Remain unbeaten in SWC

Parker leads Ags over Coogs

By TONY GALLUCCI

The Aggies withstood a strong late-game rally by the University of Houston last night in G. Rollie and won their fourth straight conference game, 74-67, behind the 22-point production of Sonny Parker.

Despite an incredibly hot-shooting performance of Coog Senior David Marrs, the Ags managed to stretch the gap over conference newcomer Houston to 18 points several times in the second half. Marrs completed a miraculous 14 of 17 shots from the field for a 72.3 per cent night. He also hit six of six at the line to give him 34 points for the night. Otis Birdsong, while not so hot, added 24 points to the Coog cause. Between the two they accounted for all but nine of UH's total.

Meanwhile Aggie players spread the wealth more evenly, with Barry Davis backing up Sonny P with 15 points, followed by Karl Godine with 10 points, Wally Swanson with nine and Jarvis Williams with eight.

Swanson led all rebounders with 11 followed by Sonny P with 10. Marrs and Birdsong each had eight.

After the first eight and a half minutes, in which the Ags warmed up, the natives never lost their lead. Houston led at one point by five but it wasn't to last long. The hot-dogging Cougars were possibly the victim of their own cockiness.

In the waning minutes of the game, UH was playing a good game of catchup, feeding Marrs constantly when it became apparent that he was too hot to touch. With six minutes left in the game, UH had cut the lead by eight points when marrs got a fast break pass under the basket. Typical of the Coog style of play, he passed up the easy lay in and went over the basket dropping the ball in. He was called for dunking (putting his hands in the cylinder over the basket) costing his team an easy two points and lots of momentum.

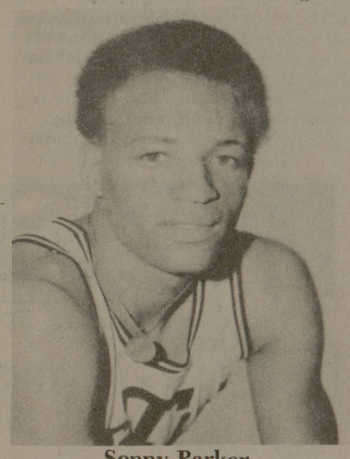
Marrs narrowed the lead to seven points at 70-63 a couples of minutes later on a turnaround jumper but the Cougars could narrow it no further.

Sonny P playing his accustomed role for the Ags calmly sank two free throws to end Aggie scoring for the game. A Jarvis Williams followup was disallowed for basket interference.

Marrs earned the final two points of the game for Houston, also on two free throws, with 12 seconds remaining.

The Ags led at the half 41-29 on Sonny P's 12 points, including three straight outside jumpshots, and nine points from Davis. Marrs had 14 at the half.

"We played just good enough to win," noted Davis after the game.



Sonny Parker

"Sonny had a real good game, but we didn't play the way we wanted to." As for Houston? "They're a pretty good ball club," said Ray Roberts. Swanson called them "physical." "They couldn't get more prepared (for the game) than they were," said Davis.

Trying to hold on to the healthy lead gained in the final minutes, the Ags went to the stall. Houston broke the maneuver twice and provided some hectic minutes, but the slow-down technique won out. Early, the game plan was to go to Davis and Sonny P to score. "Not too many people can play us man to man with Barry and Sonny," said Swanson. The press was broken early and UH had to retreat.

Said Houston coach Guy Lewis, "We didn't use the press much. We're just not a good pressing team. They've (A&M) got a real good basketball team, in fact, they've got an excellent basketball team."

The win gives A&M four conference wins against no losses and leaves them the only undefeated conference team. The win boosts their overall record to 11-3. The Cougars fall to 3-3 in SWC play and 11-4 overall.

Meanwhile, Texas did the Ags a favor by knocking off Arkansas in Austin 59-57 for the 'Sips first conference win of the year. The Razorbacks, who A&M visits this Saturday, also fall to 3-3 in the league and are 10-4 for the year. Texas picked up their first conference win against five losses and are 6-9 for the year. In other action, SMU fell back and lost to non-conference rival North Texas 96-88, after leading by as much as 18 points. Ira Terrell, this weeks SWC player of the week broke the SWC career rebounding record with his effort in the losing cause.

Texas Tech strengthened its stranglehold on second place with a 94-82 clout of Baylor in Waco. Rick Bullock led Tech with 21 points. Four Baylor players fouled out in the game and both coaches were awarded technicals. Tech is now 4-1 in the SWC and 12-3 overall and Baylor drops to 3-3 and 7-9.

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