

Second home loss

# Surprise! Raiders chop up hosting Ags, 73-63

By TONY GALLUCCI  
Staff Sports Writer

Texas Tech came to College Station looking for a share of the lead in the SWC race and left toting it under their belt. The Red Raiders came well prepared to take on the league-leading Aggies and tamed them with a 73-63 decision.

The loss, only the second home defeat for the Ags this season, dropped them into a first place tie with the "Techs" with a 9-2 record.

Texas Tech got the ball on the tip and it was an omen of what was to come. Sonny Parker stole the ball and passed to Barry Davis who laid a jump shot across the net but it popped right back out. Steve Dunn tucked in a corner shot to start the scoring and give the Raiders the early lead.

Jerry Mercer moved in and laid in a shot to tie the game. It was as close as the Ags could get all night.

Bullock hit two in close right away and that was all she wrote. With

loyal Red Raider Dan Watson letting Bullock play his game under the Aggie basket, the Ags could not push anything past the big man for more than four minutes as the "Techs" moved way out to a 14-2 lead.

After the Ags got things together a little bit, the teams traded baskets until the half when Tech led 36-25. Bullock and William Johnson led all scorers with eight at the half and helped Tech to a 44.8 percentage for the first period.

The Ags were hindered by cold shooting, 31 per cent worth, and strong back board work where Bullock blocked five shots and collected five rebounds.

A&M came back the second half and played the Red Raiders even, but could not overcome the big margin. After Davis hit two free throws, Tech garnered three straight baskets to up their lead to 17. The Ags kept fighting back narrowing the lead but could come no closer than 10.

Tech kept adding points one by one until Bullock left the game with four fouls with a little less than ten minutes left to play. It looked as though the Ags could stage a comeback. But alas, it was not the night of the Ags as Tech went on to build up an 18 point lead.

The Ags came back after Keith Kitchens fouled out but the rally fell ten points short.

Arkansas was helped to their lead early by the referees and tough basket work by Bullock, but it was their expert work on the press, that kept them in the game the second half. They had the Ags well scouted and cut off the inside lanes. The movement under the basket kept the Ags from moving inside and it was that disability which kept the Ags from their usual strong game close in. As evidence is the very low assist total for the Ags who had only two. "I don't think our defense beat us," said Head Coach Shelby Metcalf. "It was our offense," he said of the 35.6 per cent shooting of the Ags.

"How much of it was their defense, I don't know."

Talking of the rest of the season, Metcalf said, "They have the momentum, they've won eight straight and the schedule is in their

favor."  
The Ags are now 17-6 and must win the rest of their games to be guaranteed the first 20-win season

in A&M history.

The Ags travel for the next two games to Ft. Worth and Dallas for matches with TCU and SMU, and

then return for the season finale (maybe) on Saturday against Texas. The game will probably be televised.

## Batt sports



Barry Davis grabs a rebound against Tech. (Photo by Jack Holm)

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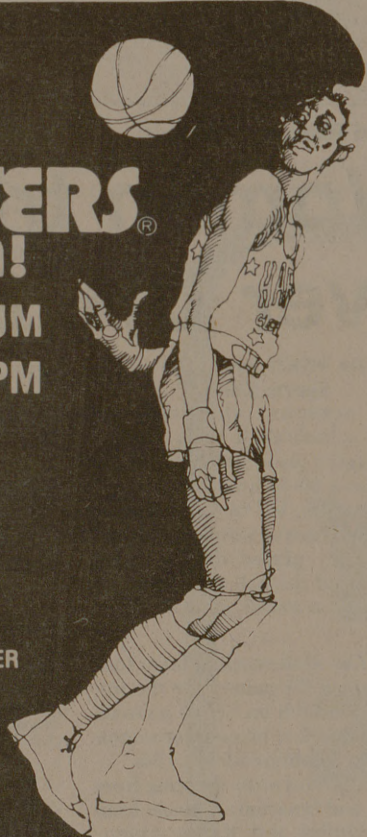
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