

Ags lose another close game in Dallas

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

SMU's Phil Hale made two "Hail Mary" shots, Texas A&M's Joey Robinson and Wally Swanson each missed an easy shot. The result was a 71-70 overtime victory for SMU.

"Hale hit two ungodly shots," coach Shelby Metcalf said after the game. "Those are once in a lifetime shots that he'll never make again. It's a shame too because our kids gave a lot of effort."

"But luck often beats effort. And

the Mustangs were lucky. Hale's first miracle maker came with five seconds remaining in the game. A&M led 65-63, but Hale tied it up with a fall-away jump shot from 15 feet.

"We were lucky to get the game into overtime," SMU coach Sonny Allen said. "But what happened in overtime was even a bigger break."

A&M led 70-69 with just under two minutes remaining in the overtime period. Robinson broke for the basket, received a pass from Dave Goff, but blew the lay-up.

One minute later Hale made an off-balanced 20-foot jump shot. A&M then ran the clock down to 11 seconds. Swanson missed a 10-foot shot from the side, but the ball was knocked out of bounds by a Mustang.

Goff's inbound pass was blocked, giving SMU the game.

"We were lucky," Allen said to Metcalf after the game. "But we'll take it."

The victory gives the Mustangs a solid hold on fifth place. The Ponies' record is 5-5 in the conference race, A&M's is 3-7.

"We had the ball game won," Metcalf said. "SMU is very fortunate to win. I'm proud of our team and I hope they can keep a positive attitude."

One man who played with a positive attitude was Vernon Smith. The

freshman from Dallas made his first trip back home a good one. He finished the evening with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

"I thought our freshman played extremely well," Metcalf said. "It's very unusual for a freshman to return

home and play well before all of his friends and family. Vernon and Rynn played great."

Rynn Wright, the other Dallas product, led the team in rebounds with 12. He also added six points before fouling out.

"Everyone on the team played their hearts out," Metcalf said. "I don't know of a more heartbreaking loss than this one."

But heartbreaks have happened in Dallas before. A&M lost to SMU last year 70-68; the year before it was 69-65. And Mike Russell's buzzer-maker gave Texas Tech a tournament victory played in Moody Coliseum two years ago.

"We just can't win up here," Metcalf said.

This year the Ags have been able to win any of its conference games. And it doesn't get any better. A&M's next game is in Houston against the Cougars.

"Houston is another tough place to play," Metcalf said. "But we get down to it, they are all We'll just have to play the game because Houston is a great club. I think our kids will be able to keep the attitude it takes to win."

The Aggies will need that attitude for at least 10 days. In that time A&M has to play Houston, Kansas, Texas Tech and Texas Tech.

Hopefully those teams won't miss any "Hail Mary" shots. The Ags won't miss the Ags either.



YOU'RE A WINNER—Congressman Bob Krueger of Texas congratulates a young Texan for his prize-winning Hereford heifer at a recent livestock show. Krueger, who made his 5th annual tour of junior livestock competition in January, visited with 4-H and FFA members at over 20 shows encouraging them to continue their commitment to agriculture. A rancher himself, Krueger is also campaigning throughout the state for the U.S. Senate seat presently held by John Tower.

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Ponies bridle Ags control fifth place

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Staff

The SMU Mustangs, not a team to look a gift horse in the mouth, gladly accepted their 71-70 overtime victory over Texas A&M last night.

The Ponies' narrow escape left them in sole possession of fifth place in the Southwest Conference race.

"This was really a big win," SMU coach Sonny Allen said. "It keeps us in fifth and puts A&M a little lower. It's still going to be between us, A&M and Baylor for that fifth place spot."

All the concern over the fifth place finish stems from the fact that a team must finish at least fifth to receive a home court game in the first round of the SWC tournament.

"It's possible that A&M might be back up here in the tournament,"

Mustang guard Phil Hale said played an important role in the Ponies' victory. He hit the jumper that sent the game into overtime and proceeded to win the winning basket with 46 seconds left in overtime period.

"I knew that both shots were the second they left my hand," Hale recalled. "Both shots felt very good as I took them."

"I like a game like this better. I have time to think about what I'm doing. I just play on instinct."

Hale praised the Aggies' "give" efforts as did his head coach. "You really don't look too good against A&M," Allen said. "They are a tough, physical ball club. We really gave it good effort."

One player, whose effort the Mustangs 23 points, 6-foot-7-inch Jeff Swanson. He of those points came from his throw attempts.

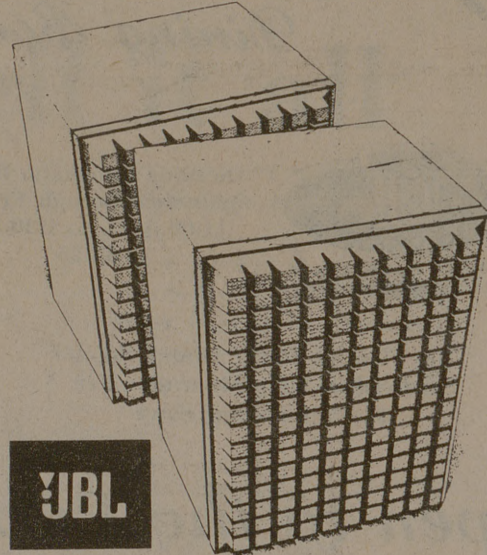
"I usually only get about three four free throws a game," Swanson said. "A&M just got into a and-one situation early. I was trying my jumpers from the outside. They had to come out on me so I could drive under the basket and pick up more fouls."

"The Aggies must feel shaken up here, losing two close games in a row," Swanson added. SMU defeated the Aggies in Dallas last 70-68 when Steve Jones missed shot at the buzzer.

"The Aggies' strong rebounding game nearly killed us," Allen said. Led by Rynn Wright and Vernon Smith, the Aggies pulled down 38 off the boards.

"Wright and Smith improved every game," said T. J. Robinson. "They're real physical on the baskets. They do a lot of pushing and shoving that the refs can't see but they aren't as physical as other people say."

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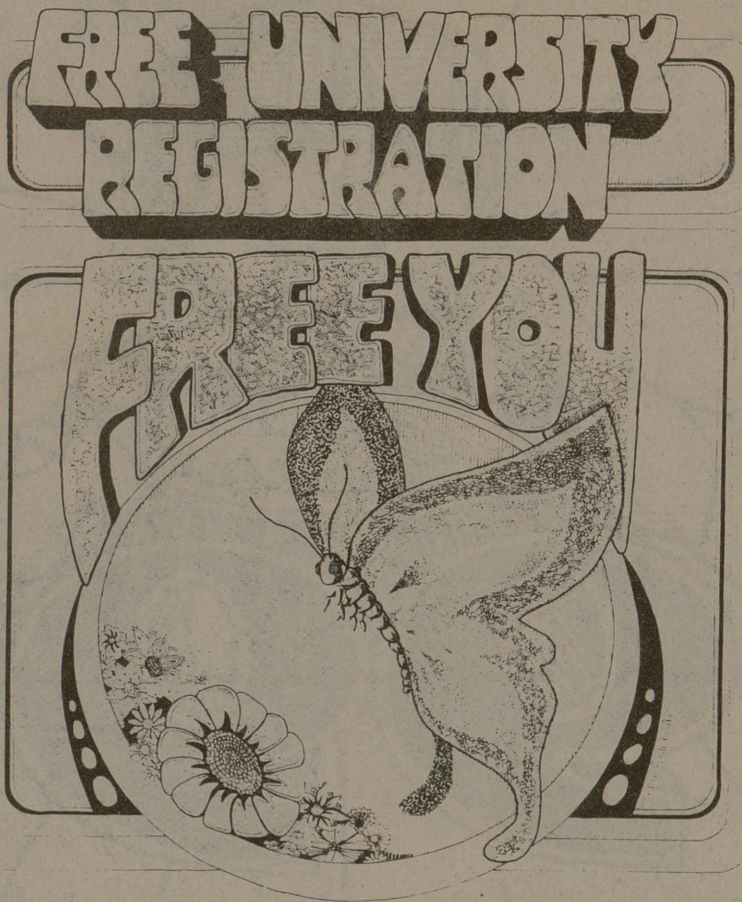
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