

# Aggies Lose First, 71-65, To North Texas State

By GARY SHERER  
When you don't hit the basket, you don't win. A very simply-stated philosophy, but it rang true for the Aggie basketball team Wednesday night at Denton. The Maroon and White lost its first game of the year, 71-65, to North Texas State. The reason for the defeat was the Aggies failure to score from the field and the foul line.

THE EAGLES of North Texas didn't hit that well either, but they had it when it was needed and never lost the lead after half-time. The first twenty minutes were fairly even with the lead

see-sawing back and forth. Turnovers hurt the Aggies more in the first half. At least a half dozen times the Aggies had made a basket but had it disallowed by a traveling call.

The Eagles were 1-4 going into the game. North Texas always is a threat at home because of the bandbox fieldhouse they play in. The fans were right at court-side, as the 3,500 capacity was pushed to the limit.

REGARDLESS of the crowd and the Eagles, it was the Aggies' failure to score that meant the difference in the game. The Maroon and White had 33.3 from the floor in the first half and 37.0 in the second half. Their foul shooting in the first half was a poor 8 for 17. The second half saw better foul shooting but the damage had been done.

THE EAGLES took a 32-30 half-time lead to the dressing room. They came back after intermission and built the lead up to as much as seven points but couldn't

pull completely away from the Aggies.

Then, with about 11 minutes to go, the Aggies led by Ronnie Peret and Mike Heitmann started to peck away at the Eagle lead. When Mike Hazel tipped in a shot with eight minutes to go it made the score 57-55 North Texas. This however, turned out to be the last threat by the Aggies.

A MINUTE LATER, the Eagles had pulled away to their biggest lead at 65-57 and the game was all but over. The Eagles hit a scoring drought about this time but the Aggies were equal to the task and missed just as many.

There were many factors that led to the first defeat for the Aggies. JC transfer Harry Bostic who had turned in three solid performances in the first three games, couldn't buy a basket. The 6-6 service veteran had a bad shooting night in the win over SW Texas and the inconsistency continued Wednesday night.

BOSTIC DIDN'T have a field goal in seven attempts in the first half and three quick ones towards the end of the game saved him from being shutout.

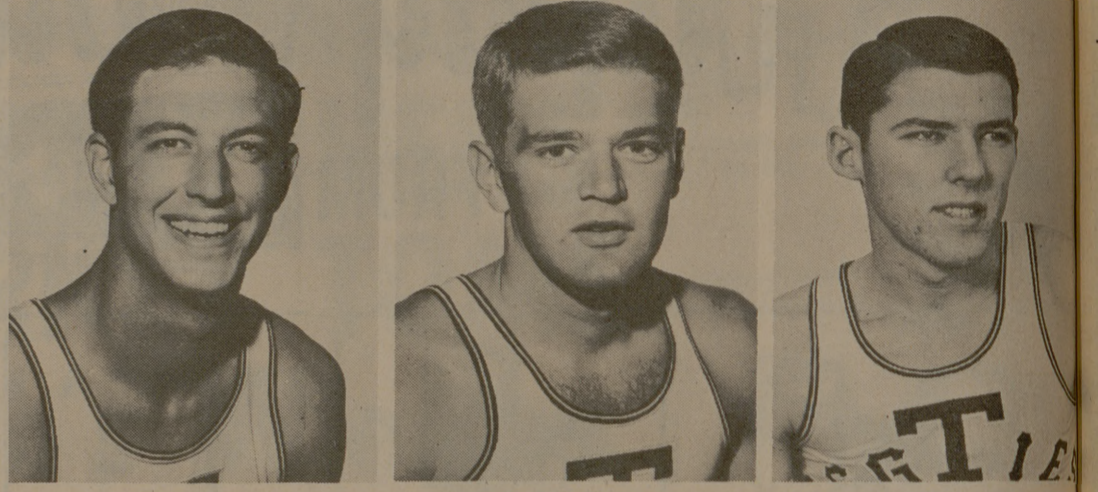
John Underwood and Billy Bob Barnett also had off nights for the Aggies.

On the bright side, Hazel received praise by Coach Shelby Metcalf following the game for

his aggressive play. The 6-6 sophomore had been a question-mark up to this game but Metcalf stated Hazel may have found himself in this game.

PERET LED all scorers with 21 points to maintain his 20 per game average. Heitmann added 10 for the only two Aggies in double figures. Lee Winfield was high for North Texas with 16 while Hamp Hazelton and Neil Adams chipped in with 14 and 10 respectively.

The Aggies now travel to Lawrence, Kansas to meet Kansas in the first half of the Sunflower Classic on Friday night. Following that game, the 4-1 Aggies move to Manhattan, Kans. to meet Kansas State Saturday night and complete the weekend tournament.



RONNIE PERET High scorer for the Aggies. MIKE HEITMANN Led second-half surge. MIKE HAZEL Plays his best game.

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## Tough Middle Guard Kubecka Natural For SWC Champs

Texas A&M's SWC football championship was a natural for sophomore Billy Kubecka, starting middle guard in the last seven games.

Kubecka played on championship football and track teams three years at Palacios. The A&M freshman team for which he line-

backed last year had a 2-2-1 record.

THE SON of Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Kubecka was a three-year all-district linebacker for the Palacios sharks, Class AA state champions in 1965, and started the '67 season at the same post. Then he moved closer to the

action, playing defensive tackle in A&M's Purdue and LSU games. Coach Gene Stallings assigned the "B" average pre-veterinary medicine major in the heart of the Aggie defensive line for Florida State.

A game later, things began clicking for the Aggies, who came

through in big play style to finish the season with six straight wins. A&M and Alabama lined up in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day.

Kubecka believes the big picture trend that began with a last-second comeback over Texas Tech was due to Aggie adaptability.

"We have a lot of pride in being able to take advantage of sudden changes in a game," Kubecka believes the big picture trend that began with a last-second comeback over Texas Tech was due to Aggie adaptability.

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## TCU Coasts In Swift Win

FORT WORTH (AP)—With Tom Swift pouring through 15 points in the first half, TCU built a 21-point lead then coasted by Loyola of New Orleans 101-69 Wednesday night for its first victory of the season.

TCU, which came into the game with a cool .322 shooting percentage, rattled the visitors' zone defense with a 48.8 first-half spree and a 16-point intermission advantage.

Loyola whittled it to 12 early in the second half but Carey Sloan picked up the pace with four field goals. With TCU in front 68-44 the Frogs' new coach, Johnny Swaim, played his second team the final 12:58. The reserves also came in for the last 4:02 of the first half.

Swift, 6-5 junior college transfer from Fullerton, Calif., finished with 17 points. Sloan and substitute Tommy Goan had 14 each.

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