

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 1B • Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Men's basketball plays Nebraska

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

When looking at the Texas A&M men's basketball team's schedule, certain Big 12 conference games seemed to be gimmies. One of those would have been Wednesday's 7 p.m. contest with the University of Nebraska at Reed Arena.

Then the Aggies (7-12, 0-8 Big 12) lost to Baylor in Waco, 72-64, to increase their losing streak to eight games. The Bears have only six scholarship athletes playing basketball and were pegged as the team that might go winless throughout the conference season.

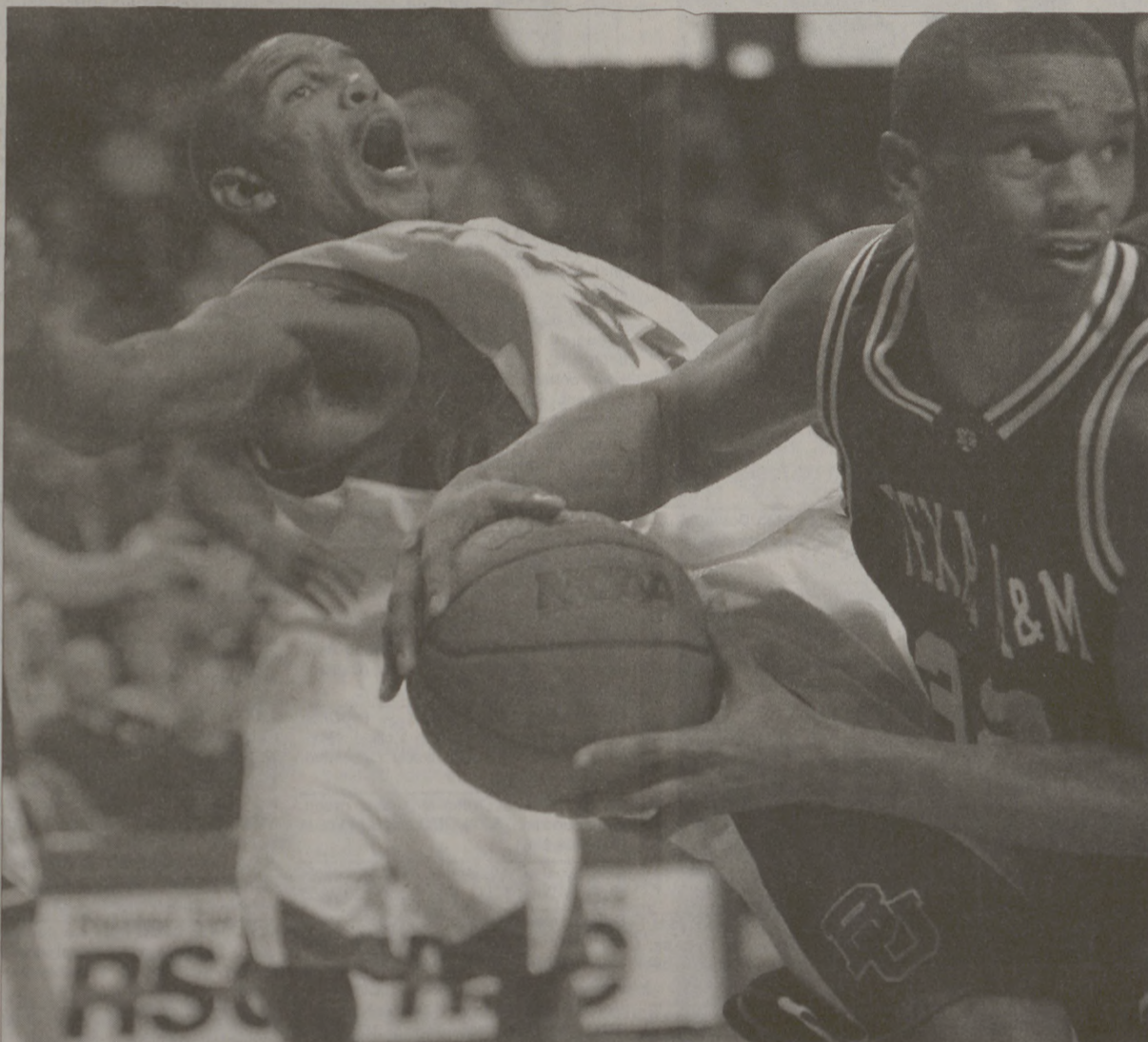
"The last two games, our game has slipped some. Before then, we didn't get the wins, but we were doing things more consistently ...

—Melvin Watkins
Mens basketball head coach

Now that A&M is the only winless team in the Big 12 after half of the conference schedule, any win would be welcome and certainly not taken for granted.

"The last two games, our game has slipped some," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "Before then we didn't get the wins, but we were doing things more consistently where we would eventually get the wins."

Against Baylor, the Aggies let an eight-point first half lead slip away by halftime, and looked poised to get



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore guard **Marcus Watkins** knocks back Baylor sophomore forward **Tommy Swanson** during A&M's loss to Baylor, 72-64, in Waco Saturday.

blown out by the undermanned Bears before making the score respectable in the waning minutes of the game.

"We knew they had some talent," Watkins said. "You got to give them some credit for the job Scott has done over there. They're not playing at the top of the league, but they beat us."

Nebraska (12-7, 2-6) hadn't been much better in conference play until the Cornhuskers beat Missouri, 78-62, their last time on the court. Cornhusker head coach Barry Collier said he knows how tough the Big 12 conference is, and any game on the road will be tough.

"Everybody (in the Big 12) is battling really hard," Collier said. "I think our league is just a fantastic league. It's really difficult to win on the road, it's like trying to lick your

See Men on page 3B

Women play No. 1 Texas

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

Two days after being voted the No. 1 women's basketball team by The Associated Press, the University of Texas (21-2, 9-1 Big 12) will play for the first time as No. 1 when they take on their rival unranked Texas A&M (8-13, 1-9) at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Austin.

The last time the two teams met, Dec. 21 in College Station, was a bitter struggle that lasted into the final minute, ending in a two-point victory for the Longhorns.

Texas head coach Jody Conradt said she expects another close game.

"I am expecting another struggle, another really competitive game," Conradt said.

She said the Aggies usually play especially hard, and they barely survived the last game.

Conradt said the Dec. 21 game was a wake-up call about her team's mental state and that since then, they have been playing better.

"I think we realized (after that game) that we needed to get our minds right," Conradt said. "We're going to have a different focus."

During the last game, Aggie senior guard

See Women on page 3B

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