

Ags thresh Cougars, 94-80 Despite loss of freshmen

By TONY GALLUCCI
Battalion Staff Writer

The Heinz Pavilion has never been a quiet visiting place for the Aggies. Tuesday night was no exception. Just the visit was not horrifying, but the Ags were faced with a real epitaph. A court injunction failed and Jarvis Williams and Godine would not play against the Ags.

"Ags blow big ones" read the sign taped to the stucco separating the "pit" from the court. Not so this night, as the Aggies to the occasion behind the destination of Barry Davis, the substitution of Wally Swanson and Steve and the coaching abilities of M&M staff. Houston could not offer sufficient strength and success now.

When news came from Dallas that the court would postpone making a decision, plans were finalized for substitution and the switch to a zone defense. (For updated information see Sportfolio).

Head coach Shelby Metcalf pointed after the game. "Our whole team has been full of distractions. We had more harassment and distraction than we've had in any two years."

The game was the best played by Aggies this season. They hit on 71.7 percent of their shots for an exceptional 60.6 percent reading. A tremendous inside play of his particularly in the first half, the fine touch of Swanson throughout the game kept the Aggies in command. Jones played an exceptional defensive game and was instrumental in allowing Davis' in-game work with his zone-killing slugs.

"With the seniors on this ball club, anything is possible," was Metcalf's and reply to a query concerning the result and the influence of the seniors. About Swanson and Jones, they were beautiful, they rose to challenge," said Metcalf.

The effect of the suspension? "I know it'd make us more determined to win," said Metcalf. "This is the most courageous and determined group I've ever had. When you consider everything was on the line this has to be one of the all-time great victories for an M&M athletic team," Metcalf said. It has been two years since the

intramurals results

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL
MILITARY: K-1 vs. Sq-4, 26-40; 2 vs. Sq-13, 61-48; Sq-6 vs. F-1, 41-11 vs. Sq-8, 32-49; C-2 vs. H, 37-31.
SH: N-2 vs. K-1, 42-23; Sq-10 vs. H, 29-13.
DEPENDENT: Forestry vs. Miners, Forestry forfeit; Bearcats vs. Hotdogs, 96-37; Hobbits vs. Wella, 44-47; Law vs. Animal Science, 73-32; Vet III vs. Walton, Walton forfeit; Barcelona vs. Lufkin, 63-33; Moses X vs. M. Riders, 76; Utay Ex vs. BSU No. 4, 47-37; Nailers vs. Galaxy, 58-52; BSU No. 2 vs. Vet I D, 73-40; BSU No. 1 Dunn No. 2, 91-45; Gulf Coast Old Army, 50-44; Briarwood vs. H II, 39-37; Utay vs. Trotters, Trotters forfeit; Gladeast vs. Hotard, 65.
WOMEN: Colonels vs. Hughes, Colonels forfeit.
BREC: Outcasts vs. Wild Bunch, 75; Group vs. JBAH, 30-81; Weenies vs. Angola Outcasts, 74; IM'S vs. Vet I, 63-23; No Wheels vs. Refugees, Refugees forfeit; Castaways vs. Dribblers, 41-44.

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Aggies played any kind of zone defense. They played in that position for most of the game and played it well, thanks to a 45 minute cram course. The Ags were supposed to have left College Station at 1:30 Monday but instead spent the short period on the floor of G. Rollie learning the zone.

The offensive game had its highlights as well. Davis led Ag scorers with 27 points and gathered in a team high nine rebounds. The "Barry and Sonny Show" was interrupted when Sonny Parker was benched with three fouls.

"We didn't want to take any chances," said Metcalf. Sonny P did manage to score 14 points and was second in rebounding with eight.

Swanson sent 10 of 16 through the hoop and added a free throw to give him 21 points. Jones ripped the nets for 18 and had six rebounds. Ray Roberts had 10 points while Gates Erwin and Joey Robinson each had two.

Only seven players were used in the game, but the team had more. The proverbial twelfth man was indeed there as Kevin Jones (a regular) and Brian Barrett (a last minute traveler) watched from the bench where their contribution was immeasurably important.

The Ags had an outstanding assist game with 23, of which Erwin contributed eight. Erwin's lob passes a la UCLA put 10 points on the board.

While Houston was stymied in their quest to upset the depleted Aggies, they were not without some inspired effort. All-America guard Otis Birdsong did his one-on-one dance routine and scored 29 points. David Marrs could not equal his career high set earlier against the Ags but still hit on 10 of 15 from the field and three-of-three at the line for 23 points. Cecil Rose was the other Coog scorer in double figures with 19. George Walker and Marrs each had seven rebounds for the Cougars. The Aggies outbounded UH 33-36.

Freshman post man Allen Winder had a poor game against the Aggies. Winder has been vocally critical of the Aggies in the press. He scored only two points and got zero rebounds although he played more than a half. He showed a hothead when he got his third foul and was removed.

But, then again, almost everyone's hothead showed. Referee Joe Shosid whistled technicals on Ag assistant coach Bob Gobin for standing up and maybe a little more, on the Aggie bench for nothing visible and on Birdsong for disenchantment. A small melee occurred when Sonny P tried to retrieve an out of bounds ball and was beaten to it by Bill Smolenski, a Cougar mascot guard. Smolenski said he was afraid the ball would hit Shasta's cage and upset the cat. There are as many ver-

sions to what ensued as there are varieties of Heinz catsup, but both got in a few punches while grovelling on the court-side concrete. Smolenski dashed into the stands after Houston Police and several players broke up the scuffle. It wasn't over though as Davis dashed into the stands and as one observer noted, "made sure he wouldn't eat breakfast."

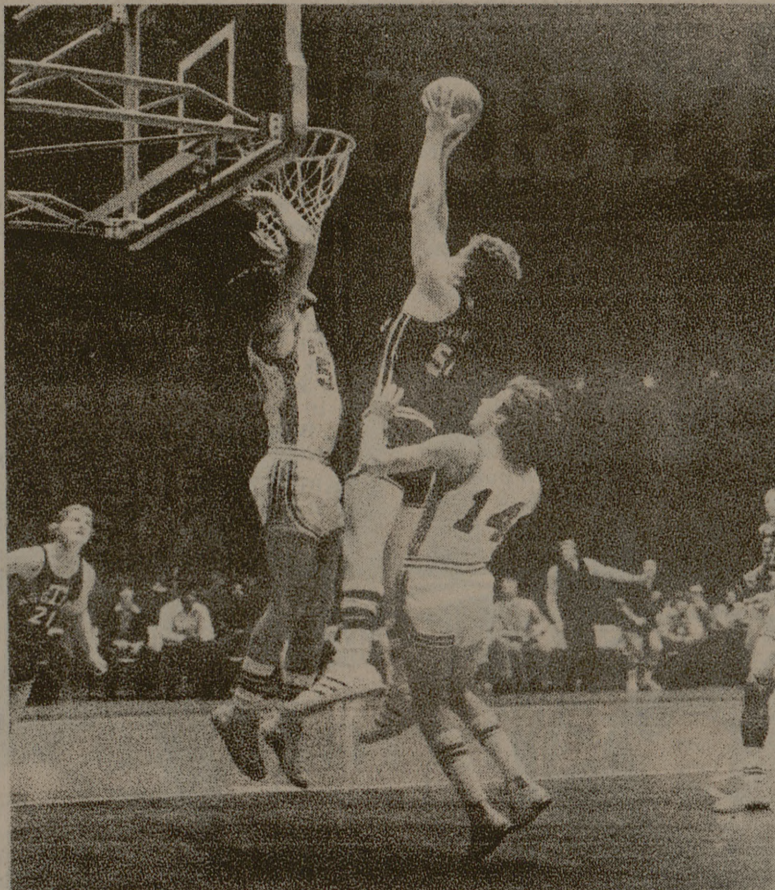
The crowd meanwhile got into the citizen's arrest act and hindered Smolenski's departure. He was escorted from the pavilion by a policeman for a few questions, no doubt, and his own safety.

The Aggies must now contend with several things. First of all, they are ranked 20th nationally, a situation enjoyed only once before and lasted only a week. Sonny P said about its effect on play, "We wanted to stay on top. We wanted to show them we deserved to stay there."

The Ags are now 11-2 in SWC play, one-half game ahead of Texas Tech. They are 18-5 overall.

The Horned Frogs come to town on Thursday and the Aggies must face the possibility of overconfidence. TCU became Rice's first SWC victim of the waning season on Tuesday. It'll probably be Rice's last. Metcalf expects Williams and Godine to play.

Queried for probably the millionth time about the situation Metcalf said, "I can't comment. I'm biased of course on the thing, but I'll tell you one thing, I know the kids. They're fine young men and outstanding athletes. They go to every class, they're doing very well in school, they never miss a practice. I don't know what more you could ask of them."



Wally Swanson (54) scores two of his 21 points.

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