

Fish freeze out Blinn JC Bucs

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sports Editor

While their coach was stranded because of snow in Chicago, the Texas Aggie Fish kicked an avalanche of snow on their visitors and slid to a 81-62 win over the Blinn Junior College Buccaneers here Saturday night.

Fish coach Jim Culpepper, who was on a recruiting trip to the midwest, got snowed in and was unable to return in time for the game. So student assistant Roddy McAlpine took over as head man and now stands 1-0 as a head coach.

Culpepper will be on hand tonight, however, when the Fish try for their fifth win of the season in seven games when they face a tough challenge from high-scoring Temple Junior College at 5:45 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum in a preliminary to the Aggies' varsity game against Southern Methodist University.

The Fish led all the way in this one, and although they didn't gain a substantial point command until the second half, the closest Blinn ever got to even being the game was at 5-4 after Johnny Mayo tipped in a rebound of a missed shot 40 seconds deep into the game to put A&M ahead 2-0.

Guard Bobby McKey from Dallas Thomas Jefferson led the Fish fast break in the battle and was credited with six assists before halftime and the Fish led at that point 34-28.

After Mayo's opening tip, Randy Knowles stole a pass, fired to McKey down court who tipped the ball to Jack Vest for a layup that gave A&M a 4-0 lead and set the tempo for the opening minutes with the fast break.

But midway through the period the Fish began to get a little too fast and began to throw the ball away frequently. This prevented them from having a big halftime lead, as they had five more turnovers than Blinn, yet outbounded them by nine and hit over 20 per cent better from the field.

Mayo, Knowles and McKey, who were the only players to score in the first half last Tuesday night at Rice, continued their domination by scoring 25 of the 34 first half points. Mayo led the way with 10 while McKey had eight and Knowles seven.

The second half was all Fish and McAlpine used subs the last five minutes, as they upped the lead to as much as 21.

Vest fed Knowles for a layup at the start of the second half and a potential three-point play but the free throw fell off.

Vest tipped in a shot six seconds later and then Mayo passed for an assist to Joe Arciniega with just over 18 minutes left in the game to up the lead to 12. The closest Blinn got after that was seven and after McKey drove through the lane for an uncontested layup with 13:23 left A&M led by at least 10.

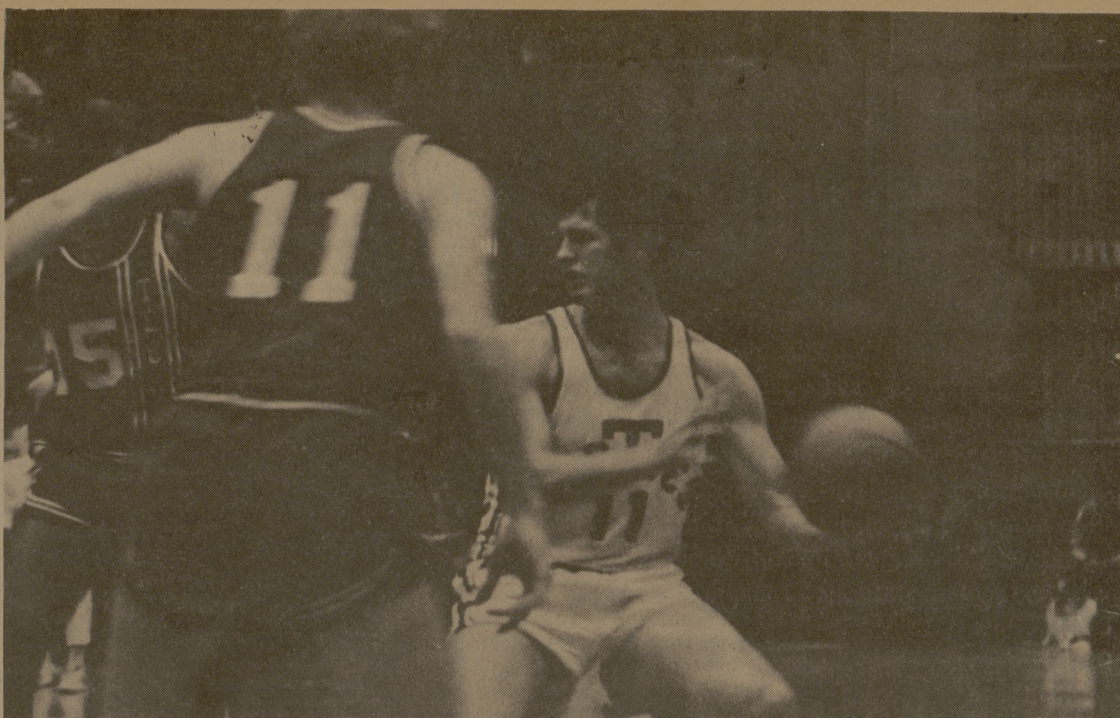
A three-point play by Randy Pryor on a rebound shot gave A&M its biggest lead of the night 73-52 with over three min-

utes to play.

The Fish hit on 48.3 per cent of their shots as compared to 35.3 per cent for Blinn and with Mayo grabbing a game high 12 rebounds led in that department 55-41.

Mayo led the Fish in scoring with 19 points including eight of ten field goal attempts. Knowles had 18 and McKey had 15. Rounding out the Fish scoring were Arciniega 8, Vest 7, Pryor 5, Ken Bucek 4, Mark Stewart 3 and Bennett Jones 2.

Frank Banning paced Blinn with 20 and Connie Hunter added 17. Morris Fredie, who led a small surge midway through the first half finished with 10 points and Keith Keepers had 7. Mickey Cooper had 4, Ken Nalley 2 and Ronnie Richardson 1.



CHARLIE JENKINS (wearing white) looks for teammate to pass ball to in Aggies 76-65 loss to Texas Tech as Greg Lowery (15) and Steve Williams (11) defend for Raiders. (Photo by Hayden Whitsett)

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All Juniors & Sophs. J-M have pictures made at the University Studios this week, Feb. 1 - 5. Also this is the last chance for Seniors & Grads to have pictures made & select proofs.

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