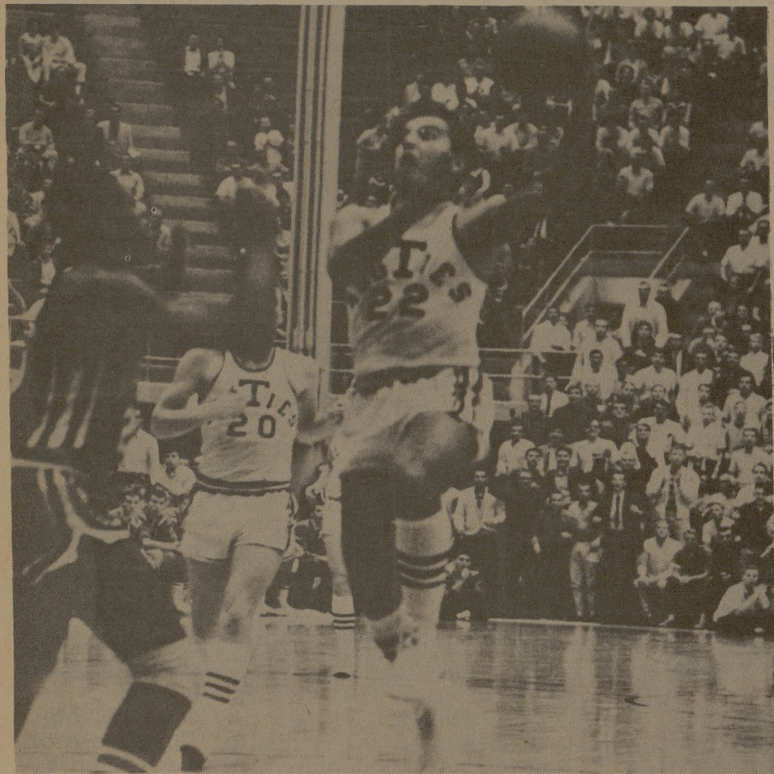


Ags Rebound To Sink Cougars



DOMINGUEZ LEAPS FOR TWO

Aggie guard Eddie Dominguez jumps high for two-points against Houston Thursday night in G. Rollie White. Dominguez scored 10 points during the evening to help lift the Cadets over the Cougars, 93-88.

By LARRY R. JERDEN
Enjoying as much as a nine-point lead during the first half, the Aggies had to come from 13 points behind in the second half to defeat the Houston Cougars Thursday night, 93-88.

A noisy crowd of 5,200 watched as the Cadets controlled the first half from the opening tip-off, giving up the lead only once, 4-2. A&M displayed a balanced team effort throughout the game, with four players hitting in double figures.

John Beasley lead the tally sheet with 29 points, followed by Dick Rector with 18, Dick Stringfellow with 11 and Eddie Dominguez with 10.

For the Cougars, Elvin Hayes scored 24, Joe Hamood hit for 21 and Wayne Ballard shot for 11 points to round out their double digit scorers.

The first half was close for the opening 10 minutes, then the Ags pulled away to their nine-point margin. They held it un-

til Beasley was taken out with about seven minutes left.

At that point, the Cougars began chipping away at A&M's lead, until the half-time score read, 45-44.

Matson opened the second half by winning the jump, sinking a lay-up and a free throw to widen the Aggie lead to four points. It was the last time the Aggies were to hold a margin until they overtook the speedy Cougars with four minutes left in the contest.

For the next 10 minutes, the Houston club had complete command of the court, opening the lead to the greatest either team enjoyed all evening, 70-57, midway through the last half.

Displaying what Aggie Head Coach Shelby Metcalf described as a supreme effort, the Cadets fought, scrapped and shot their way back to tie the game on a jump by Beasley with 4:06 left.

Big John hit another jumper to

put the Ags in the lead, but Hayes responded with a layup to tie it again. After the Ags got the ball, Hayes fouled Beasley and the 6-9 Aggie star dropped in two free shots to put A&M in the lead for the rest of the contest.

Rector hit a jumper from deep in the right hand corner, and Tim Timmerman sunk two free shots on a one-and-one to increase the margin to six after the Aggies had begun a freeze.

Hamood hit a jump from the top of the circle to cut the margin to four, and Richard Apolskis sunk a free shot to shave it to three with 23 seconds remaining.

While the joyous crowd echoed its glee, Beasley put the icing on with the clock stopped at three seconds to go. He sunk two free shots for the 93-88 score.

Metcalf said the turning point was the man-for-man press the Ags employed when the Cougars built up their 13 point lead.

"It was a great effort by the boys . . . the supreme effort," Metcalf said.

"Houston went in at the half, got their heads together, and came out for the first ten minutes as the best ball club you'll find anywhere."

"Our press was just enough to disrupt their momentum, and Timmerman and Terry Trippet did a great job off the bench," he added.

"I'm real pleased with Timmerman, as I was with all our boys, starters and off the bench. He stayed right with Hayes real well and I'm just real pleased with him."

Dominguez was also ready with praise for the players that came in from the bench.

"The boys from the bench made the difference," the little guard declared, "and they never gave up."

"We really wanted this one, and none of us quit. I think we'll be ready for Memphis State now.

This was a big test, and we passed it," he concluded.

The team effort showed well in the statistics, with the Ags hitting a hot 50.7 per cent for the evening, compared with 43.5 by the Cougars.

Beasley led in rebounds with 15, followed by Trippet at nine and Rector and Matson with six each.

Following the double-digit man in scoring were Trippet, nine; Timmerman, eight, and Matson, seven.

Metcalf, looking forward to Monday night, described Memphis State as one of the perennial basketball powers. He noted the state department thought so highly of their skill it sent them on a tour to Mexico in October.

He also pointed out the fact open their season before the victory game when they tangle with undefeated Wharton Junior College which has a win over the Houston freshmen to its credit.

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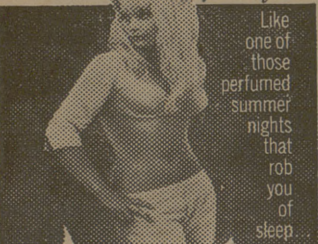
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"KING OF THE SUN"

Metcalf Extends Student Challenge

After coaching his team to a 93-88 victory over Houston Thursday night, Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf paused to comment on the student's conduct at the games.

"I'd like to follow up on Coach Stallings' request," he said "and ask the students to continue to show as fine sportsmanship at the basketball games as they did in football."

"When the ball is in play, the yelling is good, and I like the spirit the students display, but we shouldn't have yelling while an opponent is trying to shoot a free throw."

"Our boys played a fine game tonight, and I think the student body conducted itself well."

"We've got the finest student body in the world," the A&M mentor concluded, "so let's go on and win that sportsmanship trophy like President Rudder challenged us to do."

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