

the sports

# Robinson plays final home game

By MARK PATTERSON  
Battalion Sports Staff

Tuesday night's TCU game marked the end of the regular season for the Texas Aggie basketball team. It was end of the home season for the men in maroon. And as well, it was the final home game in Joey Robinson's basketball career.

Robinson, the only basketball player at Texas A&M to letter four years on the court, took advantage of the situation and went out with his college career to do over again. Getting his first start of the night to deliver the senior from Tulsa hit



Joey Robinson

was real. He made nine shots for 10 points and 28 minutes of game time before exiting to a standing ovation from the fans.

"I wasn't expecting to start tonight," Robinson said after the 80 Aggie victory. "In the locker room before the game Coach Metcalf told me I was going to. I wasn't expecting it at all."

Coach also said something that made me feel good. He said I wasn't going to be the star, but that I would be working for it in practice."

Practice in this, his final season, who has been difficult for Robinson, who the season was a starter for the Aggie. Yet Robinson has accepted his over the last year and has taken it in his stride.

It's hard to be a starter for a year and adjust to becoming a valuable member of the team," Shelby Metcalf said of the senior Robinson's worth to the team. "With all the experience he's gained will walk away with whatever he does

from now on.

"I have to admire him for hanging in there. He came here and stepped right onto a championship team (1976). He's also been through the rough time we've had the past two seasons, but now he gets to be with the team on that for the rest of his life."

In retrospect, the four years Robinson has been through as an Aggie have been diverse. Though the times were memorable, if given his college career to do over again Robinson said he would change some things in his past.

"That first year was so great," Robinson remembered. "I came off a high school (Oklahoma) state championship team and in my first year we won the conference. It couldn't have been any better."

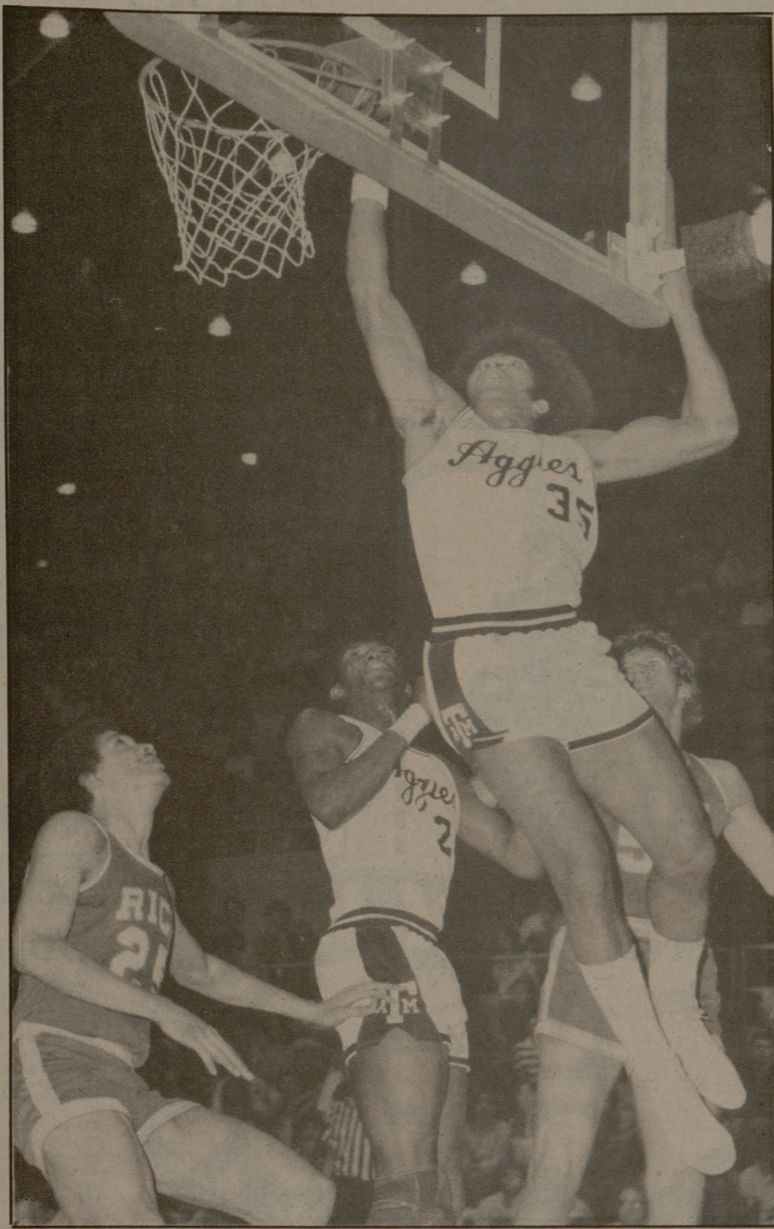
"But the next two seasons were a struggle. My sophomore year we did better than we were supposed to do (14-14), but my junior year we didn't do as well as we should have (12-15)."

"Joey isn't really big enough to be a forward and he can't handle the ball well enough to play guard, so he really is an in-between player," Coach Metcalf described the only senior on this year's team. "But the style of basketball we play here is just right for his talents."

"With a point guard and two wings Joey has the opportunity to utilize his talents. He is the kind of player you need to run the wing for you."

"But really, I'm just happy he came our way. He's such a well-adjusted person who gets along with everyone he meets. He just loves everybody."

And, if the reaction that greeted the announcement that Joey Robinson was starting in his final home game as a Texas Aggie is any indication, the fans are as fond of Robinson as he is of them. He will be missed.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Texas A&M's Rynn Wright tries a move that is only legal in Horse. Wright was given a technical for hanging onto the backboard, but the big sophomore led the Aggies with 23 points as Texas A&M defeated Rice 92-60 Tuesday night in C. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies finished the season in third place in the Southwest Conference.

# Two good halves Ags defeat Owls

By SEAN PETTY  
Battalion Sports Staff

Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf put some new polish on the previously lackluster Aggie basketball team and together they outshined the Rice Owls 92-60.

The Aggies so controlled the game from start to finish that the only exciting thing the whole night was the announcement at the end of the game of the outcome of the Texas-SMU game which SMU won.

There was one more moment at the beginning of the game that brought the small crowd of 4,395 at C. Rollie White to its feet. That moment came when the announcer said for the last time at C. Rollie, "At guard, No. 40, Joey Robinson." The first four-year basketball letterman at Texas A&M drew a standing ovation.

The Aggie victory was rather routine but it showed something the Aggies hadn't done for a long time; play two halves of good basketball.

"I think we got everything back together," Robinson said of the Aggie's win. "We needed to have a real good game against Rice in order to be ready for the (Southwest Conference) tournament."

"Tonight was the best first half we've played in a long time. We just really felt great and were excited about playing this game," he said.

The Ags should have felt better going into the Rice game because it was the first time they had gone into a game with a few days rest in 15 games.

"We had a chance to get our legs back and with the legs came the intensity we had been missing for so many games," said Metcalf. "I was real pleased with the team's play. They played very loose and had a good time playing tonight."

"We needed to loosen up badly,"

he said. "We needed to play like this and win big to go into the tournament with confidence."

The Aggies won big in more ways than one. The victory over Rice gave Metcalf and his men their 22nd victory of the season, thus setting an A&M record for victories in one season.

"22-7 is a real nice record," Metcalf said. "I have no complaint that we're not in either of the top 20 polls. We lost some tough games but it's been a real good, fun season. I think we are ready to go to this tournament and do a good job."

The Aggies were led by sophomore Rynn Wright who had 23 points and 10 rebounds while Vernon Smith scored 10 points and hit the boards for 14 rebounds. Freshman Rudy Woods broke out of a slump and scored 20 points.

Everything went right for the Ags who seemed to get back everything they have been missing for the past few games. They outrebounded the Owls 50-27, passed the ball well and worked for the open shot on offense, played tough, aggressive defense and outscored the Owls both halves.

"You have to give A&M credit," said Rice coach Mike Schuler. "They had been down some but they lined up tonight and played well. I think they have the best talent in the league."

"If they are allowed to play their type of game we just can't stay with them. We just aren't as physical or aggressive as they are."

The Aggies put a new dimension in their offense against the Owls and it obviously worked well.

"We just really polished up our old offense," Metcalf said. "There's a new option and we just spread things out a little more."

"I thought Tyrone (Ladson) did a

great job for us tonight," Metcalf said. "He gave us the floor game we needed from him. I told him before the game to look for the inside shot and if it wasn't there, go ahead and shoot. He did exactly what I asked because he had eight assists tonight so I was very pleased."

"I thought Rynn was just great tonight," he said. "He was really something else in the second half. I was going to take him out but he was so hot and I was having so much fun watching him I couldn't take him out."

Metcalf probably hopes his days of watching the Ags win easily will continue throughout the SWC tournament and beyond because as he said, "There is only one team in the entire country that will win the rest of its games. If we lose at the Summit, we'll just be back home hitting fungo balls."

**BOX SCORE**  
**RICE (60)**  
Darden 7 5-6 19, Rieke 1 3-4 5, Burkholder 2 0-0 4, Tudor 2 0-0 4, Wilson 4 2-2 10, DeCello 1 2-2 4, Burns 3 3-6 9, McCage 1 0-0 2, Mott 0 1-2 1, Miller 1 2-2 2, Daniels 0 0-1 0. Totals 21 18-25 60.  
**TEXAS A&M (92)**  
Smith 5 0-0 10, Wright 10 3-7 23, Woods 8 4-5 20, Goff 3 2-2 8, Ladson 0 4-5 4, Robinson 5 0-1 10, Britton 2 2-4 6, Sylestine 2 2-2 6, Cullon 0 1-2 1, Jones 1 0-0 2, Pederson 1 0-1 2, Schlicher 0 0-0 0, Baird 0 0-0 0. Totals 37 18-29 92.  
**Halftime — A&M 38, Rice 23. Fouled Out — Rieke. Total Fouls — Rice 24, A&M 28. Technical Fouls — Rieke, Wright. A — 4,395.**

**Southwest Conference Standings**

Texas	13-3	813
Arkansas	13-3	813
Texas A&M	11-5	688
Texas Tech	9-7	563
Baylor	9-7	563
Houston	6-10	375
SMU	5-10	333
Rice	4-12	250
TCU	1-14	067

SWC notes

# Horns, Hogs tie for first

United Press International  
DALLAS — Southern Methodist's superior jumping ability and streak shooting of Phil Hale and Brandon Tuesday night to stun the Longhorns, 81-66, and leave the Southwest Conference title split between the Longhorns and the Arkansas Razorbacks.

Texas had beaten SMU last month, 98-62, in one of the worst games in Mustangs history. And Texas appeared ready to do it again Tuesday night when the Longhorns hit their first seven shots and stepped to a 17-10 lead.

But SMU had 10 straight points, and then by Hale, to take a 20-17 lead, an advantage they never lost. Brandon hit eight points late in the first half to open a 41-31 SMU lead at intermission. Texas could come closer than seven points in the second half.

Texas ended the regular season with a 20-6 record and a 13-3 Southwest Conference record. Arkansas, ranked 12th, nipped Texas Tech in Lubbock, 66-65, to share the conference crown with Texas for the second straight year.

Brandon led all scorers with 20 points, while Hale hit 17 and guard Bobby Allen hit 16 for the Mustangs. Coach Baxter paced the cold-shooting Longhorns with 15 points.

After Texas hit its first seven points, it could manage only seven field goals out of 16 attempts

in the first half. The first half was symbolized by one trip down the floor for Texas, during which SMU's Reggie Franklin blocked three shots and Brandon blocked one. Franklin, playing his last game at home for SMU, scored 11 points and blocked five shots. SMU, with one game left, has a 10-15 overall record and is 5-10 in conference.

**Arkansas-Texas Tech**

LUBBOCK — Sidney Moncrief hit a 10-foot jump shot with two seconds left Tuesday night that gave Arkansas a 66-65 victory over Texas Tech and brought the 12th ranked Razorbacks a share of the Southwest Conference title with Texas.

Arkansas shot 79.4 per cent from the field and opened a 33-27 halftime lead by hitting 15 of 17 shots.

The Red Raiders stayed in the game by forcing 19 Arkansas turnovers and took the lead for the first time on a slam dunk by Jeff Taylor with 51 seconds to play.

Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton ordered his club to wait for the final shot and as Moncrief got the ball he was surrounded by three Texas Tech players. But Moncrief got off the shot from the free throw line and after bouncing once on the rim the ball fell through for the winning basket.

The Razorbacks are 21-4 for the year going into next week's SWC post-season tournament.

Moncrief finished with 25 points to lead all scorers while U.S. Reed hit 15 points for the Hogs. Ben Hill paced the Red Raiders with 21 points, the only Tech player in double figures.

**TCU-Baylor**

WACO — Baylor's Vinnie Johnson scored a career high 50 points and broke two school records to lead the Bears to a 109-72 route over Texas Christian in Southwest Conference action Tuesday.

The win leaves Baylor at 15-11 for the season. Baylor's conference record matches Texas Tech's 9-7 mark, but Baylor won the coin toss Tuesday for fourth place going into the post season tournament. TCU dropped to 1-14 in the conference and 6-19 for the year.

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