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Wednesday, March 25, 2015

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5:30 p.m. Lecture

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Acceptances only by Monday, March 23, 2015

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BASKETBALL

Louisiana Tech visits Reed
as A&M continues NIT push

By Cole Stenholm

Two more victories in the National Invitation Tournament stand between the Texas A&M men's basketball team and a date at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The 2-seed Aggies, once thought of as NCAA tournament hopefuls, return to the friendly confines of Reed Arena one final time.

A&M (21-11) must get by Louisiana Tech University (26-8) from Conference USA if it wishes to push forward in the NIT bracket to Philadelphia, where it would play top-seeded Temple. The winner of that matchup would then proceed to New York.

The Bulldogs feature three players who average double-digit points per game and boast one of the nation's top distributors in Kenneth "Speedy" Smith, a senior who dishes out 7.5 assists per game.

Louisiana Tech was one overtime period away from landing a bid in the NCAA tournament before dropping the Conference USA championship game, 72-62, to the University of Alabama-Birmingham, which went on to upset 3-seed Iowa State in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Both the Aggies and the Bulldogs, though, enjoyed first-round success in the NIT after each team scored well over its season average point totals to secure 81-64 and 89-79 victories over University of Montana and Central Michigan University, respectively.

These offensive explosions could be the result of the 30-second shortened shot clock that is being experimented with in this year's NIT. All NIT tournament play will also implement an expanded four-foot, restricted-area arc.

In Texas A&M's victory over Montana, two key freshmen helped pick up the slack for turnover-plagued Alex Caruso and the absence of leading scorer, Danuel House, who has missed the past three games with a foot injury.

Alex Robinson took over the point guard position for much of the Montana victory and contributed a career-high 15 points on 5-9 shooting while also dishing eight assists, two shy of his career mark. Peyton Allen returned to shooting form, adding 12 points on 4-of-8 shooting off the bench.

The Aggies will look for increased crowd support with the return of the student body from Spring Break vacations. Only 2,583 of the 12,989 seats were filled at Reed Arena for the opening victory over Montana.

Monday night's matchup with Louisiana Tech tips at 6 p.m. and will be televised nationally on ESPN.



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Senior forward Kourtney Roberson dunks during A&M's 81-64 first-round NIT win over Montana.

W. BASKETBALL

A&M SEASON ENDS WITH 1ST-ROUND
LOSS TO ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK

The Texas A&M women's basketball team's season came to an abrupt end in the first round of the NCAA tournament after it was defeated by 11-seed Arkansas-Little Rock, 69-60.

The 6-seed Aggies (23-10, 10-6 SEC) were ousted despite a stellar performance from Courtney Williams on her birthday. Williams scored 23 points and grabbed 12 boards and Courtney Walker added 10 points.

A&M lost three of its last four games after losing junior guard Jordan Jones, the SEC Defensive Player of the Year, to a knee injury.

Seniors Taylor Gaunt and Kiera Clark led the way for Arkansas-Little Rock with 25 and 22 points, respectively.

Lawrence Smelser

SOFTBALL



Freshman infielder Erica Russell makes a diving catch Sunday in the sweep of South Carolina.

Provided by Texas A&M Athletics

A&M swats South Carolina in sweep

By Alex Scott

The Texas A&M softball team won both games of a home doubleheader Sunday that included walkoff home run heroics to complete the series sweep of South Carolina.

South Carolina (21-12, 2-7 SEC) came out in the first game of the day on fire, scoring two runs in its first five at-bats.

In the fifth inning the Aggies (24-7, 6-3 SEC) scored two runs to tie the score at three apiece. An RBI from Kristen Cuyos brought Alex Masek home to score the Aggies' second run. Following a wild pitch, Brittany Clopton scored the equalizer.

Then, facing the threat of extra innings, Dozier approached the plate with two outs, reared back and killed the first pitch thrown to her, hitting a walk off home run to seal the second consecutive come-from-behind victory for the Aggies, 4-3.

Momentum proved to work in A&M's favor in the second game Sunday. After a Tori Vidales homer in the first, a three-run third inning gave the Aggies a 4-0 lead. Ashley Walters hit a two-RBI double in the third that

allowed A&M to extend its lead even further. Rachel Fox entered in the fifth inning and closed the 5-2 win. The Aggies won the first game of the series 3-2 Friday in 10 innings.

A&M will travel to Tuscaloosa next weekend to play a conference series against Alabama.

BASEBALL

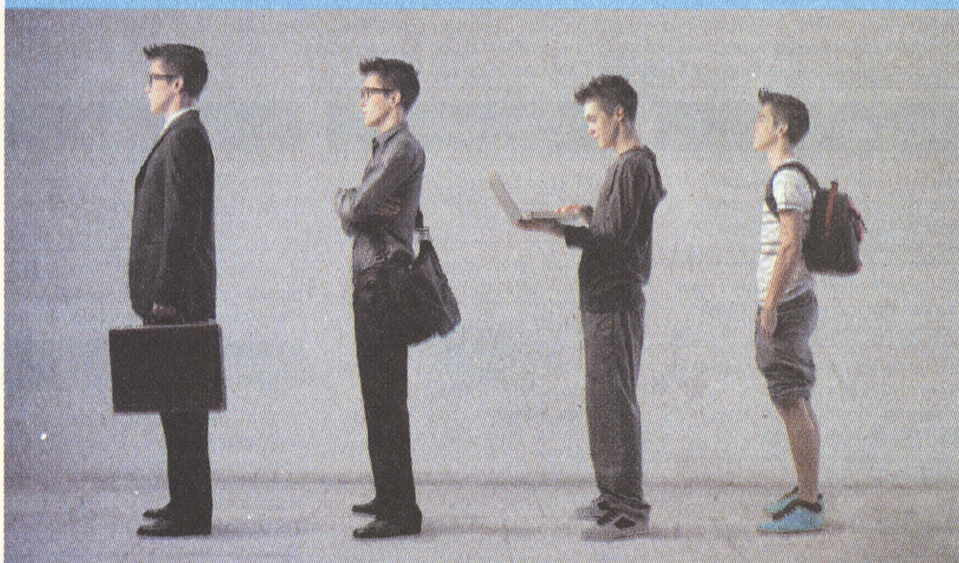
ALABAMA ENDS WIN STREAK AT 24

A&M saw its 24-game winning streak come to an end in its series finale at Alabama Saturday. It was the best run in SEC history and the second-best start in school history, behind the 1989 team, which started the year 26-0.

After A&M won 4-2 Friday, the teams played a doubleheader Saturday. In game one, A&M scored seven runs in the final two frames to win 10-5. In game two, a four-run first inning lifted Alabama to a 6-2 win.

Andre Perrard

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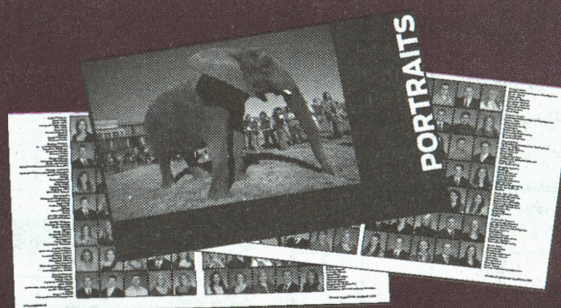
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Three more days to have your portrait made for the 2015 Aggieland yearbook. Walk in 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. today - March 25, to Suite L400 of the MSC. All Texas A&M students welcome. There is no sitting charge.