

# Utes Top Aggs; Lenox Hits 22

By JIM BUTLER  
Battalion Sports Editor

A&M continued to have its problems Wednesday night as the Utah Redskins scored freely and emerged with a lopsided 98-71 victory in frigid Salt Lake City.

The Cadets felt far from home as the thermometer hit degrees below zero early Tuesday morning and the feeling of strangeness stuck with them on the basketball court. Utah took an early four point lead and the Aggies never came back.

The Redskins built their lead to 12 points, 15-3, on the shooting of Spence Thurgood and George Fisher while A&M coach Shelby Metcalf was substituting freely in search of a "hot" combination. But with the exception of two short stretches, the hoop remained a mystery to the Cadets.

Despite the height advantage of the Aggies, Utah consistently out-rebounded the Aggies and their full-court press kept the Aggies into numerous mistakes.

Fisher's 16 first-half points gave the Utes a 54-34 margin at halftime.

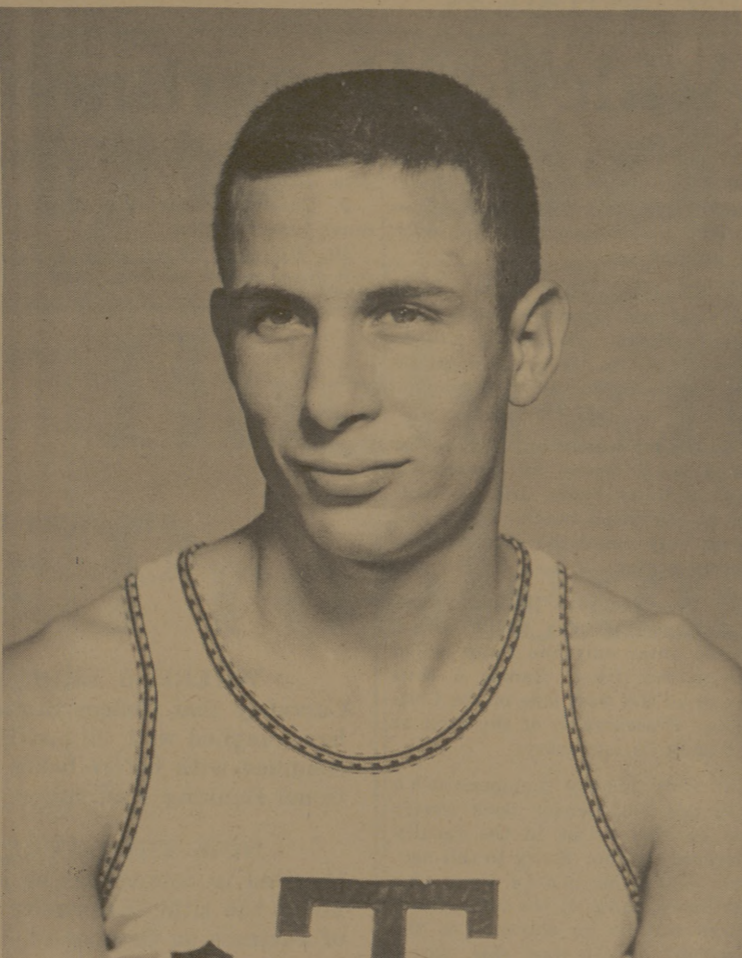
A&M's Bennie Lenox returned last year's form with 16 points after intermission but received little help from the rest of the team.

The Aggies kept pace with Utah the second half, but as in Tuesday's loss to Utah State, the lead was too great. Metcalf played his guards most of the second half in an attempt to counteract Utah's great speed.

Utah, carrying a 94 point average at gametime, made a last minute push to reach the century mark but fell a bucket short. The Redskins retained their undefeated record with their fourth straight win.

Even though suffering two consecutive one-sided defeats, the Aggies have gained much-needed experience against two of the country's better teams. A&M's sophomores are steadily improving and should be ready when conference play starts in January.

Lenox finished the night with 22 points to pace the Cadets. John Beasley netted 16 for his third straight game in double figures. Cliff Hankins and Paul Timmons had seven points each while Tim Timmerman garnered 6.



**BENNIE LENOX**  
Leads Aggs against Utah.

# 'Official' Gripes Coming At SWC Coaches Meeting

BY JIM BUTLER  
Battalion Sports Editor

The Southwest Conference football season has finally dragged to a halt after 12 action-packed weeks but a post-season fireworks display starts in Dallas Thursday that promises to surpass any of the post-season bowl games.

The center of attraction this week will be the annual Southwest Conference meeting, which may win an award for the least original but most exciting performance of the year, and be shifted to Broadway after a three-day stand in Big D.

Ostensibly, the meeting is a routine policy conclave between SWC officials, athletic directors and head coaches of the member schools. This year's main theme, justifiably so, will be officiating, with A&M Head Coach and Athletic Director Hank Foldberg having the starring role, supported most likely by SMU's Hayden Fry and Arkansas' Frank Broyles.

The problem centers around the SWC "gag" rule which forbids coaches from publicly criticizing

the officials. Rumors have it that the result may be a suspension for the Aggies due to Foldberg's comments after the A&M-Texas game.

These rumors stem from the fact that Doc Hayes, SMU cage coach, drew a suspension for the Mustangs in 1958 after criticizing the officiating in the A&M-SMU basketball game.

Despite the fact that Howard Grubbs, SWC executive secretary, has prepared a report on the Turkey Day incident informed sources believe that no suspension will be handed down.

This corner believes that a suspension for the Aggies is very unlikely and indeed very foolish. The circumstances surrounding the controversy could surely be considered extenuating.

To begin with, the officials should consider the tremendous pressure inherent with the rivalry, the closeness of the game and the obviously questionable, if not incorrect, judgment of the game officials.

Secondly, approximately 40 mil-

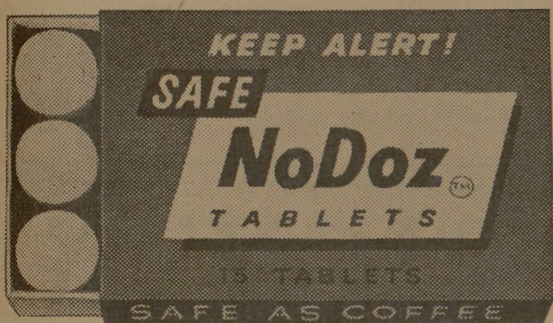
lion fans watched the game on television with the majority expressing the opinion that the Cadets were cheated.

Finally, the A&M-UT incident was just the crowning touch to a season that saw several poorly officiated games, indicating that SWC officiating is definitely below par.

Fry came close to blasting officials after his Mustangs dropped a 22-15 decision to TCU and will no doubt support Foldberg.

Unfortunately, the records of the meeting will probably be kept secret, or at best only partially disclosed. Conference policy, as illustrated by the basketball officiating scandal two years ago, seems aimed at keeping unfavorable comment to a minimum, whether or not the comment is justified.

We hope the Southwest Conference governing body will open its eyes to the obvious and take steps to correct the deficiencies. The coaches involved are all men of high principles and would not make unfounded charges.



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