

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Women take on No. 8 Kansas State

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

A&M senior guard **Toccarra Williams** drives past Texas Tech sophomore forward **Chesley Dabbs** last Saturday.

decided between Kansas State and Texas. just want to outscore you," Blair said. "It is sorta like the Dallas Mavericks; they play defense just to hurry up and get to offense."

Blair said Kansas State is a strong offensive team that will switch between defenses, including a 2-3 zone.

"Offensively, they run their stuff so-well, they

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Aggies face No. 11 Texas

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's men's basketball team has lost 10 straight games, a low to which not many would have thought this talented group would fall. But along with being one of only seven NCAA Division I schools without a conference win comes the speculation of coaching changes.

Usually with losses mounting, discontent reigns in the locker room, but A&M hasn't shown anything other than frustration at not getting a win.

"(A&M head coach Melvin Watkins' job status) is something we talk about every day we walk into practice because we know that's a reality in sports today when you're losing," said Watkins said. "We've had some situations where you'd think we were coming apart, but we'd sit down and talk about things in practice and get right back into the game plan."

When the Aggies (7-14, 0-10 Big 12) travel to the Frank Erwin Center in Austin to take on No. 11 Texas Wednesday at 8 p.m., two coaches on two completely different paths will face each other.

Texas head coach Rick Barnes was hired six seasons ago to rebuild a Longhorn program that wasn't quite in the doldrums of the Big 12 conference, but it certainly was on its way after a 14-17 season, finishing 10th in the Big 12.

Coincidentally, 1998-99 was Barnes' and Watkins' first seasons. Both were expected to take their basketball programs to the next level.

Barnes made good on the expectations by turning the Longhorns into an elite college basketball team, reaching the NCAA Final Four in 2002-03.

Watkins, on the other hand, has never finished above .500, 14-14 in 2002-03 and has never won a conference tournament game.

"I walked into a situation where I had good players here, guys who had played and won," Barnes said. "(Watkins) walked into a situation, and I can only tell you as an outside person,

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Aggie men's tennis travels to Fort Worth

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's tennis team is going to need all the rest it can get before Wednesday, when it travels to Fort Worth to take on No. 13 Texas Christian University.

The trip will mark the beginning of a 10-day stretch of five meets, including three on the road for the No. 9 Aggies (7-3).

"This is going to be a pretty important week for our guys," said A&M head coach Tim Cass. "This, thankfully, will be the last really tough road trip of the season."

The Aggies are familiar with the road at this point in the season, with six of their last seven matches being on the road. A&M played four ranked teams in that span, winning only one of those meets against then-ranked No. 12 California. Their only home game was last Sunday

against Lamar, when the Aggies easily defeated the Cardinals, 7-0.

The Aggies will first have to focus on beating longtime tennis giant TCU (3-0). Cass said the Horned Frogs have always presented a challenge regardless of their ranking.

"We had a really tough match against them last year," Cass said. "We've always seemed to have real similar teams; that makes for good matches."

TCU's tennis program during the last 15 years has seen a men's team ranked in the top 30, including a few top-5 rankings. TCU has been climbing the NCAA rankings recently, jumping first from 18 to 16 and to 13 this week.

TCU head coach Joey Rive said he is glad to see his team's recent success and hopes the success continues Wednesday.

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