

Poor Shooting Leads To Aggie Loss

By GARY SHERER

Defense was the word, as the Aggies had no offense and went down to their third straight loss Wednesday night, 62-49, at the hands of Mississippi State.

Playing in the second game of a first-round double-header in the Southern Mississippi Invitational Tournament, the Aggies just couldn't buy a shot but stayed

in the game with good defensive play.

Green Coliseum in Hattiesburg, Miss., was the site, as the Aggies took the floor against a highly-favored Mississippi State five.

The Aggies stayed even with the Bulldogs at the start, and with seven minutes gone, took the lead 14-10. Led by Ronnie Peret, Billy Bob Barnett and Buzzy Myatt, the Aggies showed no trace of a cold shooting hand as they were moving the ball well and getting the good shots.

Then it happened! The Maroon and White, up to this point in the game, had made three field goals and were hitting well from the foul-line. By the time Dick Rector sunk a foul shot three minutes later, State had pulled out to a 20-14 lead and the draught had started for the Aggies.

Their foul-shooting, as in their last game, kept the Ags close in the first half. They made their first 10 throws from the line and finished 12 for 14 for the half. Unfortunately, they were not as successful from the floor, as they only managed four more

field goals for the final 13 minutes of the initial stanza.

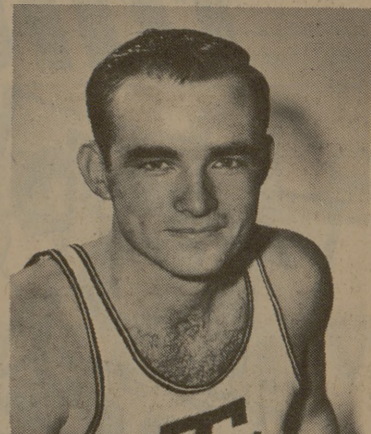
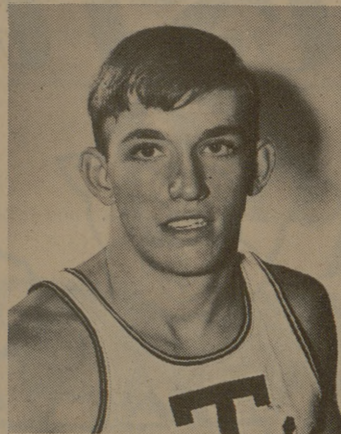
Peret and Barnett got in foul trouble and had to sit out most of this time and the others could not pick up the slack. The only bright spot beside the foul shooting was Terry Trippet, as he came off the bench and his hustling play added a lot to the Aggie cause.

Although displaying heads-up play, Trippet also fell victim to the cold shooting hand and could not score.

Turnovers, a frequent occurrence for the Aggies in the first two games, were almost non-existent and this helped them in staying close for most of the game.

The first-half ended with the Aggies on the short end 37-26. When going over halftime statistics, it was revealed that the Aggies out-rebounded the Bulldogs, but the one statistic that hurt the most was the 24.1 shooting percentage from the floor on 7 of 29. State wasn't much better as they hit on 12 of 32 for 37.5.

As the second half started, Mississippi State joined the Aggies and also started missing from the floor. It was 2:24 into the



GOOD PERFORMANCES IN DEFEAT

Buzzy Myatt (left), junior letterman from Abilene, made his first start and Terry Trippet (right) showed some of his last-season spark in the Aggies 62-49 loss to Mississippi State Wednesday night.

second half before State's Buddy Walden sank a free throw to start the scoring.

With the Bulldogs missing, the Aggies started to mount a stag-

gering offense. First Barnett reeled off two straight buckets and then Trippet chipped in with two more. State pulled away again, but Peret in a scoring spurt, pumped in three straight to close the gap to 48-44, State.

But, as the Aggies had made a great comeback, State turned right back and reeled off six straight points and grabbed a 10 point margin. Leading the scoring at this point for Mississippi State was Charles Crews as he pumped in four of the six points.

The high scorer for State was senior John Sapeu who had all of his 18 points in the first half. Gary Washington took over for Sapeu in the second half and finished with 16 points. With Washington leading the attack, the Mississippi five kept the Aggies at bay and steadily pulled away to their final 13 point lead.

The Aggies kept up a good effort up until the end of the game, but the State team just wasn't to be caught. Their defensive play held Mississippi State to only 25 second-half points, but again with a poor floor-shooting performance, the Aggies could manage just 23.

High for the Aggies was Peret with 16 points, Barnett added nine.

The Aggies now will meet the University of Alabama a 77-65 victim to host-team Southern Mississippi in the first game, tonight in the consolation round. Mississippi State will meet Southern Miss, in the other game.

Game time will be at 7 p.m. and KORA will again beam it back to College Station.

Brown And Brandt Billiards Winners

Mike Brown won the top spot in two of the three categories in the billiards tournament just completed at the Memorial Student Center.

In the billiards tournament just completed at the Memorial Student Center, Mike Brown swept past his competition to win the top spot in two of the three categories.

Brown won both the straight billiards and 9-ball categories. DeFrank Howell was second in straight ball, followed by Leopoldo Montalvo. Montalvo was second in 9-ball, with John Kiker coming in third.

In the carom category, Bob Brandt was first, W. G. Cantrell was second and Montalvo won third prize.

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