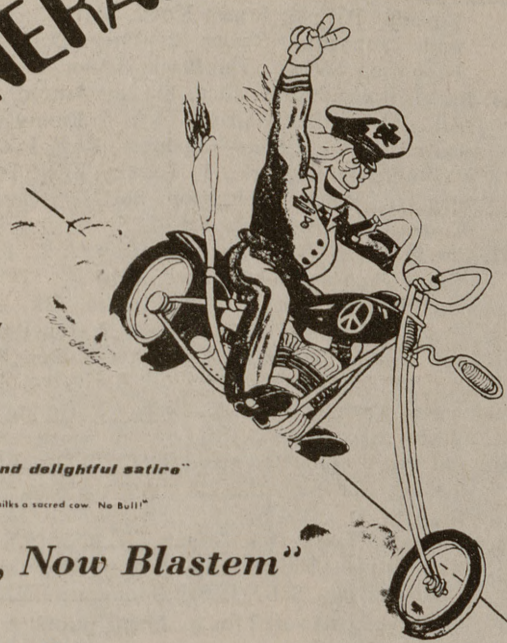


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Ags Take Tarleton; SFA to Visit Monday

By KEVIN COFFEY
Sports Editor

Like a slumbering giant on a two-game sabbatical, Randy Knowles awoke to lead the Texas Aggies to a 85-74 victory over Tarleton State last night in pre-conference basketball action.

Knowles, who suffered through two inoffensive performances in A&M's previous court encounters, pumped in 29 points while grabbing seven rebounds.

Freshman Mike Johnson supplied the spark the Ags needed midway through the second half. The Chicago native scored 10 points while leading the slowing Aggie offense.

Ray Roberts hit 12 and Jerry Mercer grabbed 11 rebounds to aid the A&M cause.

The 3,287 fans, the smallest crowd of the young season, threatened to go to sleep in the early action.

Tarleton, electing not to use the optional 30-second clock, often

kept the ball 90 seconds and controlled the tempo of the game. A&M's cold shooting, only 38 per cent, helped the Aggies dig a half time hole of 36-39.

A&M was unable to force Tarleton into turnovers with their full court press and coach Shelby Metcalf said his charges tired late in the game.

Tarleton burst to their half-time lead on the scoring of Isaac Atkinson. Atkinson finished with 18 points.

Jenkins and Johnson finally gave A&M the shot they needed. Turning loose balls into A&M fast breaks, the tempo switched in the Maroon and Whites favor.

Tarleton kept up with the heavily favored Ags, tying the game for the 11th time with 12:24 remaining. A&M then slowly built a 15 point lead.

Monday night A&M is in for its sternest test of the season as Stephen F. Austin visits G. Rollie White. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

"They always have a good team," said Metcalf. "SFA is always ranked near the top of the nation in NAIA polls. They've beaten us in close games the last few times we played them. We will have to work hard. We've got to go back to work if we are going to be ready for Monday."

SFA was 25-3 last year. The Lumberjacks have a seven foot center that could spell trouble for A&M's vastly improved inside game.

"We're not as far along as I thought we were and our team play must improve if we are to beat SFA," Metcalf said.

Baylor beat the Texans 101-72 Tuesday and Metcalf said this may have affected his team.

"There was no doubt about it, we just weren't mentally prepared," said the Aggie mentor. "I am a little disappointed. We were improving a little bit each half we played but we just didn't show it tonight."

A&M, now 3-0, had its worst performance to date but some bright spots were visible.

Charlie Jenkins, subbing for injured Mike Floyd, played over 30 minutes of solid basketball. "Charlie was put into a tough situation and he responded well," said Metcalf. Jenkins tallied 10 points.

Knowles said his scoring performance was long over due. "It's about time," the senior forward said. "As a team we just didn't get ready. That happens a couple of times a year and we were just glad we won."

Knowles hit nine of 16 field shots and added 11 of 12 free throws in setting A&M scoring high of the season.

His 14 points in the first half kept A&M in the game. The Aggies held a four point lead throughout most of the early action but Tarleton tied it at 28 with six minutes left in the first half.

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Basketball Round-Up

Kansas State streaked away from Texas midway through the first half and went on to defeat the Longhorns 71-63 in non-conference basketball Thursday night as Lon Kruger led the balanced Wildcat attack with 16 points.

It was the third victory for Kansas State against no defeats and Texas' third loss in three games.

Louis Dunbar scored 30 points and David Marrs came off the bench to add 20 more to carry the University of Houston to a 119-71 college basketball victory over Wabash College Thursday night.

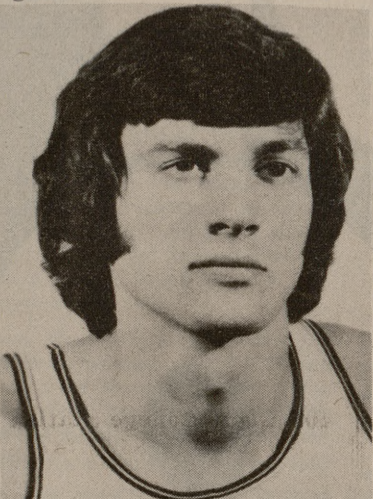
Houston put six players in double figures in picking up its first victory in three games this season.

Ron James sunk two last-minute baskets to lead the University of the Pacific to a 68-64 victory over Texas Christian University here Thursday night.

The Horned Frogs had pulled into a 62-61 lead before John Errecart's three point play put Pacific on top. Then James came through with a layup to leave the Tigers undefeated for the year.

Errecart paced the visitors with 18 points, while Gary Dean added 12 and James 11.

Sophomore Wayne Wayman was the leading scorer for TCU with 16 and Alonzo Harris added 12.



Randy Knowles

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"AFRICA UNCENSORED" (R)

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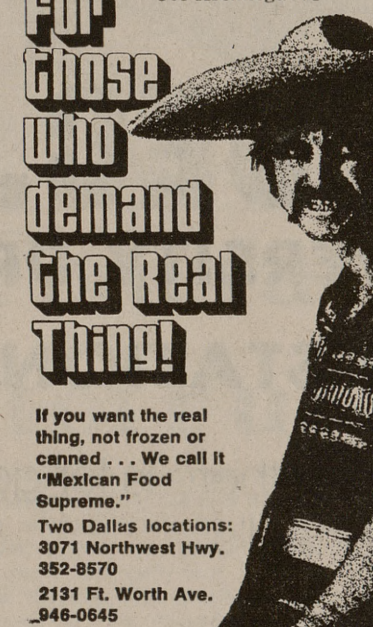
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