

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Oklahoma beats Aggies, 86-60

The University of Oklahoma's basketball team got one step closer to an NCAA tournament bid while Texas A&M took a more step towards a winless record when Oklahoma defeated A&M, 86-60, Wednesday night in Norman, Okla.

The loss is the 15th straight for the Aggies (7-19, 0-15 Big 12) who — unless they can beat 12 champion Oklahoma — will become the second team in Big 12 history to go winless in conference play.

Baylor University first met the distinction in the 1998-99 season.

The Sooners (17-9, 7-8) went on a 21-2 run to start the game and the first 9:37 on their way to a 35-20 halftime lead. Oklahoma junior forward Ronnie Gilbert led the Sooners with 12 points in the half, a career-high.

Gilbert finished the game with 12 points and 5 rebounds. A&M came out quick in the second half pulling within 11 points on a three-point field goal by sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright, his first goal of the game.

Wright finished with 12 points. That was as close as the Aggies would get as the Sooners rebounded with a 12-4 run.

freshman guard LaKeith Thomas had 11 points and a career-high seven rebounds for the Aggies while senior forward King led A&M with 13 points and six rebounds.

A&M will take on Oklahoma Saturday at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

Softball games postponed

A&M softball's doubleheader scheduled for 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. against the University of Texas-Arlington Wednesday has been postponed due to rain in Arlington. The doubleheader will be rescheduled for 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday to be played at Saxe Field in Arlington. The No. 23 Aggies lost to Texas State University, 9-6, in the last game Tuesday.

A&M loses by 1 in last home game

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team's season finale Wednesday was like a movie: The outcome of the game was decided by a single shot as time expired.

The ending wasn't happy for the Aggies, though, who lost 61-60 to the University of Missouri.

After handing the Aggies (9-18, 2-14 Big 12) the loss, the Tigers (16-11, 7-9) also spoiled the scheduled senior night and A&M head coach Gary Blair appreciation night.

"I'm sorry for my seniors that they didn't finish off on a high note," Blair said. "I, however, am not sorry for the show we gave to the fans."

The Aggies started the game by jumping out to a quick 6-0 lead over the Tigers.

But Missouri slowly caught up to the Aggie pace, eventually tying the score 10 minutes into the first half. Two free-throws by Missouri senior guard Tracy Lozier gave the Tigers the lead, which they didn't relinquish the rest of the half.

Blair said A&M let Missouri grab the lead because the team wasn't rebounding well. The Tigers had 10 more rebounds than A&M in the first half, with nine on the defensive side.

"You don't have to be taller or bigger to rebound — it's all attitude," Blair said. "We didn't grab them when we should have and it hurt us."

The Aggies came out strong in the second half, cutting Missouri's lead to three points in the first five minutes. A&M would battle with the Tigers, until recapturing the lead after a layup by A&M junior guard Mindy Garrison. The lead would change sides four more times in a two minutes. Missouri senior guard



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior forwards Lynn Classen and Janae Derrick and guard Toccara Williams are honored before the Aggies' last home game of the season Wednesday. A&M lost to Missouri, 61-60.

MyEsha Perkins, who finished the night with a team-high 16 points, kept the game close by scoring all of Missouri's points in that two-minute span.

"I really like the way we answered them," said Missouri head coach Cindy Stein. "They would go up, but we would show that we weren't going to quit. Any time you play a Gary Blair team it's

going to be a battle."

The Tigers held a lead until the last minute of the game, when A&M junior guard Charlette Castile nailed a wide-open three pointer to tie the game at 58.

With Missouri ahead by a point, A&M senior guard Toccara Williams attempted a layup with two seconds remaining, but

was whistled for a charging foul.

Blair said a foul should have been called on Missouri when A&M senior forward Lynn Classen was knocked to the ground instead of the charging call on Williams.

"I'm not saying a thing about the officiating at all," Blair said. "I'm just saying it's a foul one way or the other."

Feds were told Bonds, others received steroids

By Rob Gloster
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From spring training clubhouses in Florida and Arizona to the Park Avenue office of major league baseball, everyone was talking about steroids — except for Barry Bonds and a few other players.

Bonds was silent when asked about a report that he received steroids and human growth hormone from a nutritional supplements lab implicated in a drug-distribution ring. Also avoiding

the subject were fellow stars Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield.

In New York, Congressman John E. Sweeney went to the steps of the baseball commissioner's office to discuss his legislation to criminalize some steroidlike substances and to say players "involved in illegal substances" should have an asterisk placed next to their names in the record book.

Citing information it said was given to federal investigators, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Tuesday that Bonds was given the substances

by his personal trainer — who got them from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

According to the newspaper, investigators also were told that steroids were given to New York Yankees stars Giambi and Sheffield, three other major leaguers and one NFL player.

Trainer Greg Anderson gave the players the drugs from BALCO, according to information given to the government and shared with the newspaper. The report did not say how federal investigators received the information.

Bonds, Giambi and Sheffield repeatedly have denied using steroids, and last week Bonds said baseball could "test me every day if they choose to."

All testified last year before the grand jury that indicted Anderson and three others in the alleged steroid-distribution ring.

THG, one of the steroids in the investigation, was not made illegal until recent months, and while the possession and sale of human growth hormone without a prescription is a crime, its personal use is not.

Steroids were not banned by

major league baseball until late 2002 and testing with penalties didn't begin until this month. Human growth hormone is not banned by baseball because there is no test for it, according to Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president for labor relations.

Still, major league baseball was concerned about the implications of the newspaper report. "We are very distressed about any situation that calls

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