

Birdsong scores 30

Houston defeats Ags again

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

The season is over for the Texas A&M basketball team. Houston defeated the Aggies for the third time this year. The final score was 96-77.

A&M's trip to The Summit was short-lived because of the Cougars' outstanding shooting and tremendous depth. Led by Otis Birdsong's 30 points, Houston had five men finish the evening in double figures.

"The best ball club won the game," coach Shelby Metcalf said. "Houston has a good group of gentlemen that's team oriented."

A&M did not have that team orientation. The Ags had only two men finish in double figures, with Steve Jones scoring only two points the entire evening.

"They just wouldn't let me play," Jones said. "It seems like everything I tried to do, I got a foul for it. I just couldn't get it together for worrying about fouling. I hate to end my career at A&M like this."

Jones played only half the game because of fouls. In less than ten minutes of the first half, the senior from Houston Wheatley picked up three fouls. With the leading scorer on the bench, A&M just couldn't get in the ball game.

"We just played hard as we could," Wally Swanson said. "Foul trouble hurt us with Steve and Willie."

Swanson was the Aggies leading scorer and rebounder, grabbing 11 carems and scoring 29 points. His inside play kept the Aggies in the game throughout the first half.

"Swanson and Foreman really played well," coach Metcalf said. "It hurt us when Wally hurt his ankle and Willie picked up his fourth foul so early in the second half. We needed them in there."

Foreman had another good game for A&M. The junior from Houston scored 24 points and grabbed eight rebounds. His driving shots to the hoop were a key factor in keeping the Ags in the ball game.

We were looking inside, with Willie and I posting up," Swanson said. "He and I got hot so we just kept pumping them in."

The man who was the hottest of all, though, was Otis Birdsong. Birdsong shot 56 per cent from the field, and 78 per cent from the foul line. He also pulled down eight rebounds and had three assists.

After the game was over it was announced to the SWC Classic crowd that Otis Birdsong had been named to the first string all-America team.

"Making all-America is a great honor," Birdsong said, "but winning is what I'm interested in right now, and what my teammates are working for."

Coach Lewis reflected upon Birdsong's achievement in a more outspoken manner.

"It was well deserved," coach Lewis said. "If I've ever seen an all-American, he's one. It's good for him and it's good for the SWC."

"Most games he plays, you just don't realize what he's done. You look at the stats and you're just amazed. He's so effortless."

Despite Birdsong's performance,

the Ags remained close until midway in the second half. The Ags cut the lead to five with just over 13 minutes remaining.

Then Mark Trammel went to work, and the rest of the Cougars followed his example. In a two minute span the Cougs increased their lead from five to 15.

"The turning point came when Trammel came in and made two or three buckets," coach Lewis said. "Actually I didn't feel comfortable until about 40 seconds were left."

The Cougars will play the Red Raiders of Texas Tech tonight at 8, with the winner of that contest playing Arkansas at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Wrestlers want collegiate crown

By STEVE MARTAINDALE

Carrying a 12-2 dual match record and the recently-earned South-west Conference Championship crown, Texas A&M's wrestling Club enters Ft. Worth tonight for the Texas Collegiate Championships.

Two seniors will close their collegiate careers in the two-day tourney as the Aggies seek to finish the season with the only two championships available in the state.

Bob Hines, a senior wrestling in the 126 pound division, won the only individual championship for Texas A&M in the conference tournament. Blair Monhollon, the other senior, finished second in the 167 pound division.

The Aggies will be represented in all ten weight divisions. Wrestling for A&M, followed by their division and season record, will be: Rick Vigue, 118, 16-3; Hines, 126, 18-2; Bob Benevento, 134, 17-3; Jack

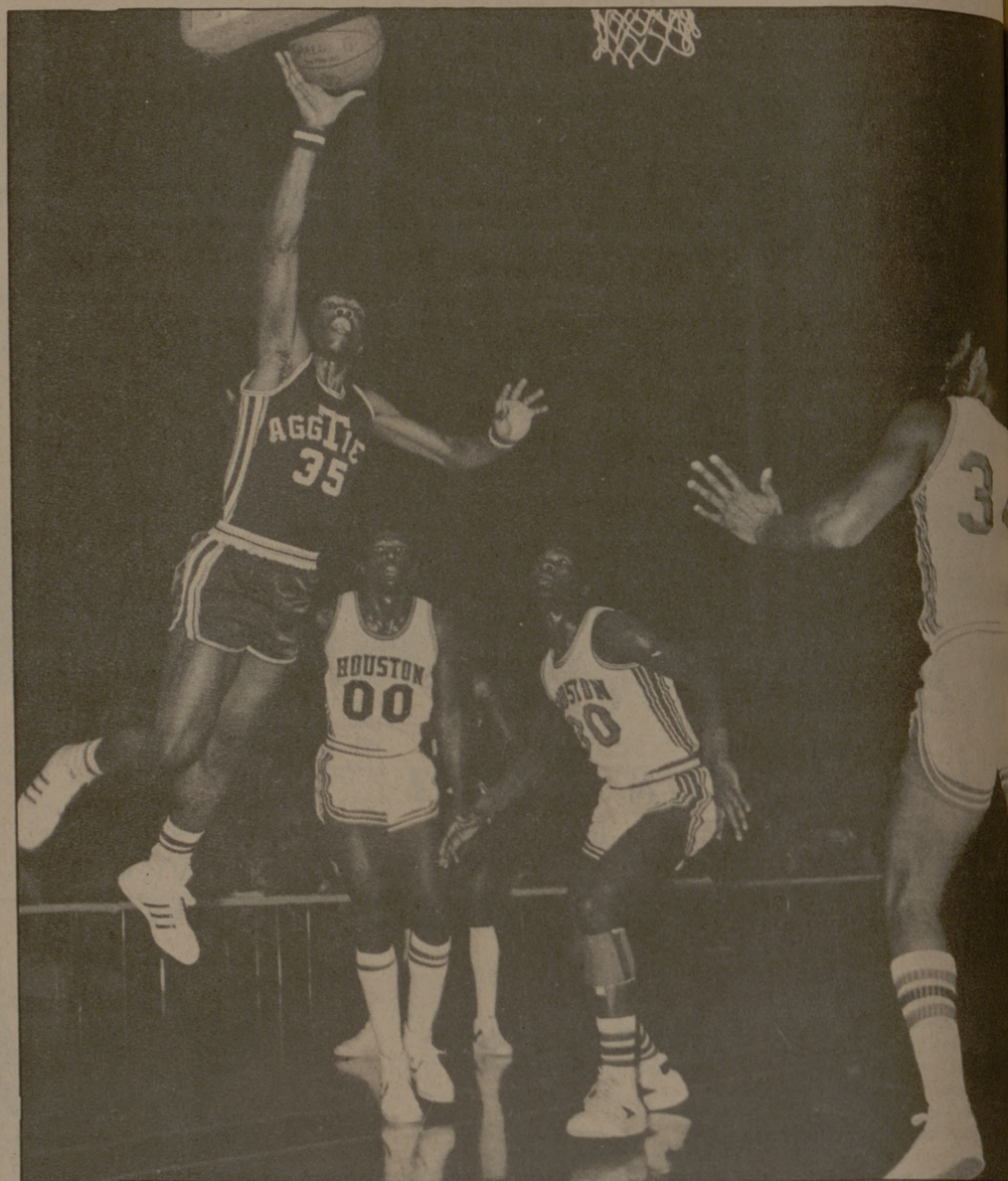
Cliff, 142, 11-5; Tim Caulton, 150, 6-4; Jay Clements 158, 12-4; Monhollon, 167, 20-3; Steve Marchang, 177, 3-3; Jerry Warwick, 190, 1-2 and Richard Lynn, unlimited, 17-2.

Aggie coach Jim Giunta said the championship could easily be determined by the number of second place finishes as at the SWC tournament, A&M beat Richland College out of first place, 24-23, in spite of Richland's four individual first place finishes.

Hines had the only Aggie win but A&M picked up six second place finishes.

Giunta said he is hoping for three first place finishes and five runners-up.

Tonight's matches begin at 7 o'clock in Daniel Myers Coliseum on the campus of Texas Christian University. It will resume in the morning at 10.



Willie Foreman (No. 35) drives in for a lay-up. Foreman had 24 points before fouling out with over three minutes left in the game. Ags lost to Houston 96-77.

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Dead elephants play

The 7th annual Elephant Bowl will be played this Saturday at Kyle Field with the kickoff slated for 3:30 p.m.

The Elephant Bowl is sponsored by Wings and Sabers, a Texas A&M University campus organization and pits the senior Air Force and Band elements of the Corps against the Army, Navy and Marine seniors.

Last year, the Air Force defeated the Army 17-14 in a thriller, coming from behind in the final period.

All proceeds from the game go to the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation

Center. The game has raised \$1,000 for the center in previous encounters. Ticket prices at \$1 per person.

Both 40-man squads are led by senior members of the A&M varsity football team. The Air Force are Craig Swilley, Jimmy Dean, Jess Niccutt, Reggie Williams and Thompson. Coaches for the Army are Gary Haack, Pat Lacks Grawunder, George Burger Alman, Rich Federwicz and Arndt.

Freshman members of the will serve as yell leaders in sides and the Fish Drill Team provide the halftime entertainment. Team captain for the Air Force is Joe D. Miekler and for the Army is Quentin Schaefer.



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Any freshman in any field of study that is interested in the above areas is urged to apply. Talented people are needed in all areas, so don't be afraid to drop this application by Room 218, Student Programs Office, MSC. Applications close Friday, March 11, 1977, at 5:00 p.m.

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