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Ags Open Season With Two Victories

Southwest Texas, Houston Baptist Fall to A&M Aggressiveness

By KEVIN COFFEY
Sports Editor
Using what has become an A&M trademark, physical, aggressive basketball, the Texas Aggies kicked off the season with two victories.
Last night Southwest Texas State fell victims of their own cold shooting and sloppy play as the Aggs captured at 74-65 win.
Friday, playing before 5,851 fans in G. Rollie White Coliseum, A&M prevailed over the Houston Baptist Huskies 85-72. The crowd was the largest ever to watch a non-conference game here.
The score of the SWTS contest

was not indicative of the play as the Aggies literally blew the Bobcats off the court. A&M led by 24 points with five minutes remaining and Metcalf called off the dogs as every Aggie in uniform saw action.
SWTS rallied in the final minutes to pull to their closest margin since mid-way through the first half.
"I substituted a little early," said Coach Shelby Metcalf. "The play got a little sloppy but we are still trying to find ourselves. We tried a lot of different people and a lot of different things."
Sloppy was not quite the right

word; ridiculous fits better. Fifty-five fouls were whistled to team up with 36 turnovers to mar what started out as a fine game.
The Aggies 1-2-2 zone defense forced the taller Bobcats to take shots far beyond their range. When they did work the ball inside, the stellar defensive play of Cedric Joseph and Jerry Mercer fouled up the works.
"This is the first time I ever used that defense," said Metcalf. "I think it bothered them and gave our post men good position."
The rebound battle fell to the Bobcats 47-43 but this too was run up on the A&M subs.
Balanced scoring was the secret to the Aggies second win of the year. Mercer tallied 16, Joseph 14 and Mike Floyd 12. Eleven Aggies scored as Randy Knowles chipped in eight, Mike Johnson six, Charlie Jenkins, Bruce Ott, Webb Williams had four each. Dale Donaldson, John Thornton scored two points apiece as did Joe Arciniega who chipped in his first bucket of the season to the delight of the 3,474 fans.
SWTS could manage just 35.2 per cent of their shots and committed 21 turnovers. Bruce Featherston, the Bobcats' 6-1 center, tallied 17 points.
IN FRIDAY'S ACTIONS, the Aggs were the rebound leader again against the taller Houston Baptists. A&M totally dominated the backboard at both ends of the court, ending with a 68-39 carom advantage.
Again it was Joseph leading the way. The 6-8 junior, who suffered through a ho-hum season last year, played with reckless abandon. He pulled down 19 rebounds against the Huskies' front line of 6-11, 6-11 and 6-10. He scored nine points.
Roberts, in his first game as an Aggie, tossed in 16 points. The transfer from Oklahoma State also gathered 11 rebounds.
Knowles, the leading scorer on last year's team, failed to find the mark in the first two games as he got six points Friday and eight last night.
Floyd led the Aggies' fast

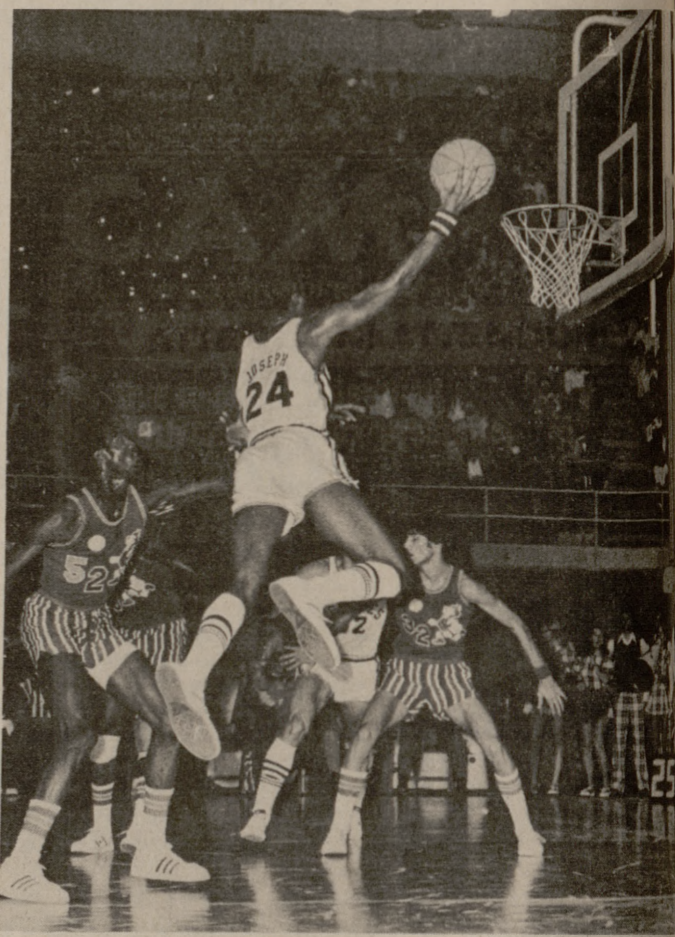
break, doleing out five assists in each game. He scored 16 against the Huskies.
HBU and the Aggs traded the lead early but A&M pulled to a four point advantage at half-time. A&M spurred to an 11 point advantage early in the second half and were never threatened again.
Johnson, a freshman from Chicago, showed signs of helping the Aggies down the line with eight points in his first action.
"I was pretty nervous and I don't think I played well 'cause I never got loose. All I need is a little experience and I'll be on my way," Johnson said.
A&M hit 45 per cent of its shots. HBU hit 42.
Poor foul shooting kept the

Huskies from catching the Aggs as they hit just 12 of 25 shots including six one and one shots.
"We played aggressive as everyone screened their man on the boards," said Joseph. "Coach Reuther has helped our post men specialize and we played as a unit."
Metcalf said the team is improving at a steady pace. "The half we have played better than the half before," said Metcalf. "That's a good sign."
The Aggies' next action is Thursday night at 7:30 when they host Tarleton State. Stephen F. Austin makes the last stop at G. Rollie White before the holiday break on Dec. 10.

SWC Setting Poor Intersectional Mark

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Southwest Conference's shabby basketball intersectional record got another jolt Monday night with Southern Methodist tumbling from the unbeaten ranks to leave A&M and Baylor with the only unblemished records.
Rugged Kansas State throttled the SMU Mustangs 77-61 as the SWC dropped five out of six games to run its record to an inglorious 5-13 record against outside foes.
A&M was the only conference club to register a victory, defeating Southwest Texas 74-65.
In other games, Western Kentucky shaved Arkansas 102-100, Louisville mauled Houston 87-81,

Mississippi State ripped Texas 87-82, and Vanderbilt overcame a 15-point Texas Tech lead to down the Red Raiders 84-82.
SMU, which had upset Missouri Saturday night, was ice cold from the field in the first half but shaved a 20-point Kansas State lead to 10 points in the second half before a late Wildcat flurry.
Rich Knarr scored 32 points to lead Mississippi State past Texas, including 16 of 22 from the field.
Larry Robison starred for Texas, now 0-2 for the year, with 25 points. Both teams shot 50 per cent from the field.
Terry Compton scored all of his 16 points in the second half to sink the Red Raiders. Tech led 42-40 at halftime after leading as much as 15 points. Rick Bullock scored 27 points for the losers. Lee Fowler had 21 for Vanderbilt.
Freshman Wesley Cox scored 23 points as ninth-ranked Louisville downed the 14th-ranked Cougars. Houston's Maurice Presley got 24 points.
In games tonight, unbeaten Baylor hosts Tarleton State and Texas Christian is at North Texas State.



HEADIN' TO THE HOOP—Cedric Joseph hits two of his nine points in the Aggies season opener against Houston Baptist. Joseph had 19 rebounds to lead the A&M assault. Southwest Texas fell last night to run the Aggies record to 2-0. (Photo by Gary Baldasari)

Astros Trade For Pitchers

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Astros Gen. Mgr. Spec Richardson, making good a promise to juggle his pitching staff, traded relief pitchers Jim Ray and Cecil Upshaw and infielder Gary Sutherland Monday in separate deals with Detroit and Cleveland.
The Astros also announced that Bill Virdon, fired in September as manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, would manage Houston's AAA affiliate at Denver.
The Astros sent Ray and Sutherland to the Tigers in exchange for relief pitcher Fred Scherman. Upshaw, the submarine-style hurler who came to Houston in a trade last season, went to the Indians for reliever Jerry Johnson.

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