

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 4 • Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Aggie softball opens season

By Ryan Irby
THE BATTALION

Spring in College Station means more than just Ring Dance and Final Review; it signals another chance for the Texas A&M softball team to capture a Big 12 Championship.

With five all-conference players returning for the No. 17 ranked Aggies, Head Coach Jo Evans maintains high hopes for this season, her eighth at the helm.

"We are as athletic as we have ever been," she said. "I certainly expect us to be battling for a Big 12 championship."

The Aggies will begin their 2004 campaign against the University of North Texas at 5 p.m. in College

Station this Wednesday at the Carolyn and Jack Little '60 Athletic Complex.

The Aggies are coming off a successful 38-22 season that ended in a heartbreaking loss to perennial power house University of Arizona in the NCAA Regional Finals.

The Wildcats later went on to finish with a tie for fourth in the Women's College World Series.

The team carries the mutual feeling that this could be the year for a Big 12 crown. Junior infielder and team co-captain Adrian Gregory said she has high expectations for this year's squad.

See Softball on page 6

Aggies lose another game

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's basketball team is running out of answers. The Aggies are also running out of opportunities to earn a Big 12 win this season.

The Aggies (7-11, 0-7 Big 12) extended their losing streak to seven in a row with a 91-79 loss to No. 13 Oklahoma State (16-2, 6-1) Tuesday night at Reed Arena.

A&M senior center Andy Slocum, who grabbed 15 rebounds in the game, said he was upset with how the team performed.

"We didn't play very good defense and we just didn't play hard at all," Slocum said. "We should have come out in dresses."

Similar to almost every other first half for the Aggies this season, the game remained close. This was surprising, considering the Aggies only shot 40 percent and went 1-8 behind the three-point line.

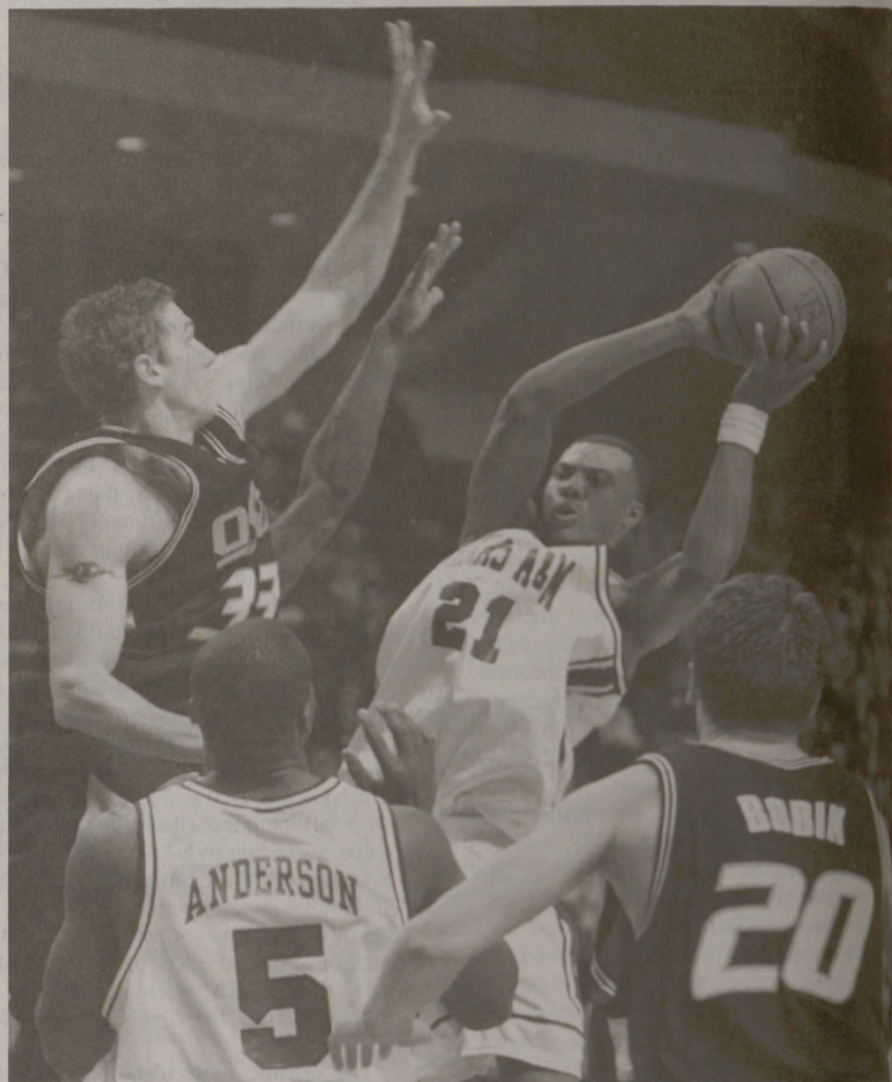
The Cowboys grabbed any hope from the Aggies with an uncontested nine-point run in the last three minutes before halftime. It would be the closest the Aggies would come to OSU the remainder of the night.

The Aggies battled hard in the second half but could never regain their focus. A&M sophomore forward Antoine Wright went 1-12 overall in the second half, his only hit coming on a wide-open jump shot.

Aggie senior forward Nick Anderson also experienced trouble getting the ball through the net, going 4-9 overall.

"It's real tough (to focus) when you turn the ball over, keep missing shots (and) keep making mistakes," Anderson said.

Anderson's frustration caused him to earn a technical foul for giving a shove to



J.P. BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Antoine Wright fakes a shot and passes to Nick Anderson during the Aggies home loss to OSU 91-79 Tuesday night at Reed Arena.

OSU Junior forward Terrence Crawford was due primarily to a lack of defense.

A&M head coach Melvin Watkins said there was a lack of focus on the court and the loss

See Men on page 6

Women's basketball takes on Oklahoma St.

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

The first loss in A&M's current eight-game losing streak was to the unranked Oklahoma State Cowgirls on Jan. 7 in Stillwater, Okla. It came down to a last-second shot. The Aggies will get another chance to play the Cowgirls (8-11, 3-5) tonight in Reed Arena at 7.

The Aggies have lost six games in a row to ranked opponents after losing to Oklahoma State and were unable to produce a victory last

weekend at home versus Iowa State.

Oklahoma State has since gone on to win two Big 12 games, including a victory to then-No. 3 ranked Texas Tech.

Blair said his team has worked on coming together since last Saturday's defeat.

"We should have been working more on Oklahoma State this last few days," Blair said. "We spent that time working on Texas A&M, improving things we do not do well."

See Women on page 6

2 EVENTS...

1 REASON.

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