

Tough Farmers Deflate Tech In Action Filled Battle, 53-52

By BOB WEEKLEY
Battalion Sports Editor
Coach Bob Rogers' giant killers chopped down the Texas Tech Red Raiders' beanstalk Saturday night in White Coliseum, edging the visitors 53-52 in a Southwest Conference contest.

The loss dropped the Raiders out of second place in the conference to third, one game ahead of the die-hard Aggies. A&M now has a 5-5 conference record and a 14-6 season mark.

The Farmers led all the way in the hard-fought contest but the last minute surge by the Raiders probably scared a year's growth off the Cadet five.

It Was Close

With little more than a minute left to play the Aggies led 53-50, when Leon Hill, the conference's second leading scorer, hit on a jump shot inside the circle to close the gap to 53-52.

A&M worked the ball back up the court after the score and then went into a stall, hoping to stave off the fired Tech quintet.

Tech, tightly pressing the A&M ball handler with two men, picked off a bobble by Neil Swisher and immediately called time out with 17 seconds left in the game.

Gerald Myers was the alert Raider who stole the ball.

Myers brought the ball back in to play for the Raiders while Rogers sent his squad into a triple screen, hoping to keep the Tech gunners from working the ball in close enough for a successful shot.

Myers dribbled under the basket and was immediately covered, forcing him to throw the ball out to Gene Arrington. Arrington, his eye on the clock, took a 40-foot desperation shot from the left side of the court that fell short. The game ended with the Aggies on top, 53-52.

Swisher Nears Record

Swisher led the scoring attack for the Aggies with 17 points, moving him closer to an all-time scoring record for A&M. The 6-0 guard needs only 23 points in the remaining four games to break the old record of 952 points set in 1949 through 1952 by Buddy Davis.

Hill scored 13 points for the Raiders, making 1,003 points for his collegiate career, the fourth Tech basketball player ever to score over 1,000 points. Wade Wolf led the scoring for Tech with 16.

The Aggies started the game with a quick surge that saw them build up a 15-8 margin with nine

minutes gone in the first period. Four points were scored in the first 35 seconds when Swisher hit a jump shot and speedy Jack Collier stole the ball from the Raiders for an easy layup.

Ags' Shooting Hot

A&M continued their domination of the hardwood early in the second half when they built up their biggest lead, 39-28, with less than five minutes gone. The Cadets hit

48.1 per cents of their shots in the first period and 45 per cent for the game while the hard pressed Raiders could manage only 36.7 per cent for the game.

Archie Carroll was second leading scorer for the Aggies with 15 points while Wilmer Cox scored six and big Jim McNichol 10. The Raiders won the battle of the backboards, collecting 33 rebounds to the Aggies' 30.

* * *

Ags Eliminated from Loop Race; Seek Best Record in 37 Years

The Texas Aggies, eliminated from the Southwest Conference basketball scramble, now look only to posting their best season mark in 37 years and an outside opportunity at being invited to the National Invitational Tournament in New York this spring.

Texas Christian's runaway Toads have all but annexed the crown, establishing a 9-1 loop record and a two-game lead over runner-up Southern Methodist with four contests remaining.

Moored in fifth place behind the Frogs, SMU, Texas Tech and Bay-

lor, the Farmers are presented with a chance at collaring their best record since 1922.

That year the Ags were enroute to capturing their third in a string of four circuit titles, running their won-lost count to 18-3 in the process.

This year, the Cadets, with four contests still to play (Arkansas and SMU here and Rice and Texas on the road) can expand their present season mark of 14-6 to 18-6 by winning the matches.

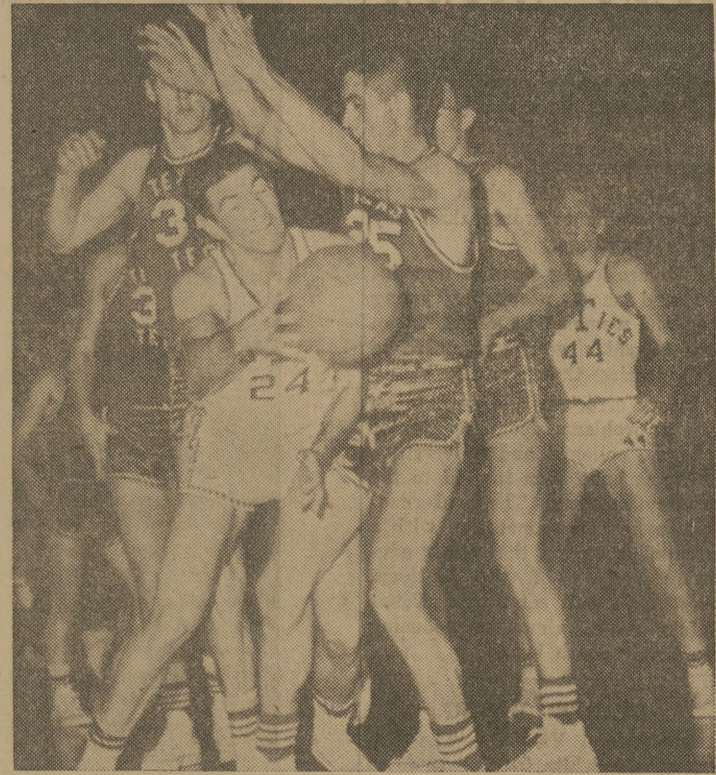
Out of the corner of the other eye, the Aggies are looking for information from Manhattan Island in the form of an invitation to the NIT, second only to the NCAA tourney in prestige. Basis for hope came with correspondence from the NIT committee, sent to colleges posting the outstanding records.

This news was exemplified at mid-season when the Cadets were marching to the conference pre-season tourney crown and riding two, four-game winning streaks. Since that time, however, the Farmers have fallen off to fifth place in the loop after being nominated as pre-season favorites to take it all.

Also, the Frogs have made a farce of the race and are completely in command, though they have yet to score in the top 10 in the national rankings.

Numerous other college independents such as St. Louis and Bradley have forged into the top spots and presently hold the inside track to invitations.

Colgate's first football victory over Syracuse came by a 19-14 score in 1950.



Cox in Control

The Ags' Wilmer Cox (24) gains control of a loose ball under the upstretched arms of the Red Raiders' Harold Hudgens (35) and Gene Arrington (34). The Farmers defeated Texas Tech 53-52, eliminating the Raiders from the loop title chase Saturday evening in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

North Carolina Ranked On Top In Nation's Poll

(AP)—Mississippi State handed Kentucky its second defeat of the basketball season last week but it was North Carolina and Auburn who reaped the benefits in the national rankings.

The 66-58 setback they took last Monday shook Kentucky's Wildcats loose from the hold they had taken on first place in The Associated Press weekly ranking poll back in mid-January. North Carolina's Tar Heels moved up from second to first place and unbeaten Auburn, the only team to defeat Mississippi State this season, jumped from fourth to second. Kentucky landed in third place.

Mississippi State, which went on to trounce Florida 105-68 in its second game of the week, climbed from tenth to fifth in the ratings.

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Chandler Greets Candidates

Tom Chandler, newly appointed head baseball coach, greets his candidates for the coming season with an informal chat on the diamond behind Kyle Field. Included in the fold are 11 returning lettermen.

Chandler Greets 38 Candidates As Baseball Practice Begins

Baseball Coach Tom Chandler greeted 38 players yesterday for the first day of baseball drills. This is Chandler's first season at the Aggie baseball helm.

Prospects appear bright for the Cadets with 11 returning lettermen and the loss of only two starters from last year's team.

Leading the list of returnees are All-SWC Catcher Gary Herrington and Pitcher Donnie Hullum. Herrington batted .367 last season and led the club in total bases with 52, home runs with three and doubles with 10.

Chandler put his charges through conditioning drills and a short pepper game during the first workout. Batting practice will begin today.

Junior Bill Clifford was the lone

casualty for the day, hurting his shoulder while chasing a ground ball. The extent of his injury was not known last night.

Representatives of Air Force group, Army battalion and Civilian baseball teams participating in the Corps baseball program this year will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Press Club Library, basement, YMCA.

Schedules for play which begins next Monday will be discussed along with other unfinished business. Teams which were not represented at the last meeting are urged to send a delegate this time.

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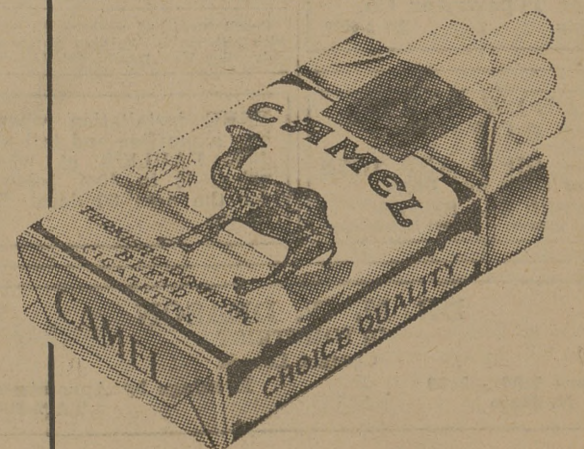


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