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Ags Gain Share Of Lead By Blasting Bears

Seniors Instrumental In Win

By GERALD GARCIA
Battalion Sports Editor
John Beasley, Dick Stringfellow, Eddie Dominguez and Tim Timmerman played their last home basketball game. And the foursome turned in outstanding performances.

The quintet combined for 65 points as the Texas Aggies gained a share of the Southwest Conference lead with an overwhelming, 95-78, win over the Baylor Bears before 6,500 fans in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Southern Methodist and A&M now have identical 10-3 conference marks with one game to play. SMU will host Texas Tech in Dallas Thursday, while the Aggies will journey to the Ozarks and tangle with the Arkansas Razorbacks the same night.

If both teams win or lose Thursday night, a playoff to determine the conference champion and a representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association playoffs will be staged in Waco Monday night. If one wins and the other loses, the winner will go to the NCAA playoffs in Lubbock March 11 and 12.

Beasley, who usually plays his best against the Bears, turned in another superb performance. The 6-9 Aggie forward from Linden-Kildare hit on 15 of 25 floor shots and seven of 11 free shots for 37 points.

Big John connected on his first six floor tries, two after he had grabbed an offensive rebound.

Beasley's hot hand shot the Aggies to a seven-point lead five minutes deep in the game and A&M kept increasing it throughout the contest.

After Beasley broke a 2-2 tie 50 seconds deep into the game, the Aggies were never headed. The Bears did reduce the lead to

one point with 11 minutes to go in the first half, but a layup by Dick Rector on a feed by Beasley put the Aggies out of reach.

Besides Beasley's 37 points, the other Aggie seniors contributed in this fashion:

Dominguez, the little Aggie playmaker from Dallas' Thomas Jefferson, hit on five of nine field goal attempts and three of three free shots for 13 points. Stringfellow, Aggie defensive wizard from Paris' Cooper, sank three of eight field tries and two of three charity shots for eight points, while Timmerman, who is a top reserve and only played 10 minutes in the second half,

made three of five floor shots and one of one free shot for seven points.

Coach Shelby Metcalf played all of his players and all contributed at least one point to the Aggie cause.

Beasley not only had one of his hottest nights from the field, but he also broke the Aggie rebound record in the process. Big John had 254 rebounds going in to the game and when he picked off his eighth rebound in the first he broke his own 261 mark set last season.

The big Aggie forward grabbed 19 for the night, 12 in the first half.

"We played a very good game," Metcalf said, "because we were moving the ball well and the Bears were getting their shots."

"I also thought we had a defensive game. Baylor had rush their shots and we set gave them a clear shot."

The Aggies' defensive held Baylor to only 32.9 per cent of their floor shots. In the meantime, the Aggies were shooting 55.7 per cent clip, hitting an excellent 60.6 per cent the second half.

Randy Matson also was instrumental in the win. The Pampa giant contributed points and 11 rebounds.

Fish End Season With 71-61 Win Over Baylor Cubs

By LARRY UPSHAW
Battalion Sports Staff
The tables are turned and justice is done. For the first time in history a Fish caught a Bear, a Baylor Cub that is, resulting in a season-ending 71-61 win for the Aggie Fish.

A&M also stole the boards with a 54-36 rebounding bulge to register their seventh victory against five defeats.

From the outset, the action came in lightning doses, but neither team could gain the advantage. Baylor's Hugh Fletcher, who led his team with 17 points, made friends with the basket on a jumper and a free throw and A&M's Ronnie Peret, with 23 points, did likewise on a trio of charities for a 3-3 tie.

This sameness prevailed six times until Billy Bob Barnett, Gary Ditto and Curley Hallman added two-pointers and the Fish led 21-15 with 9:26 to play.

The scoreboard belonged to A&M from then on, and an 11-point lead, 39-28, ruled with 1:20 on the clock. But a layup and two free shots by the Cubs' Steve Bartells narrowed the edge to 39-32 at intermission.

The second half began as Barnett, Peret and Sonny Benefield hooped one goal each around a single Cub bucket and 45-34 stood the score.

But the Cubs were by no means dead and buried as the Aggie lead slid to four points, 54-50, and 9:10 remained. The Fish allowed Baylor just four points in seven minutes as the maroon and white tallied 17 for a 71-54 difference and 1:57 left.

Now the Cubs were caught. As Coach Jim Culpepper emptied the bench, Baylor's David Belew stole the ball for a layup. Richard McCall bucketed a free throw and Ray Nunn swished a jumper and a free shot for a respectable final margin of 71-61.

Peret, who crashed into the press table while hustling for a loose ball and finally left the contest in the final seconds, drew the accolades of Culpepper.

Ag Swimmers Lose 2 Meets

It was a long weekend for the varsity swimmers of Texas A&M. After dropping a meet to Oklahoma State University by the score of 60 1/2-34 1/2, they ran into an equally tough varsity squad from Texas Tech. Tech out scored the Aggie 65-29.

The freshmen team looked a little better. Although they lost to the Texas Tech freshmen, 55-41, Coach Arthur D. Adamson was very pleased with their performance. The outcome of this meet was not decided until the final match of the afternoon. All three meets were in P. L. Downs Natatorium.

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