Aggies Thump La. Tech, 102-83; Look Ahead To SFA

By JOHN PLATZER

in the second half, the Aggies raced past Louisiana Tech 102-83 in G. Rollie White Thursday night to up their season record

Immediately after the victory was safely tucked away, Coach Shelby Metcalf and his cagers began thinking about their Monday night opponents, the Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks. The team from Nagodoches is currently 5-1

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Hitting at a fantastic rate their 8 p.m. date with the Aggies rated number 19 among the nation's small colleges.

> In their win over Louisiana Tech, the Aggies connected on 23 of 34 shots in the last half for a 67.6 percentage. They finished the game with 41 of 72 for 56.9 per cent. Louisiana Tech connected on 27 of their 75 attempts in the contest for a cool

BILLY BOB BARNETT, who entered the game with a 19 points per game average, led the Aggies with 26 points while Ronnie Peret contributed 21 and Sonny Benefield and Harry Bostic each had 10. Barnett, a 6-5 senior from Brenham, hit on 10 of 14 shots from the field and pulled down 8 rebounds as A&M out-

on the season and will move into fourth straight game, this time 57-41.

Peret, who connected on 9 of 12 attempts, paced the Aggies with 12 rebounds while Bostic grabbed 11 and 7-footer Steve Niles had 6.

Rounding out the Aggies' scoring was Bill Brown and Heitmann with 9, Cooksey with 7, Niles with 5, Roddy McAlpine with 4 and Chuck Smith with 1. Brown, a junior from Galveston, came off the bench to spark the Aggies in the first half as he hit on 3 of 4 long shots from the

LOUISIANA TECH was paced in their scoring by George Corley who poured in 35 points. Charles Bishop, the Louisianans 7-0 center, was next with 22 while Kilgore Junior College transfer Tom Farrell ended the game with 11.

the contest as he connected on 14 of 24 from the field. Bishop topped his team in rebounding as he dragged down 9.

Bishop sank a short jump shot to score first points in the game and send the Louisianans out front early. A Peret layup tied the score before a Bishop tip sent the visitors into a 4-2 lead. That was to be the last time A&M was to trail in the contest. however, as Peret once again knotted the count on a lavup when Bishop was called for goal-tend-

The score was tied at 5-5, 7-7, 11-11 and 13-13 before the Aggies took command for good with 13:36 remaining in the first half on a free throw by Niles. A free toss by Brown gave the Aggies a two point lead and then after Bud Dean hit from the charity rebounded their opponents for the Corley was deadly accurate in stripe for Louisiana Tech, Peret

upped the margin to 17-14 on a

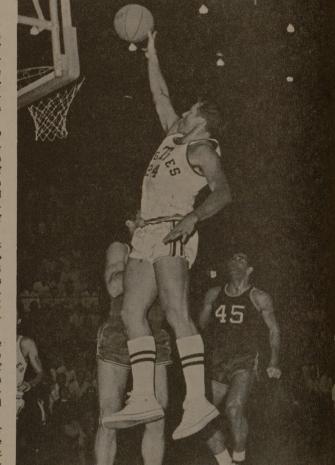
THE MARGIN began to increase steadily then until with 11:06 still remaining in the half the Aggies held a 21-16 lead after a 19-foot jumper by Brown. The lead grew to 7 on a short jumper by Barnett and then to 10 at 31-21 when Bostic connected from

A layup by Barnett with 5:19 showing on the clock in the initial half gave Coach Metcalf's cagers their biggest margin of the period at 37-22. Tech began to fight back at that point and narrowed the count to 44-36 before the Aggies ended the half with a 49-40 advantage.

A&M started fast in the last half and was soon sitting atop a 16 point advantage at 70-54 with 12:07 left to play. This was stretched to 20 points when Bostie hit on a drive to put A&M out front 86-61 with 7:36 showing on the clock.

BARNETT cashed in on a three pointer and then Benefield stole the ball, dribbled the length of the court and hit Cooksey with a behind-the-back pass for a layup that sent the Aggies ahead 84-63 with 6:43 remaining.

Niles hit on a short jumper with 44 seconds left in the game to give A&M a 98-83 lead and set up the smashing of the century barrier. McAlpine hit on a pair of free throws 6 seconds later to do the honors. The Aggies, who scored the final 6 points in the contest, closed out the night with a layup by Niles to put the final count at 102-83.



CHALK UP TWO

Billy Bob Barnett, the Aggies' 6-5 senior forward, flips in two of his 26 points over Louisiana Tech's John Whitmo in route to the Aggies' 102-83 win Thursday night. The Ags tangle with highly-touted Stephen F. Austin Monday night here at 8 p. m. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Fish Drop Cards, 70-64, For Third Straight Win By RICHARD CAMPBELL ing Wharton JC, 72-68, TCU freshmen, 81-59, and now the The Texas Aggie Fish contin-

ued in their role as dragon slayers Thursday night by dealing the previously unbeaten Henderson County JC Cardinals their first loss of the season, 70-64, in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Fish derailed the Cardinal express after they had knocked off seven straight foes. The Cards count the Houston freshman, Baylor Cubs, Hill County JC twice, and Navarro JC twice among their victories. The Fish have now won their first three games, beat-

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Jeff Watkins, a 6-4, 200-pound high school All-American from Moselle, Miss., continued his assault on the scoring books as he ripped the net for 31 points, the highest single Fish performance of the year. Big Rick Duplantis, a 6-8 center from Groves, contributed 22 markers to the Fish cause and also dragged down 13 The first half score was tied

five times as both teams were cold from the floor. Henderson hit 13 of 33 for a 39.4 per cent and the Fish could manage but 11 of 35 for 31.4. Watkins hit a 15-foot jumper to give the Fish their first lead with 17:50 left but it was nip-and-tuck after that as the Cards' Marshall Crawford almost single-handedly kept them in the game, hitting shot after

Crawford put Henderson ahead, apparently to stay, late in the first stanza as he connected on three shots in a row to give the Cards a 28-23 lead with 1:13 left. But Watkins then drove the middle with a beautiful left-handed hook maneuver and got two points. Skip Carleton connected on an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer to give the halftime lead to the Cards, 28-27. The second half was an entire

turnabout as the Fish came back tough after the break and scored 15 points to three for Henderson in the first five minutes.

The lead slowly crept up to its zenith of 14 at 50-36 with 9:28 left but then Crawford got several layups on the baseline and Hurbert McNeail hit a 22-footer from the top of the circle to cut the lead to six. At this point Duplantis and Watkins matched shots with Crawford and the Cards could get no closer until a late surge brought them to 62-58 with 2:38 left.

Crawford led all scorers with 36 points as Watkins paced the Fish with 31, Duplantis finished with 22. Carleton and Robert Threadgill both finished with six, and Farnsworth connected for

The next encounter for the Fish will be Monday night as they host Lon Morris in a 5:45 p.m. prelim to the varsity's important 8 p.m. tilt with Stephen F. Austin.

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