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Tech Triumphs In Overtime

Rector, Dominguez Sparkle In 82-76 Setback

By LANI PRESSWOOD Sports Editor

A&M's determined cagers saw a gutsy comeback effort fall bitterly short as the league-leading Texas Tech Red Raiders took an 82-76 overtime decision Tuesday night.

A combination of missed opportunities and bewildering officiating spelled the practical end of chances for a repeat SWC title for Shelby Metcalf's Aggies.

Another vital factor was the loss of playmaker Paul Timmins on fouls after actually playing only a handful of minutes.

Guards Dick Rector and Eddie Dominguez filled in tremendously but both were on the bench from fifth fouls at the contest's end.

Tech's racehorse offense propelled the West Texans into the lead during the first five minutes and kept them there until Dick Rector's 20-foot jump shot gave the Cadets a 56-55 edge with 8:32 left.

The crowd of 4,500 then came to life and shook G. Rollie White like it hasn't been shaken all year. The momentum lasted until 1:41 when Tech's do-everything Dub Malaise meshed a pair of free shots for a 69-68 margin.

With 22 seconds left John Beasley hit a pressurized jumper from the right baseline to knot the score at 70-70 and sent the game into overtime.

Tech grabbed a 71-70 lead on a Malaise free shot, rebounded an Aggie misfire and proceeded to stall for almost three minutes. Rector fouled Glen Hallum at 1:48 and the successful conversion left the Raiders with a 73-70 edge.

Beasley hit a charity toss at 1:01, and the score was 73-71. With 57 seconds left, a jump ball was tipped to Hallum, who streaked for in for a decisive lay-up.

The remaining seconds consisted of desperate Aggie attempts to foul Tech and hope for a miracle which never came.

Very small things decide a contest which ends in a deadlock after regulation play is completed. Several calls during the frenzied contest are hard to erase from memory.

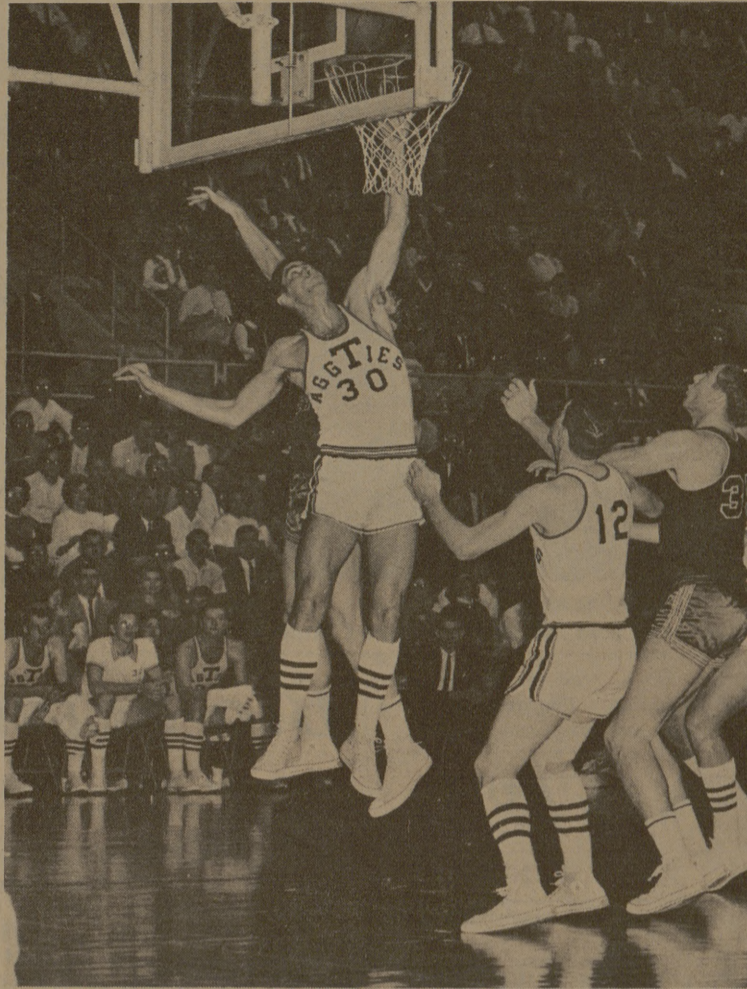
There was Beasley being harassed to the floor by two Raiders and then getting called for traveling. And Malaise being allowed to shoot the free throws which gave Tech a 69-68 lead after an officials' conference decided someone had to shoot them since a foul had been called.

There were other instances—a confused call for goal-tending and a senseless technical foul on Timmins—but only futility and frustration can result from recalling them on a night of what might have been.

For the game, the Aggies out-shot the visitors, 46.6 per cent to 38.3. Tech held a 47-40 rebound advantage. The Raiders converted 32 of 39 free throws, A&M hit 22 of 31.

Rector played his greatest game as an Aggie, hitting five of nine goals, totaling 14 points, and clearing 12 rebounds. Beasley collected 19 points and 12 rebounds. Stringfellow chipped in 12 points and Dominguez nine.

A&M now has a 3-4 conference mark at the halfway point. Tech's pacesetter record is 6-1. The next Cadet encounter comes Saturday night when the Ags meet Baylor in Waco.



NORMAN TIPS IN REBOUND... action occurred early in second half Tuesday.

Alert Bearcats Catch Fish In Fading Seconds, 83-80

By LARRY JERDEN Sports Staff

The Lon Morris Bearcats rallied in the last minute of play to edge the A&M Fish, 83-80 here Tuesday night.

Until the final 13 seconds, it looked like the Fish would avenge an earlier 94-63 setback. At that point, however, Billy Carter added the last two of his 15 points to place the visitors ahead. Five seconds later Jimmy Haller iced it for Lon Morris by sinking the two decisive free throws.

The contest was one of two evenly matched teams, a fact reflected both in the outcome of the game and in the statistics. The Fish led in field goals, both total and percentage, but the Bearcats led in rebounds, 52-48, and in free throws. The free shot margin of 31-20 was more than enough to

give the victory to Lon Morris. Both teams had four players in double figures. John Rhodes and Kent Andrews both had 16 for the Fish and Max Mainord and Terry Trippet scored 11 each for the Cadet cause. Bearcat scoring was paced by Richard Adkins with 19 points, followed by Carter and Haller who each netted 15.

Rhodes was a sparkplug to the team in the closing minutes of the first half. He scored 11 points in the half and played well on defense to contribute to the 44-39 Fish lead at intermission. When the game went into the second round, the Fish began to increase their lead, and with 13:46 left, had padded it to nine points.

In the next two minutes, however, the Lon Morris cagers scored nine straight points to reduce the

Aggie margin to one. Play was nip-and-tuck for the next three minutes, and the Bearcats managed to tie the score three times during that period.

On a jump shot by Adkins and two free throws by Dale Dotson, they went ahead with 8:24 left in the game. This lead lasted for a little over a minute, then Kent Andrews hit a jump to make it 74-73, Fish.

As the game entered its final minute of play, the Aggie squad was holding onto a one-point lead. The Fish called their last allowable time out with 50 seconds left. As they returned to play, the ball broke away from their control and went out of bounds, carrying hopes of victory with it.

The Fish season record now stands at four wins and four losses.

SWC Scores

TCU 94 Rice 75

Texas 81 Arkansas 65

SMU 76 Baylor 74

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