Page 4 College Station, Texas Friday, December 2, 1966

Ags Make Mistakes In Opening Loss

BY GARY SHERER

Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf was a picture of disconsolation at the end of the Aggies 53-50 loss to Louisiana Tech last night.

The basketball season was ushered in at Aggieland on a sad pounded by "turnoveritis."

It was definitely first-game jitters for both teams as they 15 points. Barnett was followed were cold from the floor in the first half and even colder in the and John Underwood, with 11. second 20 minutes.

A&M finished with 20 field goals out of 61 attempts for a turned the ball over on several 32.8 percentage, while the Bulldogs from Ruston, La., hit 20 of 69 for 29 per cent. The three point difference in the game was made up in the 13 to 10 foul shot did not score and because of foul margin for Tech.

Under the cool leadership of Leon Barmore, the Louisiana five led most of the game. The margin stretched to eight points midway in the second half.

Tech's advance publicity featured their big men, notably 7' Charles Bishop and 6'11" Richard Peek. But Thursday night, it was the ball-handling and ball-hawking of their two small guards

that kept them in the lead.

The 5'10" Barmore and 5'9" Jim Pruett made several steals throughout the game and usually came up with a crucial bucket when it was needed. Barmore finished the game with 16 points note, as the Aggies suffered a for the night's top honors for severe case of "colditis" com- both teams. Billy Bob Barnett was high for the Aggies, hitting 45 per cent from the floor and closely by Ronnie Peret, with 12,

The Aggies could not keep from making mistakes and tight moments where a basket would have made a big difference. Dick Rector played a fine floor game for the Aggies but trouble had to sit out some early action.

The lead see-sawed from the opening tipoff until the 6:51 mark of the first half. Tech took a lead that carried into halftime with the Bulldogs on top 33-27. Tech's Bishop, though towering over everyone, could not manage a rebound for 13 minutes and didn't have a basket until 15

minutes had elapsed.

2610 Texas Ave.

Tel. 822-1441

11:30 a.m.

to

Midnight

Friday & Saturday

till 1:00 a.m.

"He's young and learning," said Tech Coach Scotty Robertson after the game. "His play satisfied me for his first college game.

The partisan G. Rollie White Coliseum crowd of about 3,500 yelled encouragement as the Aggies staged a second-half comeback led by Barnett and Underwood. The sophomore-laden Aggies pulled the deficit to two points as they reeled off four straight points to start the second half.

The two-point spread prevailed until two buckets each by Pruett and Malcom Smith capped by a 22-foot jump shot by Barmore pulled Tech to a 45-37 lead with 12:44 remaining.

At this point, the Aggies came back and, following a three-point play by Peret, took the lead 48-47 with 7:20 left to go in the game. Barmore again proved the equalizer as he swished in a jumper from the left corner to put Tech back to the lead.

Now, with the crowd on their feet, a Peret tip gave the lead back to the Aggies with 5:50 remaining. Again, Barmore hit another jumper, this one from 27 feet out to put the Bulldogs back ahead to stay.

The Aggies called three timeouts to try and figure the winning play, but they could not find the basket with their futile shots. After a foul shot by Peek put Tech ahead 52-50, the Aggies called their final timeout.

With 18 seconds left, the ball went to Peret who drove to the basket but saw his desperate shot hit the bottom of the rim and he then fouled Tech's Smith on the rebound try.

This was Peret's fifth personal, and as he walked to the bench, expression mirrored the thoughts of the Aggies as Smith strode to the charity-stripe to sink the final foul shot that sunk

Ag hopes.

Robertson praised the Aggie defense at the end of the game and agreed that the play of his guards was the difference. Metcalf's expression at game's end, revealed he possibly thought dif- prelim.

ferently as he ambled slowly to the dressing room. On a happier note, the Fish made a victorious start with a 78-61 triumph over Lon Morris Junior College, in the night's

TWO FOR THE AGGIES

Aggie guard John Underwood (20) scores on a twisting layup in the Maroon and White's 53-50 loss to Louisiana Tech last night. Tech defenders are Leon Barmore (left, number obscured), and Jim Pruett (15). Other Aggies pictured are Ronnie (Peret behind Barmore) and Terry Trippet (behind Pruett).

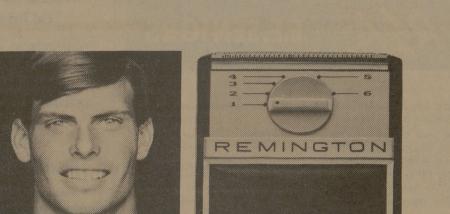


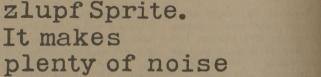
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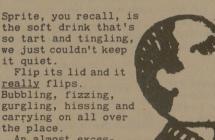
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