

BASKETBALL CONTINUED

double figures with Alex Caruso shooting a perfect 5-for-5 from the field and Kourtney Roberson putting up a double-double.

Florida (14-15, 7-9 SEC) will be fighting to keep its postseason hopes alive. The team is led by forward Dorian Finney-Smith, guard Michael Frazier II and guard Eli Carter, all of whom are juniors. Carter scored 22 in the loss to the Aggies on Feb. 14 at Reed Arena.

Head coach Billy Kennedy discussed the pressure and difference A&M would feel playing at Florida's home court.

"They didn't play bad when they were here," Kennedy said. "I think we could play better, but we will play them pretty much the same way. They press more at home and shoot the ball better on their court. They're doing a few things differently offensively. Some of it will be predicated on whether Frazier plays or not. I think we'll see more pressure."

ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi has the Aggies as a nine-seed for the NCAA Tournament.

"We see the SEC tournament is coming up," Jones said. "We know that we are in

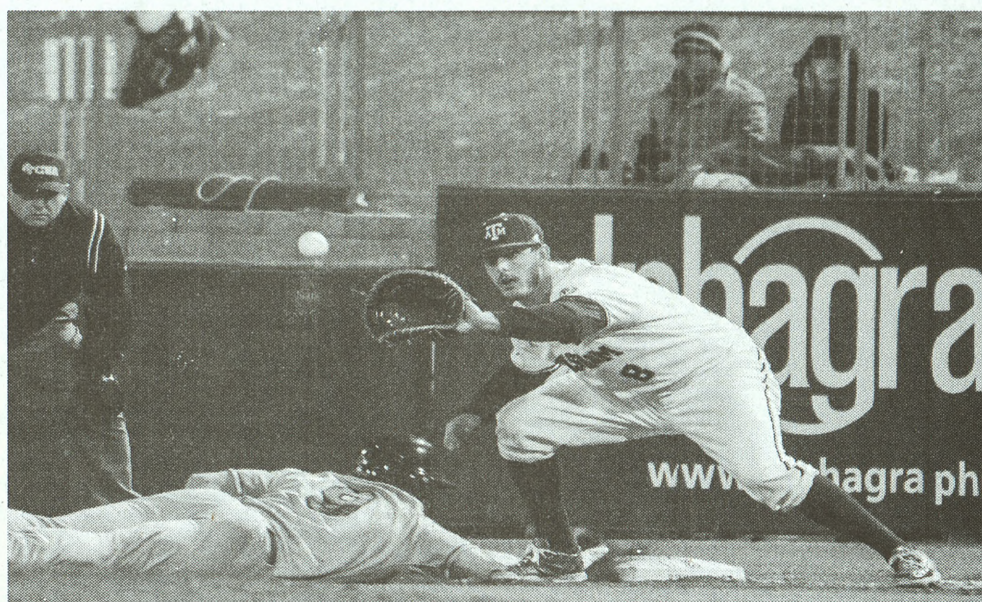
third place in conference right now. The top four gets a bye. That's what we are really looking forward to right now — the SEC tournament — rather than the NCAA. We feel like we need to finish conference strong and go into the SEC tournament with some momentum, and then take it from there."

Tuesday will be Texas A&M's last road game. Their final game of the regular season is Saturday at Reed Arena against Alabama. The way the Aggies play in these final two games will determine whether or not they get a double bye in the SEC Tournament and could secure their place in the NCAA Tournament.

"At this time, it's about finishing strong," Jones said. "The teams that finish strong have the best chance of getting to postseason play. We have been consistent all year. I don't think we have lost two games in a row except once. We just have to keep doing what we have been doing. Hopefully, we will start playing at our best. I think we're playing good, [but] I just don't think we've played at our best yet. It's time to start playing at our best."

Tipoff is at 8 p.m. and the game can be seen on ESPNU.

BASEBALL



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Senior infielder **Logan Nottebrok** attempts to tag a sliding baserunner during the weekend sweep over Dartmouth.

FOOTBALL CONTINUED

to see what other talent the roster possesses.

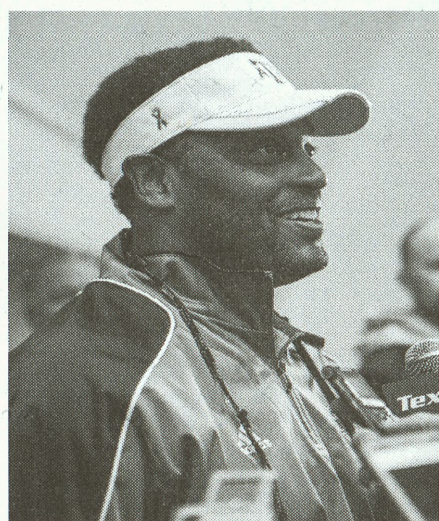
"We have guys that are out completely for spring," Sumlin said. "For us the timing of spring ball gave us seven or eight weeks of lifting and be around our guys, get things going. We stretch out spring ball as long as we can. [It's a] chance to get a guy with something minor back. What that does is give us ability to put other guys in there and see who can be backups, or what the rotation is."

The team has seen improvement across the board, said strength and conditioning coach Larry Jackson. However, it is the newcomers that are impressive, and early enrollee Christian Kirk is the one Jackson had his eye on throughout the day.

"[Kirk] has been doing a lot of extra work," Jackson said. "He has been doing great. You can tell that he is the workhorse that he said he was. So it is really exciting to watch him and see where he is going to go."

A main storyline for the team is the return of sophomore starting quarterback Kyle Allen, who stepped into the starting role during the Louisiana-Monroe game for Kenny Hill. He finished the year as the MVP in the Liberty Bowl win. Now in his second year, Allen enters spring as the starting quarterback looking to build off his good end to 2014, and he is taking spring drill seriously.

"Kyle Allen is not built that way to just 'go through motions' of spring," Sumlin



Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

Head Coach Kevin Sumlin speaks with media members after spring practice Monday.

said. "He wants to get better. Him ending the season as MVP of the bowl game is good for him. The way he's wired, he's not going to just sit around and be there. He wants to be great. That is what made him one of the top guys coming out of high school. He has done a lot of explosive work and a lot of quickness work in offseason. He is taking the next step in being able to think conceptually. This process started with him when he got back."

Undefeated Aggies look to end homestand with Dallas Baptist

By **Andre Perrard**

▷ The homestand is finally coming to an end.

Twelve games into a 13-game season-opening stint at Olsen Field, A&M is 12-0 and looking to stay undefeated before heading to Houston for the Minute Maid Classic next weekend.

The Aggies face the Dallas Baptist Patriots (6-1) at 6:35 p.m. Tuesday.

This is the Patriots' first game in a week due to the snowstorms that have affected north Texas. The team is led by Camden Duzenack, who is hitting .296 with eight RBIs and one home run.

A&M comes into the game with a lineup that has been on fire lately. Nick Banks and Ronnie Gideon lead the team in RBIs with 12 apiece. Mitchell Nau has the highest batting average on the team

(.459), with Banks close behind (.439).

Logan Taylor leads the Aggies in home runs with four. Ronnie Gideon is second on the team with three home runs, and five other players in the starting lineup have hit at

▽ **"We strive to just go out every day, run off our plan, and play our game. We just need to give the best effort we can give, and at the end of the day the results are going to show for themselves."**

Mitchell Nau, catcher

least one homer this season. As a team, A&M has 16 home runs.

Aggie pitching has been crucial in the winning streak. The starting pitchers have not been announced, but A&M is likely to send out freshman Turner Larkins for his third consecutive Tuesday start. Larkins has a 1.42 ERA on the season, allowing only two earned runs and with 12 strikeouts on the year.

Even though the Minute Maid Classic is next weekend, the Aggies are not overlooking the challenge that lies ahead of them Tuesday.

"We strive to just go out every day, run off our plan, and play our game," Nau said. "We just need to give the best effort we can give, and at the end of the day the results are going to show for themselves."

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puzzle answers can be found on page 2

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- Got cash for
- Recipe amts.
- Frome ___ built in a day
- Fronoun like "thou"
- Great Salt Lake's state
- Machine part that spins
- "What's ___ for me?"
- Astronauts' org.
- Wipe clean
- Decade of the Charleston
- Top poker card
- Shade tree
- "No ifs, ___ or buts!"
- Packages sent by mail
- Proofs of age, for short
- Assist, as in wrongdoing
- Artist Picasso
- Air-conditioner meas.
- Don mothers, for instance
- When a plane is expected: Abbr.
- Another name for Myanmar
- "That's clear"
- Tire-pressure meas.
- Pouch for a pistol
- Be afraid of
- Irish dance
- Dustcloth
- Swahili or Somali
- Sports replay feature, for short
- Doggie-biscuit shape
- Metal in steel

DOWN

- Mix with a spoon
- "This is terrible!"
- Star Wars princess
- Draws attention away
- Underground passage
- Male deer
- Cut and ___ (do editing)
- Shoulder covering
- Gets under control
- ... happily after
- Bit of bird food
- Make the first move
- Damp, as a morning lawn
- Dumbo's wings
- Small songbird
- Major blood vessels
- Fabric discoloration
- around (snooped)
- Lock of hair
- Winter driving hazard
- Author Zola
- Plate of walking
- Border on
- Country singer McEntire
- Cowboy boot attachment
- favor for (help out)
- Any-hr. cash source
- Cut and ___ (do editing)
- Uninteresting
- Highest in quality
- Fir or maple
- Software buyer
- Eye-logo network
- Fortune-telling board
- Identity-hiding garb
- Basic textbook
- Stubborn and mean
- Fall behind
- Doesn't eat for a while
- D sharp alias
- Fragrance
- Under the covers
- Mitten cousin
- Price paid
- All over again
- Vicinity
- Suffix meaning "attende"
- Finishes up

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