

Aggies lose NCAA bid

Aggies drop final game of tourney

By MARLA GAMMON
Battalion Staff Writer

The Texas Aggies' controversial basketball season came to an end Saturday night as the Texas Tech Red Raiders used a last second shot

to beat the Ags 74-72 in the championship game of the SWC post season tournament.

A 17 foot jump shot by sophomore Mike Russell with two seconds left gave the Raiders a berth in the NCAA playoffs. They'll meet Syra-

use next Saturday in Denton.

Russell's shot came after the Ags' Wally Swanson tied the score 72-72 on a 22 foot jump shot with 2:03 left in the game. Tech then took the ball downcourt and proceeded to run the clock out. The Ags called time-out, but the clock was against them as Ray Roberts' shot from midcourt hit the backboard at the buzzer.

"We wanted to run the clock down to 25 seconds and set up the last play," said Tech coach Gerald Myers. "We started it at 12 seconds. Dunn was supposed to drive the baseline and set up Grant Duker. A&M shut it off well and we tossed it out to Russell who was open.

"We were fortunate as you are in those situations. We had tried to set up a play earlier but A&M shut it off."

The Ags stayed with the Raiders throughout the game as Tech never led by more than six. The score was tied six times and the lead changed hands 12 times.

A&M's largest lead came at halftime. The Ags went into the dressing room ahead by three 42-39. A&M was behind 37-34 when Joey Robinson came in for Swanson with

0:53 left in the half and connected on two consecutive three point plays. The first came on an assist by Sonny Parker and the second after a steal by Steve Jones.

The Raiders outshot the Ags 13-6 during the first seven minutes of the second half and the Ags had to play catch up for the rest of the game. Although the Raiders never led by more than six, the Aggies were unable to get their lead back.

"We just couldn't sustain our lead," said Swanson after the game. "It was a great ballgame."

"I thought that they would be more tired but they weren't. Every time we tied it up we just couldn't get ahead."

Swanson ended the game with 16 points and 6 rebounds. Sonny P was the Aggies' leading scorer with 20 points. Barry Davis was next with 18. Davis and Parker led the rebounding with eight apiece.

"I played a good first half but I got very tired in the second half," said Parker. "It was real hot and humid out there and I got a weak feeling."

"I think we had the momentum but I just got tired and didn't have a good second half."

It was the last game as Aggies for seniors Roberts, Parker, Davis, and Gates Erwin.

"This senior class is the greatest we've had," said Coach Shelby Metcalf. "You couldn't possibly associate with a greater bunch of young men. They're the greatest competitors."

"There's no way I'm going to make any excuses, we played a good game against a good team. All our league needs is more players like Parker, Davis, Bullock and Terrell," he said. "Those guys could play for anyone in the country."

With the loss the Aggies will be sitting at home during the NCAA play-offs despite being the SWC champions.

"I'm still satisfied with the tournament," said Metcalf. "It's a great tournament. You can't have a tie in basketball. I'm completely satisfied."

"Texas Tech is a fine basketball team," he said. "They shot well and boarded well. I think Tech will do a great job representing the Southwest Conference."

"It was a great game between two evenly matched teams. It came down to who had the ball last."

Rick Bullock led the Raiders with 28 points. He was also named outstanding player of the tournament. Tech shot a sizzling 60.3 per cent from the field compared to the Aggies' 41.3 per cent.

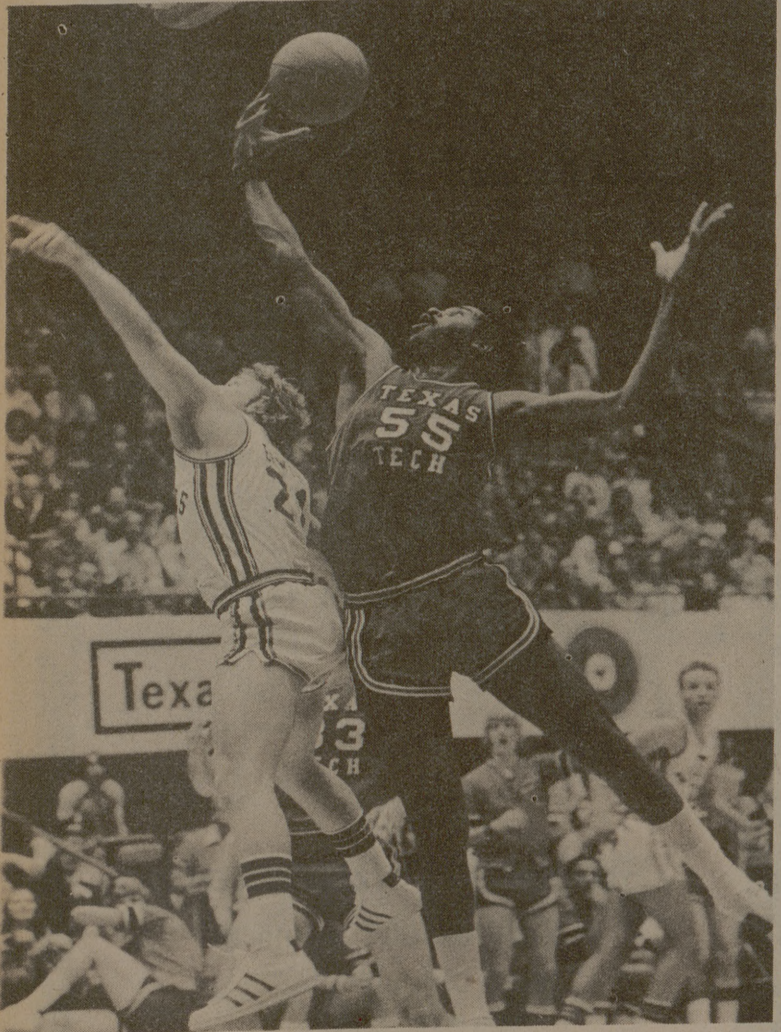


Photo by Steve Kraus

Texas Tech's Rick Bullock goes over Gates Erwin for a rebound.

Aggies face Okla. City in doubleheader today

Coach Tom Chandler's baseball squad remained idle as rains all but washed out Kyle Field, cancelling the weekend's opening Southwest Conference series with Texas Tech. Continual poor weather also wiped out Monday's scheduled doubleheader with Oklahoma City University.

The Tech games will not be made up at a later date.

The team will now wait until Friday to begin conference action when they travel to Dallas to battle the SMU Mustangs in a three game series.

The Ags, 10-0, will host Oklahoma City University today in a doubleheader starting at 1 p.m.

Chandler is out of town and will

not be in the dugout for the OCU contest. Assistant Jim Sampson will handle the managerial duties for the departed coach.

The weather interruption left Aggie pitchers out in the cold, and Sampson will divide time between his three starters today.

"We'll throw (Clint) Thomas, ('Hoot') Gibson, and (David) Lockett about the same to get them ready for SMU," he said. "(Mark) Ross may throw some too."

In SWC action over the weekend, both the University of Texas and the University of Houston swept their games with SMU and Arkansas. Baylor and Lamar University split a doubleheader on Friday and surprising Rice took a pair from TCU Saturday.

Aggie swimmers place fourth in SWC meet

The Aggie swimmers placed fourth in the Southwest Conference Championship Swim Meet this past week, in the wake of Southern Methodist, the University of Texas and the University of Houston.

First place was predicted to go to either SMU or UT, while the Ags were predicted to battle it out with UH for third, and that is just what happened.

The Ags placed just 15 points behind the Cougars, and they managed to break 15 of 18 school records.

The two high point men for the Aggies were Bob Leland and Erik Rasmuson, both of whom broke

A&M school records in five events.

Leland broke records in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke, and the 200 individual medley, and the 400 and 800 yard freestyle relays.

Rasmuson's records were in the 100 and 200 yard freestyle, 400 yard medley relay and the 400 and 800 yard freestyle relays.

The Ags stand an outside chance on doing well at the AAU National Championships in Long Beach, Calif. on April 7-10.

A&M has had no points at the Nationals since 1957, but the Ags have to do their best times in all events to place, said Coach Dennis Fosdick.

— Carl Key

Basketball Poll

The Top Twenty teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, season records through Sunday, March 7, and total points.

1. Indiana (51)	27-0	1,012
2. Marquette (1)	24-1	898
3. Rutgers (1)	28-0	767
4. Nev.-L. Vegas (1)	28-1	574
5. North Carolina	25-3	530
6. UCLA	23-4	489
7. Notre Dame	22-5	418
8. Alabama	21-4	353
9. Tennessee	21-5	252
10. Missouri	24-4	190
11. Washington	22-5	184
12. Maryland	22-6	166
13. Virginia	18-11	160
14. Michigan	21-6	155
15. Cincinnati	23-5	146
16. W. Michigan	24-2	130
17. St. John's, N.Y.	23-5	69
18. Arizona	22-8	32
19. Texas Tech	24-5	30
20. Centenary	23-5	29

Blue-chipper chooses A&M

Zach Guthrie, a blue chip lineman from Tyler John Tyler has signed a letter of intent with A&M. The 6-6, 258 pound lineman had narrowed his choices to A&M, Tennessee State, and Grambling.

An all-State selection, Guthrie was one of the most highly sought linemen in the nation.

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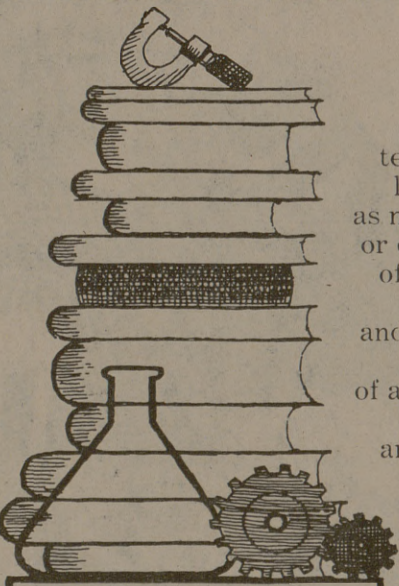
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