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## Defensive play sparks Ag victory

## Beat Virginia Commonwealth 98-84, play Indiana next

By MARK WEAVER Sports Editor

Strong defensive play in the first half put the Aggies ahead to stay as they beat Virginia Commonwealth 98-84, improving their record to

The game was marred by 48 personal fouls as the officials seemed to lead after that point. have a field day. At times, they seemed determined to call fouls and

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VCU jumped off to an early lead, going ahead 4-0 in the first minute of play. It was back and forth basketball until the clock read 11:03. An assist by Mike Floyd to Jerry Mercer for a layup put the Ags ahead 17-16. They never lost the

A&M continued to take advantage of turnovers by the Rams, going ahead at halftime 54-30. VCU could only hit 36 per cent from the field in the first half, but the Ags hit a strong 47 per cent. The Aggies also

led in rebounds at halftime, 28-23. The second half started off completely different than the first, with both teams running and gunning. The Ags increased their lead to 26 points early in the second half with some hot shooting by Floyd, but the Rams slowly pulled back.

VCU switched to a zone defense in the second half and the Aggies began shooting less and turning the ball over more. But the Rams could not overcome the big leag as the Ags continued to put the ball in the buc-

A&M hit a blistering 70 per cent from the field in the second half, although they did not shoot as much as they did in the first half. VCU also shot very well the second half, hitting 58 per cent from the field.

Mike(Floyd) played probably his best game of the year," assistant coach Norman Reuther said. Floyd hit 15 points, had six assists and one Rams played in the second half, Reuther said, "We were not moving the ball quick enough. The change of pace caught us off guard.

Sonny Parker had another strong game, leading the Ags in scoring with 21 points. Barry Davis led both teams in rebounding with 12, also hitting 17 points.

Webb Williams had his best game of the season with 17 points and five rebounds. Jerry Mercer hit 13 points and had four rebounds.

'Jerry looked like his old self,' Coach Shelby Metcalf said. 'Mercer's play was a highlight of the

Other Aggies scoring were Captain John Thornton with seven, Chuck Tone with four and Ray

	TE	XAS .	A&M				
	fgm	fga	ftm	fta	reb	pf	tp
Thronton	3	6	1	3	6	4	7
Davis	7	12	3	6	12	3	17
Mercer	4	8	5	6	4.	4	13
Parker	9	16	3	3	5	3	21
Floyd	5	8	5	8	3	2	15
Roberts	1	1	0	.0	2	4	2
Williams	7	9	3	4	5	2	17
Joseph	1	2	0.	0	4	1	2
Tone	2	6	0	0	1	2	4
TOTALS	39	68	20	30	41	25	98
VIRG	INIA C	OMN	ION	VEAL	LTH		
	fgm	fga	ftm	fta	reb	pf	tp
Henderson	4	9	1	2	0	0	9
Highsmith	9	14.	0	0	4	4	18
Price	3	6	3 .	5	11	4	9
Iones	3	4	0	1	5	4	6
Iones	8	17	7	8	5	2	23
Hudgins	5	10	0	0	1	3	10
Cain	1	5	0	0	0	0	2
Ellis	1	3	2	2	2	2	4
Tatum	0	0	0	1	- 1	1	0
Motley	1	3	1	2	5	3	3
TOTALS	35	71	14	21	37	23	84

Roberts and Cedric Joseph with two

VCU was led in scoring by 6-5 Jimmy Jones with 24 points. But the playmaker Keith Highsmith played probably the biggest part for the Rams, using his speed and ball handling to run circles around the Ags. He finished the game with 18 points and five assists.

The Aggies travel to Indianapolis to play highly ranked Indiana Dec. 14. Their next home game will be Jan. 16 against Sam Houston State

Indiana beat 15th ranked Kentucky by 24 points and slaughtered

"Indiana is awesome," Mek said. "They're like UCLA was w Bill Walton.'

The Aggies played UCLA Walton on their team and we soundly beaten, 117-53. But the year the Aggies have some ne ent in Parker and Davis along what is probably one of

strongest benches in the natio They have the potential to their mark this weekend as a h ketball power. But for now, it's j



Jerry Mercer goes in for a layup

## Basketball top twenty

The Top Twenty, with firstplace votes in parentheses, season record and total points. Points tabulated on basis of 20-18-16-14-12-10-9-8-etc.:

Others receiving votes, listed in alphabetical order: Arizona State; Boston College; Bradley; California; Centenary; Clemson; Davidson; DePaul; Detroit; Houston; Florida State; Kansas State; Kentucky; LaSalle; Manhattan, Minnesota; Nevada-Las Vegas; Oral Roberts; Oregon State; Providence; San Francisco; Stanford; Stetson; St. John's N. Y.; Tulsa; Vanderbilt.

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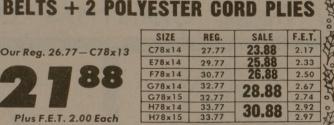
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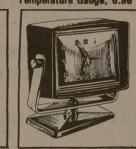


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