

## W. BASKETBALL

# Aggies continue winning streak

All-around team effort leads to win over Florida Sunday

By **Andre Perrard**

▶ Texas A&M has no room for losing games at home before March.

Sunday afternoon the Aggie women's basketball team moved its winning streak to four games, defeating the Florida Gators 66-46.

A&M is now 10-0 when allowing fewer than 49 points. Courtney Williams led A&M with 11 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Courtney Walker, Achiri Ade and Khaalia Hillsman all contributed to the win as well. Walker had nine points and four rebounds, Ade had 10 points and five rebounds and Hillsman finished with nine points and six rebounds.

Hillsman has been coming on strong the last few games and she said she attributes it to her practice mindset.

"Our coaches have really stressed working hard in practice before you can convert it onto the court," Hillsman said. "I've been coming to practice with the mindset to get better everyday."

Coming off a big road win at No. 11 Kentucky, A&M did not fall into the trap.

"We really came out fired up and ready to start the ballgame," said head coach Gary Blair. "We got in foul trouble with the two Courtneys, but I trust my bench."

It is the Aggies' 17th consecutive win at home. A&M is now 123-3 against unranked teams at home since Feb. 2005 and has won the last 27 of those games.

The game started out fast for A&M (22-6, 10-4 SEC), and it never trailed in the game. A&M started the game on a 10-2 run. Florida (12-15, 4-10 SEC) cut the 10-point Aggie lead to three late in the first half. However, the Gators went scoreless for over four minutes, and a 7-0 Aggie run pushed the lead back to 10 at the half, 31-21.

Good shooting helped the Aggies earn the win. They shot 47 percent from the floor.



Senior forward **Achiri Ade** scored 10 points during the A&M victory against Florida at Reed Arena Sunday.

The Aggies built their largest lead of the game at 21 in the second half with a 15-2 run over a six-minute span. The Aggies spread the ball around well, as all five of the Aggie starters scored a point. As a team, they had 16 total assists. Jordan Jones led the Aggies in assists with six in the game.

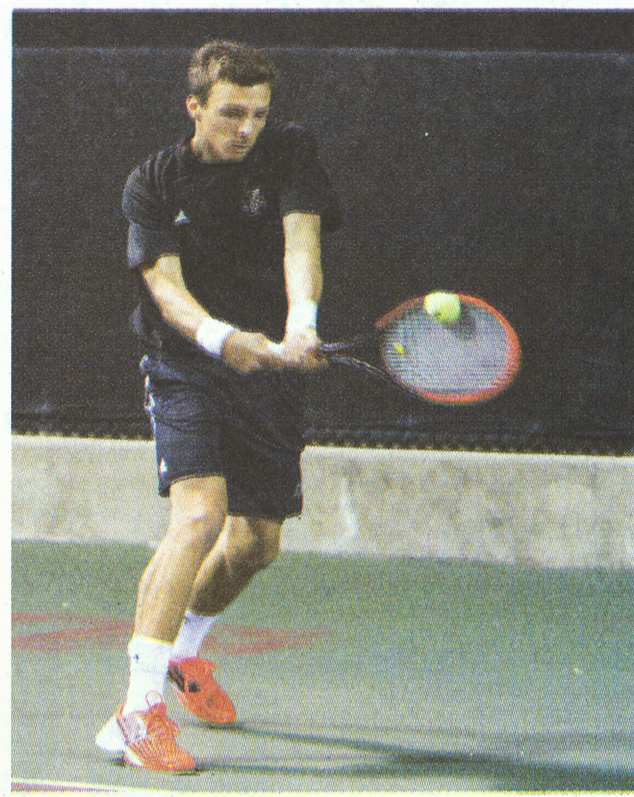
Chelsea Jennings contributed off the bench with eight rebounds and five

points, a big part of the win. She said her defense is what has been the biggest improvement to her.

"I bring pretty good defense," Jennings said. "I just try to do the little things that maybe the starters are not contributing to at the moment."

A&M will return Thursday night to Reed Arena for its home finale against Missouri.

## M. TENNIS



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Freshman **Arthur Rinderknech** assisted in A&M's win against No. 1 Oklahoma Friday evening.

## A&M kicks off winning weekend with upset of No. 1 Oklahoma

By **Alex Scott**

▶ The Texas A&M men's tennis team kicked off its weekend by upsetting the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners Friday night by a score of 4-3.

The Aggies secured the doubles point behind an effort from freshman AJ Catanzariti and Arthur Rinderknech.

The performance of the freshmen carried over into the singles matches, where Catanzariti and Rinderknech both won key matches. Catanzariti, after being down 2-5 in the first set tiebreak, battled back to win the first and proceeded to win the second by only giving up

one game to his Sooner opponent (7-6, 6-1).

All eyes turned to Rinderknech down the stretch to see if the freshmen could overcome his first set loss and seal a win for the Aggies late Friday evening. Arthur won his deciding match, (6-7, 6-3, 6-1), catching fire in the final set.

"He's done it now in three matches where he is the last guy standing and he has come through for us in a major way," head coach Steven Denton said.

Texas A&M improved to 4-1 on the season with a win Sunday over the University of Incarnate Word and will open SEC play at 6 p.m. Friday against Kentucky.

## BASEBALL

## No. 17 A&M sweeps Penn State

The Aggies continue their undefeated season

By **Milkyas Gashaw**

▶ Four teams have tried, and four teams have failed.

The No. 17 Texas A&M baseball team (7-0) continued its undefeated season with a 5-2 victory on Sunday at Blue Bell Park against Penn State (0-6).

The Aggies and the Nittany Lions are having polar opposite seasons — the weekend wins cap one of the best starts in Aggie baseball history, while Penn State searches for its first win of the season.

A&M began the series on a windy Friday evening with a 9-3 victory and then continued their winning streak with a convincing 15-2 win. Head coach Rob Childress spoke about junior Grayson Long's competitiveness in his Saturday start.

"He kept it together," Childress said. "I think that was in the back of his mind going into today. Once he got into the fight I felt like he was more competitive and stopped worrying about being perfect and he just competed. That's one of his strengths. I saw a lot of the old Grayson in [the] last



Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

Sophomore rightfielder **Nick Banks** rounds third base in the win against Penn State at Olsen Field Saturday.

four innings."

The Aggies kicked off the scoring on Sunday with a two-run homer from infielder Logan Taylor in the bottom of the second inning. That was the 12th home run that the Aggies hit this season; A&M didn't hit their 12th home run until the 34th game of last season. Junior Matt Kent pitched

6 2/3 innings and only allowed eight hits, two runs and six strikeouts. The Aggies pushed the lead to 5-2 with an RBI single from Nick Banks.

A&M looks for its eighth straight win at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday with a visit from Houston Baptist University.

## SOFTBALL

FULL STORY AT THEBATT.COM

NO. 23 A&M GOES UNDEFEATED (5-0) IN MARY NUTTER CLASSIC OVER THE WEEKEND.

Both A&M teams qualify for tournament in South Carolina

By **Katie Canales**

▶ The Texas A&M Quidditch Teams will head to South Carolina in April after qualifying for the U.S. Quidditch World Cup 8 Tournament.

This past weekend both A&M Quidditch teams, Texas A&M and Silver Phoenix, competed in the Southwest Regional Championship in San Marcos. Both teams qualified for the World Cup on day one of the two-day tournament.

"World Cup each year is 80 teams from across the nation who have to qualify through

their regional championship," said Rosemary Ross, president of Texas A&M Quidditch and psychology senior. "So right now, Texas A&M and Silver Phoenix are two of the top teams in the Southwest to qualify."

Texas A&M Quidditch has participated in the World Cup Championships since its founding in October 2008.

"World Cup is the event for Quidditch, that is the biggest thing you can do, the biggest tournament all year," Ross said. "You can lose all the tournaments all season and World Cup is the only one that really matters. It's like the Superbowl is to the NFL."

Ross said coverage of the World Cup games in April that both A&M teams participate in will be available online with a live stream.

## CLUBS

## Quiddich to compete in World Cup 8

## SWIMMING &amp; DIVING

FULL STORY AT THEBATT.COM

The SEC Swimming and Diving Championships have concluded for the Texas A&M swimming and diving teams.

The teams will return home after competing for five days at the James E. Martin Aquatics Center at Auburn University. The No. 5 women's swimming and diving team placed second in the competition while the men's team finished eighth.

The women's team accumulated 1,166 team points over the five days, 284 points behind winner Georgia.

The men tallied 555 points, well behind three-time defending champion Florida, which scored 1,314.5 points.

## O'ROURKE CONTINUED

"The official statement made by EC when asked about why I was disqualified, which was rendered only after I made an inquisition, was that I failed to file an expenditure report," O'Rourke said. "We're arguing that because I didn't spend any money. It is not a withheld financial report, but rather an overlooked null expenditure statement."

Emma Douglas, election commissioner for the Student Government Association, said the requirements were clearly stated and thus his disqualification was justified.

"The facts of the 2018 case are that [O'Rourke] did not turn in an expense report, so I disqualified him," Douglas said. "My side would be that it was clearly stated in multiple forms that you had to turn in an expense report. That's why I disqualified him, because he wasn't following the rules."

O'Rourke argues that the impact of not reporting that his campaign spent no money is negligible, and going against an overwhelming majority of voters would bring flaws into the election system.

"We don't want the elections to be about null expenditure statements, we want

them to remain being about the student body as a whole," O'Rourke said.

Beni Kashala, who finished as runner-up in the unofficial election results but was declared the winner after O'Rourke's disqualification, said the documents in question were presented as a requirement to run.

"The O'Rourke campaign failed to turn in an expense report and/or a null-expenditure report," Kashala said. "These documents are deemed 'necessary' by the commissioner, according to the Election Commission website. From what I've gathered, candidates getting automatically disqualified for not turning in one of those above mentioned documents is common procedure in the election process."

Douglas said non-existent expenditure reports are one of the leading causes of disqualifications in races campus-wide.

"The only reasons for disqualifications were not attending the mandatory meeting and not turning in the report. The vast majority of expense report disqualifications were from not turning one in," Douglas said.

O'Rourke vs. Douglas will be heard by J-Court at 7:10 p.m. Monday in Rudder 410.