

SFA Rally Trips Aggies, 75-74

By JOHN PLATZER
Five missed free throws in the final four minutes told the story last night in G. Rollie White Coliseum as Stephen F. Austin stormed from far behind to nip the Aggies at the wire, 75-74.

With A&M clutching a precious one-point lead and only seven seconds left to play, Marvin Polnick snuck in for a layup along the right baseline for the win-

ning basket. The Aggies called two timeouts, desperately attempting to save the win, but a last second 35-foot shot by Sonny Benefield fell short.

COACH Shelby Metcalf's cagers trailed for a total of only 40 seconds in the 40 minute contest, but seven of those were the most important of the night. SFA jumped off to a 2-0 lead and then led at 4-3 but after the score

was tied at 8-8, the Aggies remained in command the rest of the way until Polnick's layup.

George Johnson, the Lumberjack's 6-11 center who was his team's top scorer for the year, fouled out with 9:04 remaining in the game and A&M holding a 65-56 margin. Instead of wrapping up the game for the Aggies, this seemed to inspire SFA.

Mike Heitmann, the Aggies' 6-4 junior from Houston Sam Houston, missed at the foul line on the front end of a one-and-one situation with the Lumberjacks quickly cashing in on the opportunity to narrow the score to 70-64 on a short jumper by Ervin Polnick.

A&M SOON found themselves at the foul line once again with one-and-one but Ronnie Peret missed his first shot and Ervin and Marvin Polnick combined for three points to cut the margin to 70-67. Peret stepped to the charity line again with 3:05 remaining. This time he hit on his first and missed the second and when Marvin Polnick shook loose for two layups, the score was suddenly tied at 71-71 with 1:53 left.

After an A&M timeout, Peret once again stepped to the foul line and calmly sank his first shot. The second rolled out but Billy Bob Barnett got the rebound and was fouled while putting it back up. The senior from Brenham sank both chances to give the Aggies a 74-71 bulge with 1:33 remaining.

A short jump shot by Surry Oliver made it 74-73 and A&M immediately went into a stall. Benefield had an opportunity to put the game out of reach with 33 seconds remaining, but his first toss in the one-and-one situation was off and SFA controlled to set up Marvin Polnick's game-winning shot.

THE FIRST HALF belonged strictly to the Aggies as they steadily pulled away from the 8-8 tie. A three point play by Heitmann gave the Aggies a 21-12 lead and then a barrage of eight straight points, four by Barnett, increased the margin to 29-14 with 7-19 remaining.

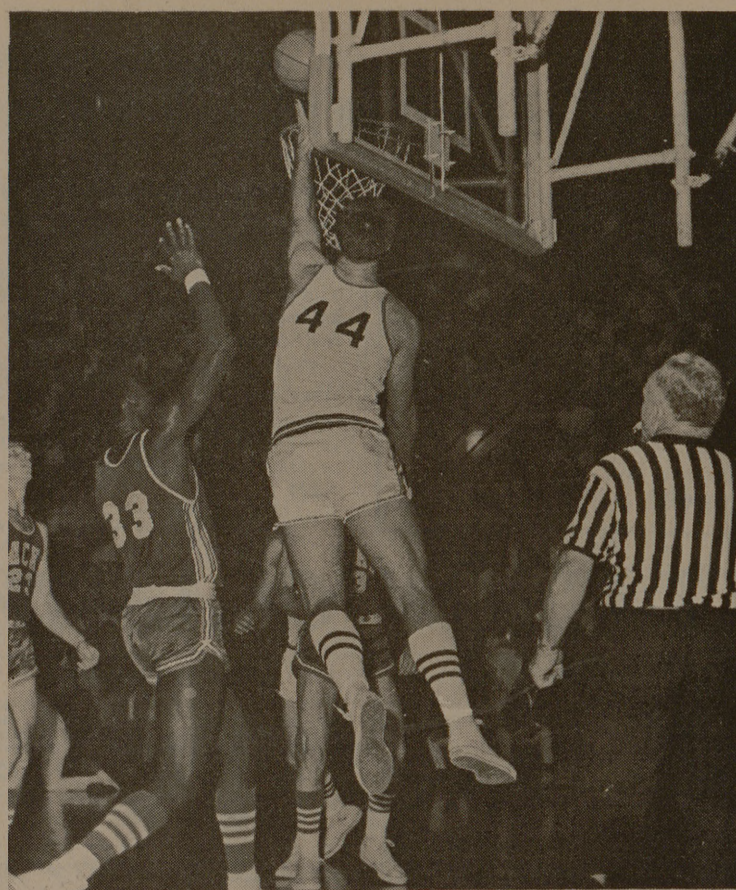
The small crowd (3,615) saw A&M capture its largest lead of the night at 33-16 on a pair of foul shots by Peret with 5:32 left in the initial period.

Stephen F. Austin closed fast in the opening half to score the final five points as the Aggies took a 41-29 lead to the dressing room.

PERET WAS the top scorer in the game with 23 points while Barnett had 17 and Heitmann connected for 11 for the Aggies. Surry Oliver and Ervin Polnick each had 18 for SFA while Harvey Huffstetler connected for 11.

The Aggies were outrebounded in the game or the first time this season, 49-40. A&M had a 25-19 bulge in this department at half-time. Peret was also the leader in this category with 11 while the Aggies' Harry Bostic had 10 and Barnett had 8. Oliver paced SFA with 11 while Ervin Polnick and Johnson each had 8.

In the end it was the Aggies second half free throw shooting that brought about their downfall. Coach Metcalf's basketballers connected on only 9 of 16 from the foul line in the last half after hitting on 15 of 17 in the game's first 20 minutes.



EASY DOES IT

Ronnie Peret (44) work his way under the basket for this second half bucket for the Aggies against SFA last night. Peret led all scorers in the game with 23 points but a last minute SFA rally nipped A&M 75-74. Defending on the play for the Lumberjacks is 6-11 center George Johnson (33). (Photo by Mike Wright)

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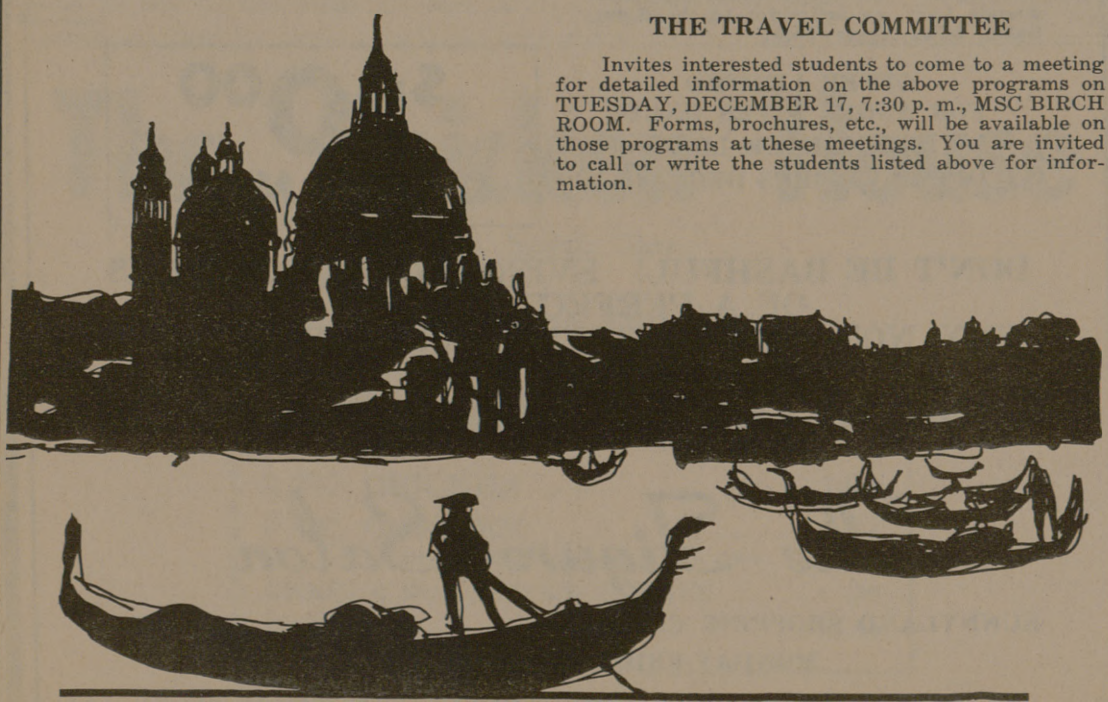
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Fish Win Fourth Straight With 82-69 Romp Past LM

By RICHARD CAMPBELL

Hot shooting from the floor offset their frequent mistakes Monday night as the Texas Aggie Fish chalked up their fourth straight victory in an 82-69 romp over Lon Morris Junior College in G. Rollie White.

Skip Carleton led the Fish with 21 points and Jeff Watkins added 18 markers and 18 rebounds as the Fish had little trouble adding Lon Morris to their scalp belts. Bobby Threadgill added 20 points to the attack.

The Fish shot to an early lead in the first half behind the nifty shooting of Carleton, who hit seven of his first eight shots, and Threadgill, who connected on five of eight in the first half. Two fields and a free throw by Threadgill gave the Fish a commanding lead at 18-8 with 14

minutes left and with 11 minutes left, Carleton's 18-foot jumper pulled them to their largest lead, 28-16.

But Lon Morris began their quick comeback behind their 5'8" playmaker, David Green of Brooklyn, N. Y. Lon Morris trailed 33-26 with 8:00 left but they got hot and hit 12 straight points before the Fish could score again. The Fish fought back, however, and trailed by only one as Green worked for one shot before the half ended and finally connected on an 18-foot jump shot as the buzzer sounded to give the visitors a 42-41 lead.

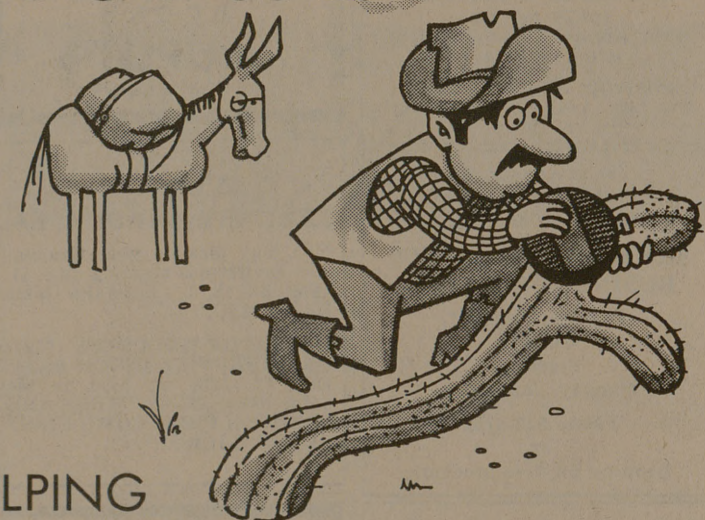
After intermission, the score exchanged hands twice until with 14:40 left, the Fish broke a 50-50 tie on a Threadgill free throw and took the lead to stay. Watkins hit two quick hook shots and reserve guard Don Watts

contributed two layups to give the Fish the edge, 68-58, with 8:46 left.

Lon Morris then made their last spurt of the night as Green and 6'4" Russell Johnston, also from Brooklyn, hit four consecutive shots to pull them within eight at 75-67 with 1:16 left. But Duplantis drew a foul and sank both free throws to make it 77-67, and Watts hit one charity shot to increase the lead to 11. But on the ensuing throw-in, Watts fouled Johnston, who found the pressure too tough at the charity stripe and missed the opportunity to score.

On the fast break, Farnsworth got a layup and then Green got one for Lon Morris to make the score, 80-69 with ten seconds left. Watkins then hit Duplantis inside for a layup at the buzzer and the final score was 82-69.

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