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Horns hold on for 98-90 win over Aggie

Knowles, Johnson shine though A&M comeback is blunted

By KEVIN COFFEY
Sports Editor
AUSTIN — Impeccable free throw shooting down the stretch by the Texas Longhorns held off a valiant Texas A&M rally as UT held on for a 98-90 Southwest Conference basketball win before 7,200 fans here Wednesday night.

The Longhorns scored nine of their last 13 points from the charity stripe as A&M could never close the gap.

Texas was equally hot from the field as they ripped the net at 48 per cent, many often thrown

from 25 feet out. Texas opened each half red hot, hitting 13 of their first 18 shots in the first half and their first six in the second stanza to build what turned out to be an insurmountable lead.

Larry Robinson paced the 'Horns in the first half with 22 points. He hit 11 of 16 shots before John Thornton held the Longhorn star to eight in the second half. Sophomore Dan Krueger, however, hit 18 of his 24 in that final stanza to pick up the Texas scoring slack.

The contest just might have been A&M's finest effort of the season. The Aggies hit 35 of 71 shots, 49.3 per cent average. Texas jumped to a 16-point lead early in the second half but Randy Knowles and Mike Johnson picked away at the UT lead by hitting over the 'Horns sliding 1-3-1 zone defense.

Knowles tied Robinson for high point honors with 30.

Texas opened the final stanza, hitting everything they tossed up and Knowles kept the Aggies from being blown out of Gregory

Gym. All his efforts went for naught. Every time A&M threatened to pull within reach of the Longhorns, an untimely turnover resulted in a UT score.

Texas won the battle of the boards, 48-34, and seemed to pick up every loose ball on the court.

Mike Floyd and Charlie Jenkins tossed six assists each, mostly to Knowles under the bucket. Floyd finished with 18 points hitting eight straight Aggie points at the end of the first half. Jenkins scored four points.

Robinson was phenomenal the first half, hitting shots from all over the court. Injured last year throughout conference play with a broken kneecap, the senior forward kept the Aggie zone running all over the floor.

A&M cut the big Texas lead, courtesy of Knowles and Johnson. As the Aggie press began to force Texas into turnovers, both outside men began to hit to pull A&M to within four at 80-76. Texas, however, hit the next four points after Aggie miscues to put the game out of reach.

"We played as hard as any team can," said Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf. "Texas' shooting was just unreal. I've been coaching here 17 years and I've never seen anything like it. Half the time they'd shoot before they got to our defense. When we moved out to pick them up earlier, they'd just hit from farther out."

"Considering where they shot from," Metcalf said, referring to the constant barrage of 25 to 30-foot UT scoring shots, "it was phenomenal."

Texas coach Leon Black also credited the outstanding shooting of his Longhorns for the win.

"Our free throw shooting has improved and it kept us in the

game when the Aggies got hot," Black said. "A&M is a good team as we've played season. We were fortunate enough to play an outstanding game night."

Knowles also led the Aggies rebounding with 10. Joe Joseph grabbed eight while hitting 16 points and blocking 10 Texas shots.

Harry Larrabee hit 18 Texas as the 'Horns stayed in reach of Texas Tech in the conference race. Texas is 4-1 SWC play, one game behind Raiders.

A&M's record fell to 10-2-3 in conference play.



CEDRIC JOSEPH goes up for a shot over Texas' Tyrone Johnson (44) while Dan Krueger (21) and Larry Robinson (41) look on. (Photo by Alan Killingsworth)

Aggie Heart Award featured at banquet

Presentation of the ninth annual "Aggie Heart Award" will highlight Texas A&M's football honors program Saturday night in the 2,500-seat J. Earl Rudder Conference Center auditorium.

The program is free to the public and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Coach Emory Bellard emphasized that the program is free to the public and said: "I think our students, the most loyal and dedicated of any school in the country, will find the program interesting and entertaining."

Coach Bellard will present his 1973 football squad and will distribute squadman and letterman certificates plus plaques to those winning post-season honors as first or second-team All-Southwest Conference and All-America.

In addition to a couple of "surprises", a sound-on-color highlight film of the 1973 season will be shown.

Following the program, the football players and their dates will be entertained at a buffet dinner-dance at the Ramada Inn. Special guests at the program will include parents of the foot-

ball players.

The Aggie Heart Award is awarded to a senior and is based on desire, dedication, determination etc. A vote of the entire squad determines the winner.

There are only five senior terms from the 1973 squad: Larry Ellis, safety from Troup; Trammell, guard from Dallas Mike Bruton, tackle from Nacogdoches; Darrell Taliaferro, center from Arp and Tim Trimmie, quarterback from San Antonio.

Past winners include Joe Weiborn, linebacker from Tomball 1965; Dan Westerfield, defensive back from Crawford in 1966; Grady Allen, defensive end from Nacogdoches in 1967; Tom Bluman, end-tackle from Fort Worth in 1968; Jack Kovar, center from Houston in 1969; Winston Best, defensive guard from Odessa in 1970; Joe Mac King, quarterback from Mineola in 1971 and Best, defensive tackle from Houston in 1972. In 1970, the late Mike DeNiro, defensive end from Youngstown, Ohio, was honored posthumously with a duplicate award.

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