

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Wednesday, March 3, 2004

## Softball drops to Texas State

By Jordan Meserole  
THE BATTALION



Texas State sophomore third baseman **Brittany Hodge** slides into home on a wild pitch as A&M freshman right handed pitcher **Jill Weyand** awaits the toss in the second inning Tuesday night at the Aggie Softball Complex.

move the runners up.

Trahan said the mentality the team carries to the field and to the plate has helped them win many games.

"We try to come out thinking that every game is the next step toward the World Series," Trahan said. "We try to play every game big no matter if it's A&M or an unranked or winless team."

Trahan said she wasn't trying to hit a home run, she wanted to

The Bobcats remained hot most of the night, including a fourth inning grand slam by Texas State junior Ashley Wilson, which gave the Bobcats a comfortable six-run lead.

Texas State head coach Ricci Woodard said she expected the score in the game to be high and that the 3-0 lead the Aggies took in the first inning didn't disheart-

en her team.

"It's familiar territory for us," Woodard said. "We've had to battle back in many of our games this season - tonight didn't really surprise me."

The Aggie pitching settled down in the last three innings behind freshman Christina Smith,

See Softball on page 9

## Basketball to face OU

By Troy Miller  
THE BATTALION

Being an NCAA tournament bubble team is a hard life to live in college basketball. Every game is watched closely, as if a scientist were looking at you under the microscope.

For the University of Oklahoma (16-9, 6-8 Big 12) men's basketball team, it's a new feeling as it is usually a tournament lock at this point in the season.

A losing record in conference play means that each of its last two games is a must-win. The first is at 8 p.m. Wednesday against Texas A&M (7-18, 0-14) in Norman, Okla.

"We haven't had the whole day or whole weekend to worry about (Selection Sunday), because we play Friday, Saturday and Sunday (in the Big 12 tournament)," said Oklahoma head coach Kelvin Sampson. "You sit there and think about it. Most of the time we haven't worried if we are going to be in it or not, but even if you're a one-seed, and you know you're going to be a one-seed, it's still exciting to see who you're going to play."

A&M hasn't had the excitement of watching its name unveiled as the tournament brackets unfold on Selection Sunday since 1987, when the Aggies won the Southwest Conference tournament to gain the automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

After a 14-14 campaign in 2002-03 in which A&M freshman guard/forward Antoine Wright won Big 12 Freshman of the Year, many believed that 2004 might be the year the Aggies would reappear in the tournament.

"Coming into the season, I thought we had the right type of kids, attitude-wise," Watkins said. "Maybe we lack the mental toughness and the talent that we needed. I think I've got to give credit to the kids because they are listening and trying to carry out, but sometimes we're just not quite good enough to do what we need to do to win the game."

But with a zero in the conference win column, the Aggies' only chance at a postseason appearance is to win the Big 12 tournament from the bottom seed.

The Sooners on the other hand are on the brink of missing the NCAA tournament for the first time since

See Men on page 9

## Women play last Big 12 game

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team had to pull together after its worst Big 12 defeat against Baylor last Saturday, 55-80, for its last game before the Big 12 tournament, Wednesday in Reed Arena at 7 p.m.

The Aggies (9-17, 2-13 Big 12) take on University of Missouri (15-11, 6-9) at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Reed Arena, and A&M head coach Gary Blair said he talked to his team to make sure the women are ready.

"We got hammered (in the last game)," Blair said. "Sometimes it happens. I want to make sure our kids are on the right thought process."

Blair said Missouri is fighting for a bid to the NCAA tournament, and this will be a must-win for the Tigers, who started the year a top-ranked team.

"If you go six and 10, you aren't going (to the NCAA tournament) unless you win the conference tournament," Blair said. "(Missouri head

coach Cindy Stein) knows the numbers, and she will come in playing hard."

Stein said she plans to play especially hard, because of the importance of the victory and for other reasons. She said her team knows that in order to counter the pressure defense of the Aggies it must be equally aggressive on offense.

"Our kids understand that they have to be extremely poised and they have to be extremely aggressive themselves to not get held back," Stein said.

Blair said sophomore guard LaToya Bond being healthy will be a great advantage to them, and her being injured is a reason Missouri does not have a better record.

"When you look at her stats, they were struggling earlier without her," Blair said.

Along with Bond, senior forward Evan Unrau is the biggest threat to the Aggies.

"Unrau and senior point guard Toccara Williams are the two best underrated players in our league," Blair said.

Unrau is third in the Big 12 in scoring during conference play, with an

average 17.9 points a game. She is first in offensive rebounds with 3.69.

The Tigers are winless at Reed Arena in three tries, but Stein said her team will not focus on road problems. Missouri averages 43 percent shooting with 70 points a game. The Aggies are shooting 38 percent with 60.7 points a game.

The Aggies are playing teams closely, with five of their nine conference losses being by less than three points or in overtime.

Blair said teams are starting to take notice, which may be a reason that Baylor won by 25.

"Maybe some of these other teams haven't respected us," Blair said.

Wednesday will be the last home game seniors, Williams, center Lynn Classen and forward Janae Derrick Classen, a Sports Management major said she plans to work in Dallas or San Antonio after graduation in December.

"I don't really know yet (what I am

See Women on page 9



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Senior forward **Janae Derrick** pivots under the basket Feb. 14 against Texas Tech at Reed Arena. **Derrick** and two other seniors will be playing their last game Wednesday at Reed Arena.

*Campbell Custom Homes Presents...*

### GARY BLAIR APPRECIATION NIGHT

THIS WEDNESDAY AT REED ARENA

"We applaud the hard work that Coach Blair, his staff, and the women's basketball team are doing to build a strong foundation for the future of Aggie Basketball.

To help show our support, Campbell Custom Homes is buying YOUR TICKET to the final home game of the season. That's right - it's totally FREE and there will be 50¢ Slovac Sausages available while supplies last.

Join us this Wednesday at Reed Arena in a show of support and appreciation for Coach Blair, the women's basketball program, and the future of Aggie hoops!"

- Olivia Campbell  
co-owner Campbell Custom Homes  
(979) 828-5177

AggieAthletics.com

# FREE!

Courtesy of Campbell Custom Homes

## Wednesday - 7 p.m.

**T**M VS. **M**ISSOURI

Campbell CUSTOM HOMES

### Senior Recognition Night

-and-

### 50¢ Slovac Sausages

(while Supplies Last - 10,000 Qty.)