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Women's basketball team to put unblemished home record on line

By Alex Scott

► The A&M women's basketball team will host Alabama Monday night in an effort to maintain its undefeated status at home this season, where the Aggies maintain the 10th-longest active winning streak.

The Aggies (19-6, 7-4 SEC) come into Monday's conference showdown led by Courtney Walker and Courtney Williams, who both rank among the top 10 in the SEC in points per game. The Courtneys combined for 29 points in Thursday's 59-55 win over Arkansas.

Not only does Walker lead the team in scoring, she also played all 40 minutes of the Arkansas game and recorded seven rebounds and a steal.

Alabama (13-13, 2-9 SEC) got back in sync with a win Thursday after dropping four straight games for the second time this season. Unlike Texas A&M, which has a clear path to postseason play, the Crimson Tide

occupy the 13-seed in the SEC and can only hope to finish the year on a high note.

The Alabama roster consists of eight underclassmen — five freshmen and three sophomores. The Aggies represent the opposite side of the spectrum, with 10 upperclassmen anchored by four seniors.

Texas A&M once again will try to break into the top five in the SEC this week. The Aggies' two remaining contests against higher ranked opponents this season will be on the road at Kentucky and at LSU. A&M plays LSU in the final game of the regular season, which could have implications for seeding in the SEC tournament.

With a win Monday the Aggie women's basketball program will have recorded a 10th straight 20-win season.

With only three remaining home games, A&M tips off at 6 p.m. at Reed Arena.



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Junior **Courtney Walker** will lead the Aggie women's team in its matchup against Alabama in Reed Arena.

Men's hoops edges past Florida, looks ahead to LSU

The men's basketball team squeezed past Florida on Saturday at Reed Arena, 63-62. The home win follows a Wednesday loss to Georgia and sets up an upcoming Tuesday showdown with LSU.

1 Sometimes, experience matters

The Aggies' oldest player, Kourtney Roberson, scored a team-high 20 Saturday, well above his eight-points-per-game average. "Fifth-year seniors — that's what they're supposed to do," head coach Billy Kennedy said.

2 'Eight is great'

Junior Alex Caruso tweeted the phrase after the game (in which he coincidentally scored eight points), which pushed the Aggies to 8-4 in the SEC. That mark matches last season's SEC win total, the team's best since joining the conference.

3 A crowded race

With six conference games remaining, the Aggies are tied with Ole Miss for third in the SEC. No one is catching Kentucky, but only two games separate second-place Arkansas (9-3) and sixth-place Georgia (7-5).

4 Playing big in the paint

A&M out-scored Florida 42-32 in the paint, paced by Roberson, who missed only two of his 10 shots. "When I got in the paint I just looked to score and if I didn't have a good look I tried to pass it outside," Roberson said. "I think Jalen [Jones] and I do a great job of finishing in the paint."

5 Jones and House — what's new?

Transfers Jalen Jones and Danuel House combined for 30 points, and the correlation isn't hard to spot: When they score, the Aggies win. The team is 8-2 in its last 10. In all eight wins, the duo scored more than 30. In both losses, it didn't.

By Mark Doré



63-62

Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

In the game against LSU on Saturday, senior **Kourtney Roberson** scored a team-high 20.

SOFTBALL CONTINUED

as a pitcher. I thought she was absolutely terrific out there and gave herself a chance to be fresh and ready to go in the second game. She set the tone for us and our kids scored some games, played good defense behind her but, to me, she was the star of the show."

This tournament has showcased the type of young talent Evans has in her arsenal, with freshmen Vidales, Ashley Walters and Erica Russell making significant contributions to the club.

Evans said before the tournament that contributions from younger Aggies will make or break the team.

"If our youngsters don't figure out the speed of the game early, it could mean the difference between going to the post-season and not going to the post-season," Evans said.

The Aggies stay at home for a 4:30 p.m. Wednesday meeting with No. 2 Oregon.

BASEBALL CONTINUED

"I thought our pitching all in all as a whole was the best it has been all weekend long," Childress said.

Offensively, Gideon led the team. His first-inning three-run homer put the Aggies in the lead for the rest of the game, and by the end of the first inning the scoreboard read 4-1.

Moss also contributed with his first home run of the season, a two-run shot that gave the Aggies their 6-1 lead. Moss was 1-for-2 with 2 RBIs in the win.

The win improves the Aggies to 3-0 on the season. A&M will keep its long homestand going at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday night against Stephen F. Austin.

Gideon tipped his hat to the Olsen Field crowds.

"They help us get into the game and help us at the end of the game as well," Gideon said. "The fans have a lot of energy here and I think that

helps us a lot."

Game 1 of the series took place Friday night. Behind eight RBI from Gideon, the Aggies won 19-2. It was the most runs scored by A&M on Opening Day since 1989.

The Aggies scored 13 runs in the first three innings. A&M had three home runs in those first three innings, hit by Logan Taylor, Ryne Birk and Gideon.

AJ Minter also had a strong opening performance, with seven strikeouts and zero earned runs in five innings on the mound.

Game 2 was not as one-sided as opening night. A&M and Holy Cross went back and forth in a game that included five lead changes.

JB Moss went 3-for-5 with five RBIs and Blake Allemand went 3-for-4 with two RBIs in the game. Allemand also had a highlight-reel dive to stop a Holy Cross hit from getting to the outfield and ultimately ending a potential Crusader rally.

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