

W. BASKETBALL

Women's hoops to host Arkansas at Reed Arena

Aggies look to climb back into SEC's top five with a victory Thursday

By Lawrence Smelser

Coach Gary Blair and the Aggie women's basketball team haven't forgotten comments Arkansas made after their last match-up, which A&M won 52-50 at the final buzzer.

"After the last game, Arkansas said their team was better than ours," Blair said. "Our team remembers that statement. It's time to put up or shut up."

After a tough loss in overtime away to No. 17 Mississippi State, the No. 15 Texas A&M women's basketball team will look to bounce back Thursday at Reed Arena against Arkansas.

Arkansas (14-8, 4-6 SEC) comes into College Station riding a three-game winning streak with wins against Auburn, Alabama and No. 24 Georgia. The Razorbacks are eighth in the SEC, so they will be looking to move up in the standings and try to secure a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

The Aggies (18-6, 6-4 SEC) are sixth in the SEC. They are one game back of Kentucky and will look to climb back into the SEC's top five.

The Aggies are led in scoring by junior guard Courtney Walker, who is averaging 14.8 points per game.

Walker is one of many weapons the Aggies have.

Junior guard Jordan Jones leads the SEC and is No. 11 in the country in assists per

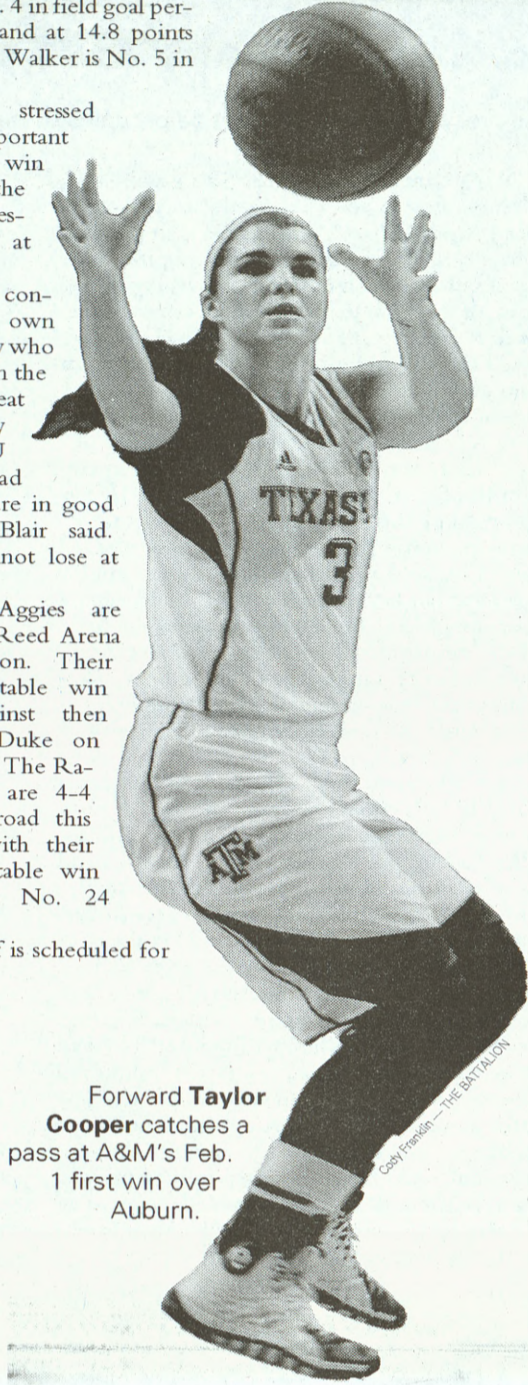
game with 6.6. Senior forward Achiiri Ade is No. 5 in rebounds with 8.3 per game. Walker and junior forward Courtney Williams are No. 3 and No. 4 in field goal percentage, and at 14.8 points per game Walker is No. 5 in scoring.

Blair stressed how important it is to win down the stretch, especially at home.

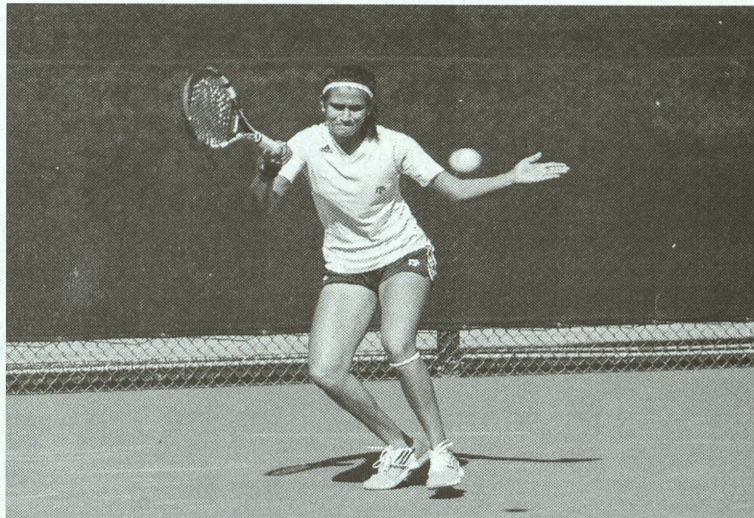
"We control our own destiny by who we play in the end. Beat Kentucky and LSU on the road and we are in good shape," Blair said. "We cannot lose at home."

The Aggies are 12-0 in Reed Arena this season. Their most notable win was against then No. 8 Duke on Nov. 30. The Razorbacks are 4-4 on the road this season with their most notable win being at No. 24 Georgia.

Tip off is scheduled for 8 p.m.



Forward Taylor Cooper catches a pass at A&M's Feb. 1 first win over Auburn.



The tennis team, including Rutuja Bhosate, will host UT-Arlington at the Mitchell Tennis Center Thursday.

Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

UT-Arlington weekend match to end three-week-long lull

By Seth Stroupe

This year hasn't gone according to plan for No. 18 Texas A&M.

After blanking North Texas 4-0 in their season opener, the Aggies went on to drop their next two matches to TCU and No. 1 North Carolina. Still, their most recent loss against the Tar Heels suggests they might not be far off track.

"Obviously you're never happy when you get beat," said head women's tennis coach Howard Joffe. "But on the day I was very pleased based on the fact that North Carolina is a very good team. We played them indoors. We are not an indoors team. And it came down to the last match. Since that match, we've worked very diligently and hard. Our main objective is still to get enough wins in the season to be well positioned and playing our best at the end."

In the time since A&M faced UNC in Houston, the Tar Heels put together dom-

inating victories over No. 2 Florida and No. 3 Georgia en route to capturing this year's indoor national championship crown. Meanwhile, the Aggies have been idle. Thursday's match against UT-Arlington wasn't added to the schedule until two weeks ago, but it will serve as a much needed return to action for A&M.

"Taking the loss to TCU meant that we didn't qualify for indoors this year," Joffe said. "To go three weeks without a match is probably too much in the season. So instead of us continuing to beat up on each other in practice every day, which is what we've been doing, I think the girls are looking forward to facing a different opponent. They're excited about tomorrow's match against UT-Arlington, but they're also just excited to have someone else to play against."

In truth, Texas A&M's opponent was mainly determined by geography — Arlington is only three hours

north of College Station — and schedule availability. Still, the Mavericks — 5-1 on the season — aren't making the trip down just to be someone else's punching bag.

"More than anything, putting it in its proper context, we are supposed to be a stronger team than UT-Arlington," Joffe said. "That being said, they played Missouri, who is a pretty good SEC team, to a match score of 4-3. Aside from the result of our match today, I'll just be looking to see how we compete. The season obviously hasn't started off the way we would've liked, and yet the improvement from match to match has been significant. If we can continue to do that, then we begin to set ourselves up for the start of SEC play, which is obviously the critical item in our season."

The match begins at 2 p.m. at the Mitchell Tennis Center.

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS
1 They're charged in physics
5 Easy task
9 Stadium walkways
14 Bit of wit
15 Aesopian animal
16 Onetime At the Movies cohost
17 Setting
18 Conclusion introducer
19 Conversation piece
20 Optimal shape
23 Tad
25 Opposite of da
26 Taste
27 Lobbying org.
28 Half-square shape
30 Vigor
32 Little Miss Sunshine Oscar winner
34 Skeptical comment
37 Ultimate
41 Oral-care product turning 60 this year
44 Literary governess
45 Wraps up
46 Print-shop gadget
47 Massachusetts state tree
49 Babble
51 Gandalf portrayer's first name
52 Prefix for school or screen
55 October birthstone
58 Resounding slaps

DOWN
1 Measures of brightness: Abbr.
2 Alsace affirmative
3 Fussy fellow
4 Swiftness
60 Presidential diplomacy
63 Roughly
64 Resurface, perhaps
65 Mailbox part
68 Line on a jacket
69 Tech-support client
70 Successor of the mark
71 Evince disdain
72 Ivy League school, for short
73 Chile oon came, for instance
5 Israeli coin
6 Certain
7 Undercover cop
8 Showy flower
9 Say from memory
10 Be beside
11 Have coming
12 Earlier offense
13 Unemotional
21 Deal maker
22 Profundity
23 Place to park
24 Bring together
29 Griffin, in part
31 Word following floor or pension
33 "Say no more"
35 Physique, so to speak
36 Handicraft website
38 Inviting to dinner
39 Grilling candidate
40 Migratory birds
42 Tantalize
43 Swedish girl of kid lit
48 Mill around
50 Behind a Boeing
52 Exams for some juniors
53 Clinton Treasury secretary
54 Be overtheatrical
56 Intensify
57 Office equipment
59 The longest range
61 Symbol of stubbornness
62 All square
66 Valuable rock
67 Ruckus

ANSWERS to today's puzzles

IONS SNAP RAMPS
QUIP HARE EBERT
SITE ERGO CURIO
PEAKCONDITION
SMIDGE NYET TRY
PAC ELL PEP
ARKIN IBET LAST
CRESTTOOTH PASTE
EYRE ENDS INKER
ELM YAP IAN
PRE OPAL SPANKS
SUMMITMEETING
ABOUT PAVE DOOR
TITLE USER EURO
SNEER PENN STEW

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2		6		5	3	1
	5		1			
	1	9	5	2		8
6		7		8		5
	5		6		2	
7	2		4			3
9	6	1	8		5	
		4		9		
5	7	8		3		6

ANSWERS to today's puzzles

2	8	9	6	4	7	5	3	1
3	6	5	8	2	1	4	7	9
4	1	7	9	3	5	2	6	8
6	3	4	7	1	2	8	9	5
8	5	1	3	6	9	7	2	4
7	9	2	5	8	4	6	1	3
9	4	6	1	7	8	3	5	2
1	2	3	4	5	6	9	8	7
5	7	8	2	9	3	1	4	6

ANSWERS to today's puzzles

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40						
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73							

ANSWERS to today's puzzles

2	8	9	6	4	7	5	3	1
3	6	5	8	2	1	4	7	9
4	1	7	9	3	5	2	6	8
6	3	4	7	1	2	8	9	5
8	5	1	3	6	9	7	2	4
7	9	2	5	8	4	6	1	3
9	4	6	1	7	8	3	5	2
1	2	3	4	5	6	9	8	7
5	7	8	2	9	3	1	4	6

ANSWERS to today's puzzles

2	8	9	6	4	7	5	3	1
3	6	5	8	2	1	4	7	9
4	1	7	9	3	5	2	6	8
6	3	4	7	1	2	8	9	5
8	5	1	3	6	9	7	2	4
7	9	2	5	8	4	6	1	3
9	4	6	1	7	8	3	5	2
1	2	3	4	5	6	9	8	7
5	7	8	2	9	3	1	4	6