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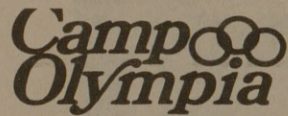
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CONTACT TEXAS A&M PLACEMENT CENTER

Aggie miscues spur Tech victory

Raiders hold off late comeback for 63-61 win

By KEVIN COFFEY
Sports Editor

A&M's error-prone basketball team fell victim to their poor ball handling and cold shooting for the second straight time as Texas Tech held on to a 63-61 South-west Conference victory.

The Ags played the first half like they never left Fort Worth, the site of Saturday's humiliating 88-72 defeat at the hands of TCU.

Tech jumped to a 20-10 lead as Jerry Mercer and Cedric Joseph fought to keep A&M in the ball park.

Raider forward William Johnson pumped in 10 points in the first half as Tech pulled to a 32-24 lead.

Mercer draped his 6-9 frame

over Raider star Rick Bullock in that first stanza, holding the high scoring junior to four points. Mercer tallied 10 points in the first half but the 6-10 post man returned the favor, holding Mercer to two points while scoring 11 in the second half.

Randy Knowles finally got the Ags on track in the second half, tallying 20 of his 24 points in that stanza.

A&M was down by as many as 16 points late in the game but cut the lead to 61-58. Richard Little, Tech leading scorer for the night with 17, hit both ends of a 1-1 free throw situation to give the Raiders their pad with 41 seconds left.

Little's charity tosses gave lead a 63-58 advantage and Cedric

Joseph's lay-up and foul shot went for naught.

Tech, now 3-0 in loop play, shares the SWC lead with surprising Texas. The two meet Saturday in Austin.

A&M's ball handling was atrocious. During the first eight minutes of the second half, while Tech was mounting what turned out to be an insurmountable lead,

the Ags could manage but eight shots while committing 10 turnovers.

Tech was not without fault as the game was sloppy to say the least. A&M finished with 24 turnovers, Tech 22.

Perhaps the Ags should have worn ice skates as cups and ice from the Tech students section showered the court, delaying play

on three occasions.

Mike Floyd has yet to mid season slump as the guard was held to two points.

Charlie Jenkins stepped forward and gave one of the performances of the season though he totaled only five points. The senior guard amply demonstrated his position of Aggie player by directing the second half back. His ball hawking contributed to many of the turnovers in the final period.

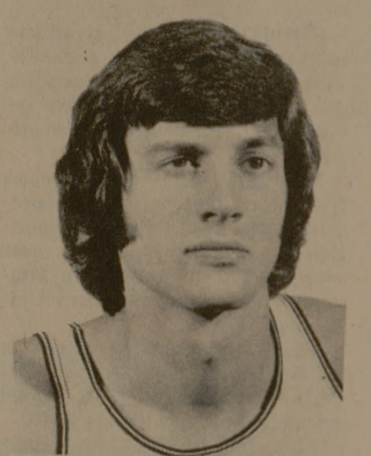
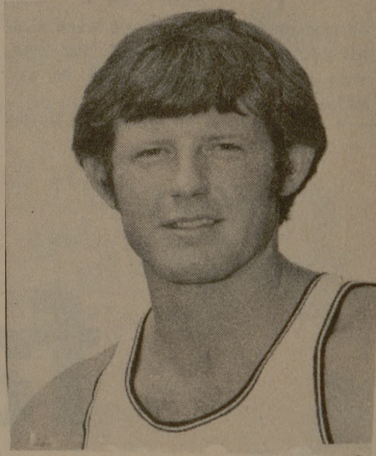
Sitting out last season to concentrate on baseball (the position of A&M's premier pitcher), Jenkins has seen limited play this year while he tried to play a super game.

Aggie coach Shelby was less than distraught after the game.

"We can live with a loss like this," said Metcalf. "The effort from Mercer, Jenkins and Knowles. Randy played a super game."

Aggie miscues did have a sore spot with Metcalf. "The turnovers, well, just it," he said. "I don't want about our ball handling."

The Ags did manage to charity tosses but hit only 10 per cent from the field.



AGGIE BRIGHT SPOTS in last night's loss to Texas Tech were Charlie Jenkins and Randy Knowles. Jenkins took over ball handling chores while Knowles paced all scorers with 24 points.

Cedeno ready for spring

Astro star expects severe test

HOUSTON (AP) — Cesar Cedeno said Tuesday his only concern now is readying himself for the 1974 baseball season. The outfielder for the Houston Astros said, however, he expects some fans and players to try to test the effects upon him of his recent conviction on a charge of involuntary homicide in the death of a young woman in Santo Domingo.

The 23-year-old star drew a \$100 fine Jan. 15 after being held in jail 20 days following the Dec. 10 fatal shooting of Altigracia de la Cruz in a motel.

"I know some people are going to accept what has happened and I know some people won't," Cedeno said. "Some players on other teams will try to take my concentration away, but it's not going to work. I won't pay any attention to those players. I'll just put on my uniform and play my game."

A transcript of the court ruling states that Cedeno was found responsible for having "acted imprudently in allowing the victim to obtain the firearm he was carrying and in handling it clumsily it discharged, causing her death."

Cedeno said reports he had waited more than a half hour before going to the police after the shooting were incorrect.

"I went to my house, told my wife what happened, then went to the police," he said. "I was scared. I knew my

baseball career was in danger."

Cedeno said his wife, Cora, whom he met in

brought him food at the jail three times a day.

"I don't know how she's feeling because I can't talk much about what happened," he said. "Every-

to be fine. I've been surprised. She's been very helpful."

The couple flew to Houston by way of Austin immediately after the \$100 fine was paid but Cedeno declined to discuss the case with newsmen until Tuesday.

He said he had been carrying a gun since arriving in the Dominican Republic in October in that he was carrying \$4,000 in gold and diamond jewelry.

"Someone had stolen my watch and some other things before the shooting," he said.

Cedeno denied reports he received special treatment while in jail, where he said there were four to a room.

"We played cards all day," he said. "I had no room for exercise."

"I think this will help me be a better person."

"I think I've grown up a lot in the last few weeks."

He added he was never worried about receiving a prison sentence.

"I knew I told the truth," he said. "I was honest."

Lacrosse seeks members as '74 preparation begins

The A&M Lacrosse Association starts its 1974 season with a Feb. 23 game against the undefeated Houston Lacrosse Club. One of two Houston based teams, HLC packs an All-American goalie.

The A&M based team is in its third year and just gained national recognition from USCLA, the U.S. sanctioning body.

There will be a Maroon team and a White team this year. They will play an eight-game schedule

including road trips to LSU and Tulane.

Currently there are displays on the main floor of the University Center, in the south end of the Library and in a display case in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

There is an organizational meeting in room 501 of the Rudder Conference Tower at 7:30 p.m. on Monday. Coach Dave Gruber urges all interested to attend. Two films will be featured.

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