

Longhorn shooting pushes Aggies out of first place

By JOHN CURYLO

The Texas Longhorns sealed their bid for the Southwest Conference championship here Tuesday night, and few of the 7,998 fans in G. Rollie White Coliseum would have refused the offer.

The Steers burned the nets at a 55.5 clip to defeat the Aggies, 80-73. The win brought the Texas season record to 16-7, making them 9-4 in league play, tied for first place with Southern Methodist and Texas Christian.

The Aggies, meanwhile, became 15-10 for the year, 8-5 in conference action. They were picked in a pre-season poll to finish last, while the Horns were projected as the title winners.

Golfers win dual match

A&M beat Sam Houston State, 17½ to 3½, in a dual golf match here Tuesday.

In singles play, the scoring was a total of three points—one point for each nine and one point for the 18. In the four-ball play, there was just one point for the 18-hole match.

A&M's Clay Dozier was the day's medalist with a five-under-par 65. Steve Veriato of A&M fired a 66 while teammates Tommy Shelton and Tommy Gilbert had 68 and 69, respectively.

The results, with individual 18-hole scores in parenthesis:

Singles
Tommy Gilbert, A&M (69) beat Billy Caun, Sam Houston (71), 2 to 1; Clay Dozier, A&M (65), beat John Folwell, Sam Houston (73), 3 to 0; Tommy Shelton, A&M (68), and Lane Fowler, Sam Houston (68), split, 1½ to 1½; Steve Veriato, A&M (66) beat Dan Gilbert, Sam Houston (70), 3 to 0; Tommy Johnson, A&M (71), beat Charles Denard, Sam Houston (76), 3 to 0; Billy Schmidt, A&M (70), beat Dug Parker, Sam Houston, 3 to 0.

Four-Ball
Gilbert & Dozier, A&M, beat Caun and Folwell, 1 to 0; Fowler and Gilbert, Sam Houston, beat Shelton and Veriato, 1 to 0; Johnson and Schmidt, A&M, beat Denard and Parker, 1 to 0.

Texas hit 30 of 54 shots from the field, while A&M connected on 29 of 70. The big thing the Longhorns had going for them was sophomore Larry Robinson, who hit 10 of 19 from the floor and five of seven from the charity stripe.

The guard play of the Steers was fantastic, with Harry Larrabee and Scooter Lenox combining for 38 points on 15 of 23 from the field. Thirteen of the Longhorn field goals were from more than 15 feet away.

"I don't feel bad about this

game," Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "We played our hearts out. Texas simply has a better team. The way they've played in the last two games, they'll represent us well in the playoffs.

"Our players fought and fought and fought," he added. "I was real proud of our performance tonight. I'm not ashamed of the way we played. It was a real good basketball game. Texas is just loaded with talent."

Texas built up an 11-point lead with 5:19 left in the first half, but before the 16-foot jump

shot by Larrabee that made it 33-22, the score had been tied six times. In the first ten minutes of the contest, the lead changed hands three times.

Tied 16-16 with 10:46 to go, the game exploded on a layup by Robinson. Six consecutive points by the Steers followed, and A&M never led again. Texas had a 41-36 advantage midway in the game.

The Aggies chipped away at the margin, but the exchange of points never allowed A&M to get closer than three. This dif-

ference came five minutes into the second period, 49-46. The Longhorns built up a 12-point surplus three minutes later, though, on a 25-foot jumper by Lenox and a free throw by Larrabee.

A&M went to work on this lead, lowering it to four on four different occasions within the five-minute mark. Larrabee and Robinson teamed up several times to assure themselves of the win.

Texas used the same 1-3-1 zone defense they employed in

beating the Aggies 80-71 in Austin. The Steers' ability to close the middle and force everything outside eliminates percentage shots by the opposition.

"Texas did a good job of cutting off what Mario (Brown) does best," Metcalf said. "Charlie Jenkins came in and did a good job, though. They beat us with the same defense as last time. All the games get tougher the second time around."

Randy Knowles led the Aggies in scoring with 23. The 6-6 sophomore hit on 11 of 25 shots from the field and one free throw. He was the leading rebounder in the game with 11 of A&M's 40 caroms. Texas had an identical number of caroms.

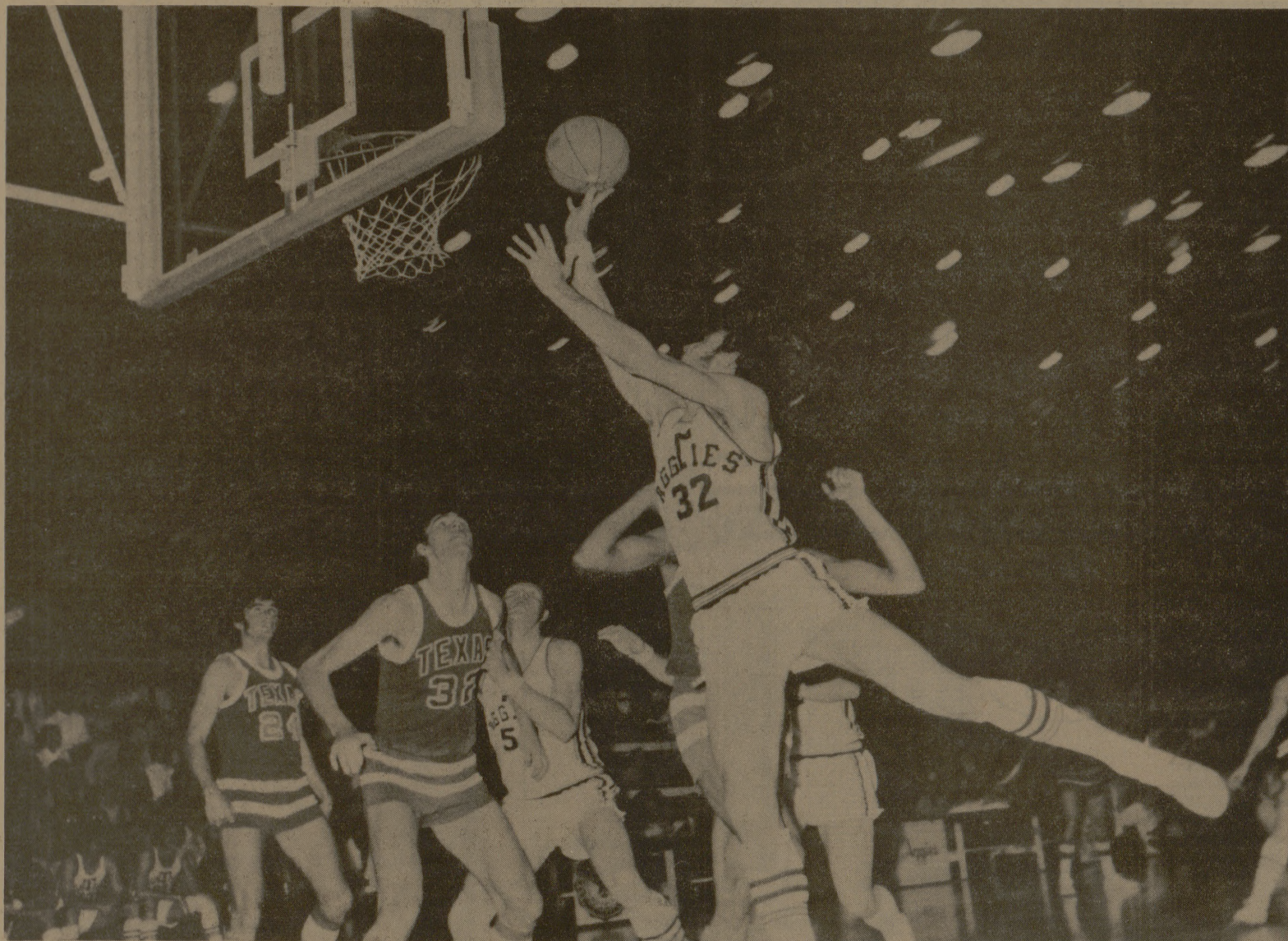
Jeff Overhouse scored 21 points, hitting seven of 13 from the floor and seven of 10 free throws. He hauled in 10 rebounds.

Bobby Threadgill, a senior playing his last home game, contributed 15 points to the effort. He was good on six of 12 field goal attempts and three of four charity tosses, while getting six rebounds.

The scoring:
A&M — Randy Knowles, 23; Jeff Overhouse, 21; Bobby Threadgill, 15; Mario Brown, 9; Brad Pauley, 2; Bob Gobin, 2; and Rick Duplantis, 1.

Texas—Larry Robinson, 25; Scooter Lenox, 20; Harry Larrabee, 18; Lynn Howden, 8; Eric Groscurth, 7; and B. G. Brosterhouse, 2.

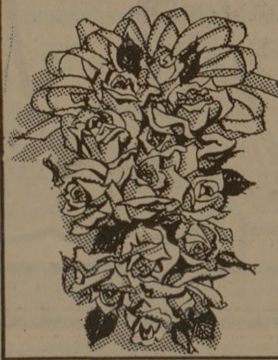
The Aggies close out the season by visiting Texas Tech in Lubbock Saturday at 8 p.m. Texas hosts TCU Saturday. The winner of that game will get at least a share of the title, depending on the outcome of the SMU-Baylor game the same day.



A DRIVING LAYUP by A&M's Randy Knowles (32) meets tough opposition by the Texas Longhorns. The Aggies finish the 1972 season in Lubbock Saturday night against the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Now 15-10 for the year and 8-5 in Southwest Conference play, A&M lost to the Steers, 80-73, Tuesday night. (Photo by Mike Rice)

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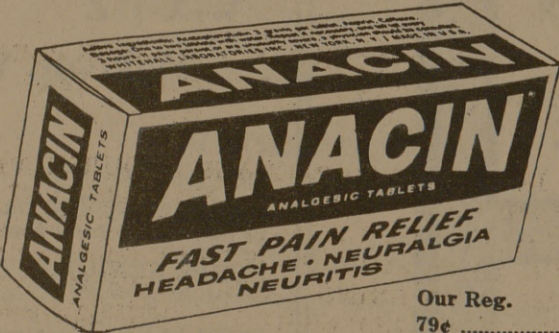
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