

Ags Take UTA, Angelo State

Joseph, Knowles Lead Aggie Victories

Following the rebounding and scoring of Randy Knowles and Cedric Joseph, The Texas Aggies ran their record to a perfect 3-0 by beating UTA and Angelo State 88-84 and 90-81 respectively.

Knowles collected 27 points Friday against UTA and managed to haul down nine rebounds while Joseph led the scoring assault on Angelo State with 19 points and collected a school record 23 rebounds. Knowles managed to contribute 18 points to the A&M cause.

In Friday night's game with UTA, the Aggies blew a first half lead of 15 points, 25-10, with 11:28 remaining while holding the Mavericks to only two points in the first five minutes of action.

With 4:22 left in the opening stanza, UTA rallied to within two of the Aggies 36-34, while

A&M suffered a shooting and turnover slump as the half ended with A&M on top, 45-40.

Keeping the Mavericks in the contest was the shooting of their two big inside performers, Larry Moore and Perry Littleton, each scoring 11 points in first half action.

For A&M, it was its tremendous height and rebounding advantage with Randy Knowles leading the way with nine caroms while Cedric Joseph and Jerry Mercer pulled down six each.

In the second half, as in the first, A&M built up sizeable leads only to let it slip away to the never-give-up visitors.

The Aggies built up a 49-40 lead early as UTA pulled up within one, 49-48, with less than five minutes gone.

It was Knowles' fanatical play in the middle of that final half

that enabled the Aggies to win the game. Knowles hit for 16 of A&M's 18 points scored in a six minute time span.

UTA had its final chance to pull the game out with 3:59 left, gaining a tie, 77-77, but A&M's nine straight points in the next two minutes put out any flame the Mavericks had flickering as the Aggies coasted in for the 88-84 triumph.

Knowles finished the game leading in both points, 27, and rebounds, 14, for both clubs. Big gun for UTA was Moore hitting for 24 points and grabbing 11 rebounds before fouling out late in the game.

Six players, three on each team, were fouled out as 49 fouls were called. Three A&M inside men, Jeff Overhouse, Jerry Mercer and Joseph, fouled out while UTA lost two inside men, Littleton and Moore, as well as top-scoring guard Ronnie Marsh.

Viewing the game was the largest crowd ever to see a non-conference game at A&M with almost 5,000 fans on hand. Spirit and enthusiasm played an immense portion in the game, coach Shelby Metcalf felt.

"I felt we improved," Metcalf said of his team after its second victorious encounter. "The press hurt us late in the first half because we are not in good enough physical shape yet to keep pressure on the other team."

"I was impressed the way neither team gave up. Both played hard the entire game and by the look on the players faces, you couldn't tell who was ahead."

"I was real proud of Randy Knowles' courage in the game. He fought hard all the way and was our driving force. I thought this UTA team was much better than the team that beat us here two years ago."

Monday night Metcalf didn't have quite so much to be happy about. The Aggies were anything but impressive and except for the inspired play of Joseph, the hustling Angelo State Rams might have handed the Aggies their first loss of the season.

The Aggies had good balance in scoring against Angelo with all five starters scoring in double figures.

Besides Joseph's 19 and Knowles' 18, Chuck Tone and

Jeff Overhouse collected 14 with Mario Brown adding 12.

A&M jumped to a 10-4 lead on the shooting of Knowles, but the Rams closed the gap to 24-22 with 8:35 remaining in the first half.

The half ended with the Aggies leading 38-37 as Angelo used the sharp shooting of Charlie Williams to keep the game tight. Williams totaled 12 points in the half and contributed 19 points to the Ram cause.

At the start of the second half, Joseph took things into his own hands and threw in 6 straight points as the Aggies managed to stretch their lead to 50-44.

Joseph scored again and shuffled a pass to Wayne Howard for a score, and A&M threatened to break the game open leading

62-48 with 11:00 left in the ball game.

Joseph totally dominated the boards and Howard played his finest game of the season as the Aggies held off the constant Ram attack led by Robert Black.

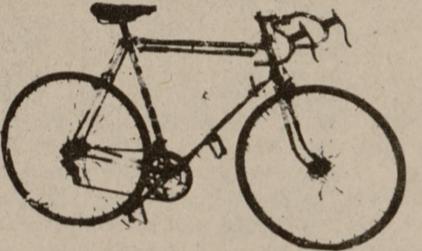
Black forced the Aggies into numerous turnovers with his ball hawking defense and contributed 11 points to bring Angelo to within five points at 78-73 with just 2:49 remaining to be played.

Joseph hit on a three point play and another tip shot to keep the Rams at bay and the Aggies had their third win of the season.

The Aggies next action will be Wednesday night when they travel to Tulsa, Okla., to compete in a doubleheader honoring Hank Iba against Oklahoma State.

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