in last place in the Big 12.

the free throw line.

This scoring ineptitude prompted a group of Longhorns fans to start the chant, "Worse than Baylor." Coincidentally, Baylor is the last Big 12 opponent the Aggies have managed to defeat.

"Some nights (shots) don't fall for you, and that's what I think happened to A&M a little bit," said Texas head coach Rick Barnes. "They had some pretty good looks because we did break down a few times when they had some good things going for them offensively, but the shots just didn't go for them."

Whether its struggles on offense or defense, the Aggies can't seem to find

a way to win, and disappointment is obviously mounting.

"It's really getting frustrating," Anderson said, head buried in arms. "It's just terrible, it's getting so frustrating."

One thing is for certain: The schedule is not going to save the Aggies. Next up, the Aggies have to face the only Big 12 team that has been able to defeat the Longhorns this year — the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

With the losses mounting, the pressure for Watkins to get his team to come together and perform has never been greater. His last chance to prove himself may have already passed.

### Lady Aggies drop eighth straight to stay in Big 12 cellar

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

Iowa State head coach Bill Fennelly said Texas A&M women's basketball team played hard in its game against the Iowa State Cyclones Saturday at Reed Arena. But playing hard just wasn't good enough as the Aggies lost another Big 12 game, 66-58.

"This playing hard is not working," said A&M head coach Gary Blair. "Play smart and hard, and it will work."

Iowa State (10-8, 3-4 Big 12) shot 54.5 percent against the Aggies' aggressive man-on-man and press defenses. Iowa State's zone defense held the Aggies to 35.7 percent.

"They got open looks and knocked their shots down," said A&M senior guard Toccare Williams. "We knew they had a great shooting team."

A&M (7-12, 0-8) went on a nine-point run late in the game to come within two of the lead, but an Iowa State lay-up, followed by a missed three-pointer by A&M gave Iowa State the breathing room it needed to last through the final minutes.

"What we tried to do is not let their three-point shooters get to the basket," Fennelly said.

A&M junior guard Mindy Garrison has hit 33 of 99 three-pointers this season but was held to zero on Saturday, as was junior guard Charlotte Castile who has hit 20 of 55 three's for the season.

Williams, who is zero-for-six on the season from three-point land, was the only Aggie to hit a shot from behind the three-point arc connecting three times on Saturday.

"When (Williams) goes three-for-four from the three and the rest of them goes (0-7), that is hard," Blair said. "We needed somebody else to step up."

Williams had another four steals, bringing her to within nine steals of the Big 12 record of 418.

A&M sophomore forward Tamea Scales put up impressive numbers with



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore forward Tamea Scales battles for a rebound in the Aggies' 66-58 loss to Iowa State Saturday at Reed Arena. Scales contributed 18 points and 15 rebounds in the losing effort.

a double-double, scoring 18 points and pulling down 15 rebounds. Ultimately, Williams and Scales were the only ones producing for the Aggies. They had a combined 44 of the 58 total Aggie points and 23 of the 42 total rebounds.

Scales' 15 rebounds was the highest of either team, and overall, the Aggies won the battle under the basket with 42 rebounds to Iowa State's 31.

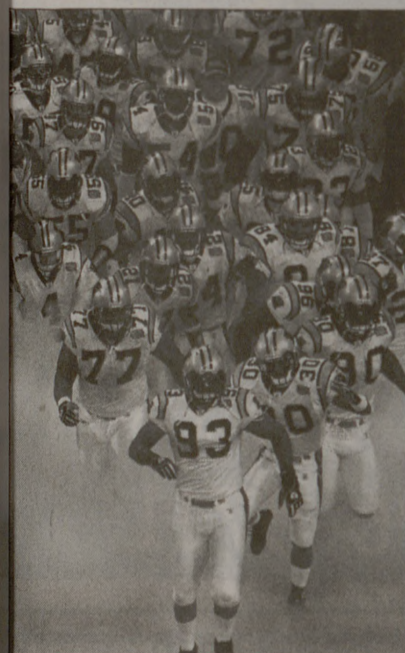
Blair said Scales is likely to start the rest of the season and possibly next year as well.

"(Scales) doesn't play with a woe-is-me attitude, she plays with an energy level out there that we need some of our other kids to step up and have," Blair said. "Until this season ends (Scales) will be in that starting line-up."

Iowa State led by only two at half-time thanks mostly to Cyclones redshirt

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## Super Bowl 2004

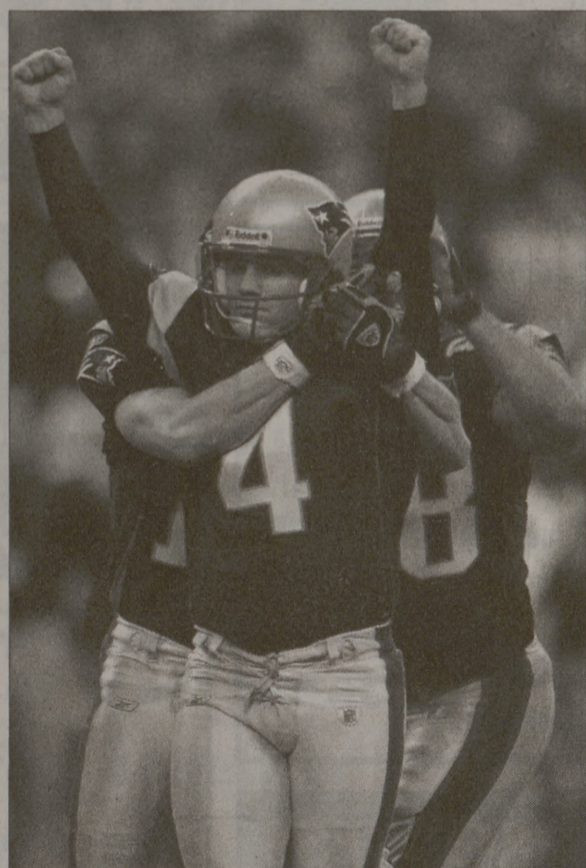


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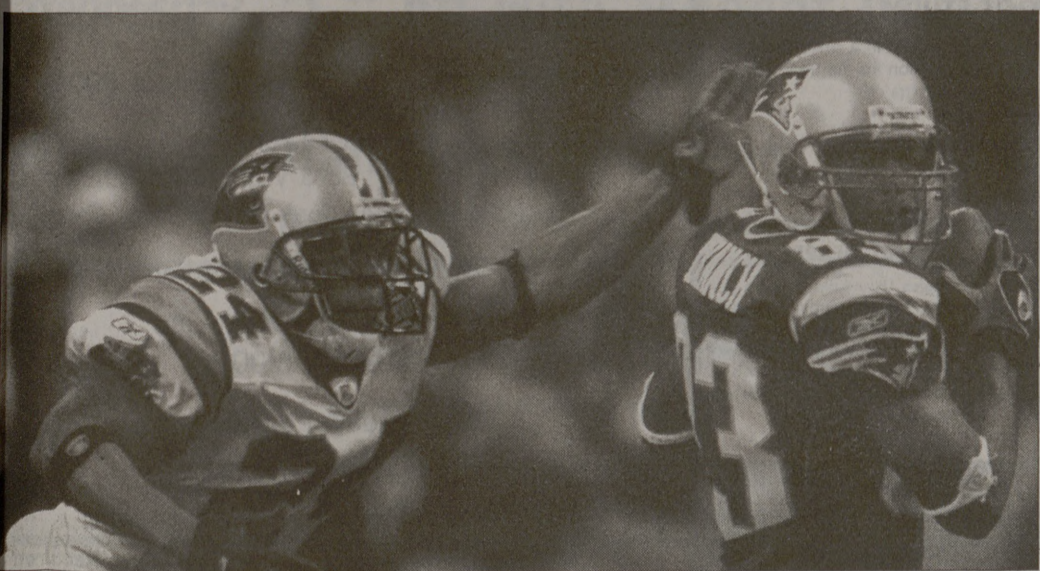
ABOVE: The Carolina Panthers take the field before Super Bowl XXXVIII.

RIGHT: New England Patriot players celebrate with kicker Adam Vinatieri after Vinatieri kicked the game-winning field goal in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

BELOW: Carolina Panther cornerback Ricky Manning Jr. reaches out to tackle New England wide receiver Deion Branch in the second quarter.



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### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Aggie men fall to No. 8 Duke

The No. 9 Texas A&M men's tennis team fell into its first losing streak of the young season by dropping its match to No. 8 Duke University 5-2 on Saturday. The loss marks the Aggies' second straight defeat after losing to No. 1 Illinois, 4-3, last week.

Duke was able to set the tone for the day by sweeping the doubles match. In the premier match-up of a No. 1 against a No. 2, it took a tiebreaker for Duke's No. 2 doubles team of Ludovic Walter and Jason Zimmerman to squeak by the Aggies' top-ranked team of Lester Cook and Ante Matijevic 9-8 (4).

After capturing the ever-important doubles point, the Blue Devils went on to win four of the six singles matches.

"Duke was pretty good today," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "I take responsibility for the way our guys played. I've seen better efforts from Aggie tennis teams."

Despite his first doubles loss of the season, Matijevic, ranked No. 19 in singles, was able to defeat Walter in singles action later that day. Walter, who is ranked seventh nationally, is the highest-ranked opponent Matijevic has defeated in his collegiate career.

#### Aggie women drop two of three to open tennis season

The No. 25 Texas A&M women's tennis team lost two of three matches this weekend in Lexington, Ky., as it began the 2004 season. The Aggies fell to No. 13 Kentucky, 4-3, on Friday, defeated Maryland, 4-3, on Saturday, and fell to No. 9 Duke, 5-2, on Sunday.

In the loss to Kentucky, A&M came out strong by taking the doubles point. The Aggies then lost four of six singles matches as Kentucky took the overall match. A&M sophomore Nicki Mechem and freshman Anna Lubinsky played well in the loss, combining to win their doubles match over Kentucky's Kim Coventry and Christine Simpson, 8-5. Mechem and Lubinsky also won the only two singles matches for A&M.

A&M rallied after a slow start against Maryland, but eventually defeated the Terrapins on Lubinsky's 6-3, 6-1 victory over Maryland senior Chloe Chavardes. After losing the doubles point, the Aggies won four of six singles matches to take the win. Mechem, senior Jessica Roland, and junior Helga Viera all had key wins in singles matches.

The Aggies fell to Duke to conclude the weekend's action. A&M lost the doubles point, then four of six singles matches. Roland and Lubinsky earned wins in singles.

#### No. 13 Aggies outswim SMU

The No. 13 Texas A&M men's swimming and diving team continued its winning ways this weekend as it easily defeated the Southern Methodist University Mustangs 144-94 Saturday in Dallas.

With the defeat, the Aggies (8-1) finished the season undefeated on the road, which is only the third time they have accomplished that feat over the past 20 years. The Aggies have now defeated the Mustangs four years in a row, making it the second-longest consecutive win streak against SMU in A&M swimming history.

It is also only the third time the Aggies have defeated SMU at their home pool since the teams began meeting in 1933.

The Aggies won 11 of the 13 events and claimed the four fastest freestyle times.

Junior Alfredo Jacobo earned a win in the breaststroke event, extending his streak to eight consecutive first place wins in the event.

The Aggie men finish their regular season this Friday at the A&M Student Recreation Center Natatorium against No. 4 Texas at 3 p.m., followed by the Aggie women who will face Rice University at 6 p.m.

#### A&M track and field has good showing in Louisiana

This weekend in Baton Rouge, La., Texas A&M track and field ran away with seven gold medals and four silver medals. The strong showing in the Bayou Bengal Invitational was led by senior thrower Josh Ralston.

Ralston threw 56-4.75 in the weight throw and 55-11.25 in the shot put, placing first in both.

Freshman Monique Lee placed first in the women's 200-meter dash with a time of 24.76.

Freshman Katie Hummel earned her gold in the women's mile, running the race in 5:02.35.

Coming in first in the women's 3,000-meter run was senior Melissa Gulli.

Redshirt freshman Brian McKinstry also won two golds by placing first in the 3,000-meter and 1,600-meter relay race.

Freshman Jennifer Matthews placed second in the pole vault, while junior Justin Sutton placed fifth.

The Aggies will travel to Ames, Iowa, to compete in the Iowa State Classic Friday.