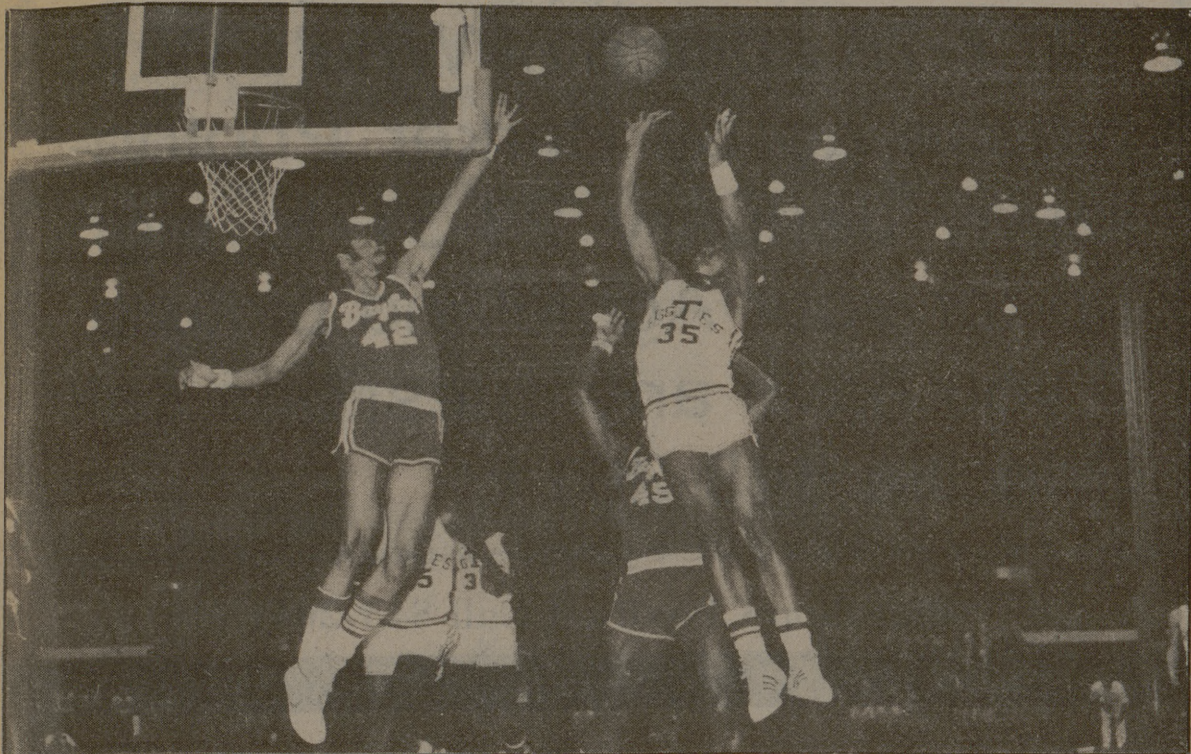


Metcalf's men believe in miracles



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

A&M forward Willie Foreman (No. 35) shoots over the outstretched hands of Wendell Mays (No. 42). Foreman led the Ags in scoring with 15. A&M defeated the Bears 58-56.

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

The Baylor Bear prayer went unanswered.

With one second showing on the clock, Texas A&M forward Rynn Wright calmly sunk two free throws, giving Texas A&M a 58-56 victory over the Baylor Bears.

"We really needed something like that to happen," coach Shelby Metcalf said. "It was great for Rynn since he has missed some free throws in crucial situations. It was even more important for his confidence to make those shots."

Wright is the poorest free throw shooter on the team hitting only 51 percent of his shots. But that fact never entered his mind.

"I felt relaxed," Wright said. "We had to have them so I didn't get nervous."

But Baylor did. The Bears had the ball with 21 seconds remaining in the game. It was obvious that they wanted the last shot to fall upon the shoulders of the conference's leading scorer, Vinnie Johnson. But the A&M defense had other ideas.

Baylor guard Pat Nunley tried to pass to Johnson with six seconds left. Wright stepped between Johnson and the ball and headed for the hoop. Nunley fouled him while Wright attempted his slam dunk.

"We just made a bad play at the end of the game," Baylor coach Jim Haller said. "We wanted to take a shot with six seconds and wanted

Vinnie to take it. We passed the ball too soon; it was a silly pass since it was cross-court.

"But it was an inexperienced pass by an inexperienced player. But Nunley did a lot in getting us back in the game so you can't blame him for the loss."

The loss was the fourth time the Bears have lost a game this season in the final seconds. It was obvious in the waning moments the Bears were not confident. Uncertainty cost them the game.

"No, this is not the same song, second verse like the other close games we have had in recent weeks," Haller said. "People don't know how hard it is to come from 10 points back at A&M's place. Our team showed a lot of fight and character in coming back."

Another man who showed a lot of character tonight was Karl Godine. The Houston Kashmere junior injured his left knee with six minutes left in the first half. It is undetermined whether he will require surgery. Godine will be examined in Houston tomorrow.

"He is resting comfortably," Metcalf said after the game. "We don't know whether he'll require surgery or not."

A&M will miss Godine. The Aggies' next game is against SMU Wednesday night in Dallas. If A&M defeats the Mustangs then they will be tied for the coveted fifth place spot in the conference chase. Fifth

place means a home court advantage in the SWC play-offs.

"I was burning candles for tonight," Metcalf said. "And most worked."

SMU defeated the Owls by 10 points in the Mustang victory made game Wednesday night an instant one.

A&M swim teams do well in Austin

By SEAN PETTY

The Texas A&M men's and women's swim teams traveled to Austin to compete against Stanford and Texas.

The women's team defeated the "Bevo's Babes," (Texas women) but lost to the Stanford women. The men lost to Stanford and Texas.

The women had a good night competing against Stanford, who was the second best team in the nation. Shirley Hill highlighted the Aggie's efforts by qualifying for the AIAW national swim meet in March. She qualified in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 53.4.

Both men's and women's teams will compete against Houston February 3 at 7 p.m. in Houston.

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